



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OA-2019-0296; FRL-10003-09-OMS]

### **Information Collection Request Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Assessing the Environmental Effects Abroad of EPA Actions (Renewal)**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has submitted an information collection request (ICR), Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Assessing the Environmental Effects Abroad of EPA Actions (EPA ICR Number 2243.09, OMB Control Number 2020-0033) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. This is a proposed extension of the ICR, which is currently approved through January 31, 2020. Public comments were previously requested via the *Federal Register* on September 24, 2019 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments. A fuller description of the ICR is given below, including its estimated burden and cost to the public. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Additional comments may be submitted on or before [insert date 30 days after publication in the Federal Register].

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OA-2019-0296, to (1) EPA online using [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (our preferred method), or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, and (2) OMB via email to [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov).

Address comments to OMB Desk Officer for EPA.

The EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Candi Schaedle, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities, Mail Code 2203A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 202-564-6121; fax number: 202-564-0070; email address: [schaedle.candi@epa.gov](mailto:schaedle.candi@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Supporting documents, which explain in detail the information that the EPA will be collecting, are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in person at the EPA Docket Center, WJC West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202-566-1744. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

*Abstract:* The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347 establishes a national policy for the environment. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) oversees the NEPA implementation. CEQ's Regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 set the standard for NEPA compliance. They also require agencies to establish their own NEPA implementing procedures. The EPA's procedures for implementing NEPA are found in 40 CFR part 6. Through this part, the EPA adopted the CEQ Regulations and supplemented those regulations for actions proposed by the EPA that are subject to NEPA requirements. The EPA actions subject to NEPA include the award of wastewater treatment construction grants under Title II of the Clean Water Act, the EPA's issuance of new source National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System (NPDES) permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act, certain research and development projects, development and issuance of regulations, the EPA actions involving renovations or new construction of EPA facilities, and certain grants awarded for projects authorized by Congress through the Agency's annual appropriations act. The EPA is collecting information from certain applicants as part of the process of complying with either NEPA or Executive Order 12114 ("Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions"). The EPA's NEPA regulations apply to actions of the EPA that are subject to NEPA in order to ensure that environmental information is available to the Agency's decision-makers and the public before decisions are made and before actions are taken. When the EPA conducts an environmental assessment pursuant to its Executive Order 12114 procedures, the Agency generally follows its NEPA procedures. Compliance with the procedures is the responsibility of the EPA's Responsible Officials, and for applicant proposed actions applicants may be required to provide environmental information to the EPA as part of the environmental review process. For this ICR, applicant-proposed projects subject to either NEPA or Executive Order 12114 (and that are not addressed in other EPA programs' ICRs) are addressed through the NEPA process.

*Form Numbers:* None.

*Respondents/affected entities:* Certain grant or permit applicants who must submit environmental information documentation to the EPA for their projects to comply with NEPA or Executive Order 12114, including Wastewater Treatment Construction Grants Program facilities, State and Tribal Assistance Grant recipients, and new source National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permittees.

*Respondent's obligation to respond:* Voluntary.

*Estimated number of respondents:* 27 (total).

*Frequency of response:* On occasion.

*Total estimated burden:* 7,560 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

*Total estimated cost:* \$631,800 (per year), includes \$0 annualized capital or operation & maintenance costs.

*Changes in the Estimates:* There is a decrease of 6,117 hours in the total estimated respondent burden compared with the ICR currently approved by OMB. This decrease is due to an adjustment change in the size of the respondent universe.

Courtney Kerwin,

Director,

Regulatory Support Division.

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