

The increase in the base charge and rates results from higher annual costs in operation and maintenance, replacements, visitor's center costs and lower revenue projections for the visitor center.

Procedural Requirements

Western will hold both a public information forum and a public comment forum. After considering comments, Western will recommend the proposed base charge and rates for final approval by the DOE Deputy Secretary.

The proposed firm power service base charge and rates for BCP are being set under the DOE Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7152; the Reclamation Act of 1902, ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388, as amended and supplemented by subsequent enactments, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, 43 U.S.C. 485h(c); and other acts that specifically apply to the project involved.

Availability of Information

Interested parties may review and copy all brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums, or other documents made or kept by Western for developing the proposed base charge and rates. These documents are at the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.

Regulatory Procedural Requirements

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to perform a regulatory flexibility analysis if a final rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, and there is a legal requirement to issue a general notice of proposed rulemaking. This action does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis since it is a rulemaking specifically involving rates or services.

Environmental Compliance

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*); Council On Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); and DOE NEPA Regulations (10 CFR part 1021), Western has determined that this action is categorically excluded from preparing an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

Determination Under Executive Order 12866

Western has an exemption from centralized regulatory review under

Executive Order 12866; therefore, this notice requires no clearance by the Office of Management and Budget.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

Western has determined that this rule is exempt from congressional notification requirements under 5 U.S.C. 801 because the action is a rulemaking specifically relating to rates or services and involves matters of procedure.

Dated: February 2, 2004.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04–3432 Filed 2–17–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7624–3]

Agency Information Collection Activities OMB Responses

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) responses to Agency clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). 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. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR chapter 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Auby (202) 566–1672, or e-mail at auby.susan@epa.gov and please refer to the appropriate EPA Information Collection Request (ICR) Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Responses To Agency Clearance Requests

OMB Approvals

EPA ICR No. 2083.01; Estimating the Value of Improvements to Coastal Waters—A Pilot Study of a Coastal Valuation Survey; was approved 01/22/2004; OMB Number 2090–0024; expires 01/31/2005.

EPA ICR No. 1704.07; Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, Alternate Threshold for Low Annual Reportable Amounts, Recordkeeping, Supplier Notification and Petitions under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); in 40 CFR part 372; was approved 01/09/2004;

OMB Number 2070–0143; expires 01/31/2006.

EPA ICR No. 0234.08; Performance Evaluation Studies of Water and Waste Water Laboratories; was approved 01/09/2004; OMB Number 2080–0021; expires 01/31/2007.

EPA ICR No. 1363.13; Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, Recordkeeping, Supplier Notification and Petitions under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); in 40 CFR part 372; was approved 01/09/2004; OMB Number 2070–0093; expires 01/31/2006.

Short Term Extensions

EPA ICR No. 1953.02; Information Collection Request for Best Management Practices Alternative, Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards, Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category; OMB Number 2040–0230; on 01/12/2004 OMB extended the expiration date to 04/30/2004.

EPA ICR No. 0616.07; Compliance Requirements for Child Resistant Packaging; Number 2070–0052; on 01/30/2004 OMB extended the expiration date to 04/30/2004.

Dated: February 9, 2004.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 04–3452 Filed 2–17–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7624–2]

Notice of Availability for FY 04 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Multi-Media Assistance Agreements

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Compliance (OC), within EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), is soliciting proposals for states and tribes to support their on-going efforts in state/tribal data system modernization. In particular, the grants will fund technical assistance and technical expertise for states/tribes to ensure that they will be able to accurately transmit water enforcement and compliance data to EPA. Grants will be in the range of \$50,000–\$200,000. The total number and amount of the awards will depend on the amount of funds available.

DATES: Electronic or hard copy proposals must be received by April 12,

2004. Funding decisions will be made by late May based on the proposals. Applicants selected to receive funds will be required to submit final grant materials (e.g., grant application, certifications, assurances) to the appropriate EPA Region by August 29, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Copies of proposals should be sent to David Piantanida (2222A), U.S. EPA—Ariel Rios South Rm 6149D, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, email: piantanida.david@epa.gov, Tel: (202) 564-8318, Fax: (202) 564-0034; and simultaneously to the appropriate Regional Enforcement Coordinator. This Notice will be posted on the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/planning/state/grants/stag/index.html>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Piantanida at (202) 564-8318.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Eligibility and Authority

Eligible applicants include States, Tribes, Inter-Tribal Consortia, Territories, Local governments, and multi-jurisdictional state organizations. Where a lead state environmental agency exists, applicants should work with and coordinate through, the lead state environmental agency.

EPA expects to award these grants under the Clean Water Act, Section 104. The applicable grant regulations for this grant program are in 40 CFR part 31 for state and local governments and Indian tribes.

Authority to enter into assistance agreements for the purposes described in this Notice are delegated to OECA in EPA Delegation 1-47, Assistance Agreements for Economic, Social Science, Statistical, and Other Research, Development, Studies, Surveys, Demonstrations, Investigations, Public Education Programs, Training, and Fellowships.

Funding priorities must be allowable under 66.709 (Capacity Building Grants and Cooperative Agreements for States and Tribes) of the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* (CFDA).

II. Funding

The funds available are from OECA's Multi-Media State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) appropriation. The grants/cooperative agreements should be in the range of \$50,000 to \$200,000, although proposals below or above that range will be considered. The total number and amount of the awards will depend on the amount of funds available. The U.S. EPA reserves the

right to make no awards under this solicitation.

State and tribal matching funds are not required. However, preference will be given to proposals which also make a commitment of state or tribal resources towards the total project cost. This can be state or tribal personnel salary dedicated to the project, cash contribution to the project budget, or other "in kind" contributions. The value of donated or "in-kind" services in the performance of a project should be considered in accordance with OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments." Lastly, federal funds cannot generally be used to provide a match or cost-share for other federal projects.

EPA can not predict that additional funds for these focus areas will be available in future years. Therefore, states and tribes should assume that these funds will be available on a one-time only basis and should not propose projects requiring annual funding.

III. Desired Projects

OECA will only consider funding projects for the focus area described below and for projects which can be completed in three years or less. Projects will be evaluated for potential funding based on the extent to which they address the focus area below.

A. Focus Area—Permit Compliance System Modernization (PCS)

In FY2004, OECA will continue its effort in the phased implementation of the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS). ICIS will be a consolidated enforcement, compliance and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting information management system that will provide a single source of information for the national enforcement, compliance and NPDES permitting programs. This new system will reduce burden and duplication by providing a single source of data entry, will improve public access to data, support the development of risk reduction strategies, and will provide states and Regions with a modernized system to meet their program management needs.

The second phase of ICIS is centered around the modernization of PCS which supports the implementation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) NPDES program. PCS has little or no data for major new NPDES requirements, such as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) Storm Water, and Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO). PCS is being modernized to address these

serious data gaps, as well as provide for easy use of and access to the system, use of current information technology, support the Agency's initiative for data integration, and to promote the exchange and sharing of data via the Network and the Agency Central Data Exchange (CDX) with our state partners. The availability of more comprehensive data in a modernized PCS will enhance the Agency's and the states' ability to more effectively manage the CWA NPDES program.

Grant funding will support state/tribal efforts to procure technical assistance and technical expertise to ensure the continued flow of data from states and tribes to OECA modernized systems. Examples of state/tribal technical assistance/expertise activities to be covered include:

- Migration of state/tribal data from the legacy Permit Compliance System (PCS) to the new modernized Integrated Compliance Information System-National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, (ICIS-NPDES) (e.g., conversion of General Permit data currently in legacy PCS to correspond with the General Permit data requirements of the modernized system);

- Data clean-up to support the state/tribal data conversion from the legacy PCS system to the new ICIS-NPDES; and,

- Activities to support the states/tribes in their move to the full use of ICIS-NPDES (e.g., feasibility study/requirement analysis).

B. Proposal Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the criteria outlined below. The following three criteria and associated points will be used by EPA to evaluate the proposals:

(a) [20 points] The proposal must describe the existing and/or proposed state/tribal use of the PCS system (e.g., support management of the NPDES program);

(b) [20 points] The proposal must describe how data is currently being entered into PCS;

(c) [60 points] Proposals must clearly identify the states/tribes activities to be performed that will ensure data entry and/or data flow of NPDES information to the new ICIS-NPDES and to meet EPA's modernized system, and/or new, data requirements. Examples of modernization activities include data migration, data conversion, and analyses or studies to support the state's full use of the modernized system.

C. Past Performance

In addition to the above criteria, EPA will also consider past performance of a grantee under this grant program (e.g., timely and complete quarterly/semi-annual reports, results/outcomes are apparent during the project, final reports are timely and complete). Where there are two proposals that have been ranked equally, the applicant with better past performance will win. If a grantee should have no record under this program, they will not be unfairly penalized.

D. Other EPA Funding Opportunity—Office of Environmental Information—The Exchange Network

Applicants may also be interested in related efforts by EPA and its State/Tribe/Territory partners to develop the Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is an Internet- and standards-based, secure information systems network which will support the electronic storage and collection of high-quality data, provide real-time access to environmental data, and help users integrate data from many different sources. The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to States, Tribes, and Territories to support the development of Exchange Network nodes and data flows. The deadline for submitting pre-proposals for the FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program was February 3, 2004, but EPA expects to continue the program in FY 2005, provided appropriations for the program become available. In FY 2005, EPA plans to highlight ICIS-NPDES as one of the key Exchange Network data flows. For more information about the types of ICIS-NPDES activities that may be supported in the future, please refer to the FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program Guidance (<http://www.epa.gov/Networkg>, click on Guidance Document, and go to Section VIII: Systems Information). For further information about the Exchange Network Grant Program, please contact Rebecca Moser at (202) 566-1679.

IV. Process and Schedule

Electronic proposals must be received by EPA by April 12, 2004 and should follow the format below. Proposals should be submitted simultaneously to the appropriate Regional Enforcement Coordinator, and to David Piantanida, OECA, (See contact information below). Funding decisions will be made by late May, 2004 based on the proposals. Applicants selected to receive funds will be required to submit a final grant package electronically by August 29,

2004. Regions will provide final application materials to selected applicants.

FOIA, CBI, and Enforcement Screening: Applicants should be aware that proposals submitted under this or any other EPA grant program are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This means that anyone can request and receive copies of all the information submitted in your grant proposal. If your application contains any Confidential Business Information (CBI), be sure to highlight it so the confidentiality can be protected in the event of a FOIA request.

Proposed Milestones for 2004 OECA Multi Media Assistance Agreements

April 12 Electronic Proposals due simultaneously to the appropriate EPA Regional Enforcement Coordinator, and David Piantanida, (OECA) (See contact information below).

Late May EPA notifies all applicants (selected and non-selected) via e-mail of funding decisions.

Mid June Selected recipients receive final application materials from EPA Regional office. Regional Project Officer and Regional Grants Contact are identified.

August 29 Final Proposals and Grant Applications are due to Regional Project Officer, Regional Grant Contact, and David Piantanida, (OECA).

Late September Grants are awarded

V. Format for Proposals

Proposals should not exceed 12 pages and follow the format below: (12 point font, on 8½ by 11 inch paper)

A. Project Information:
State/Tribe and Department:
Title of Project:
Focus Area: (from Notice of Availability).
Total Funds Requested from EPA:
Total Project Cost (including state/tribe cash and in-kind contributions):
Contact Person: (name, title, address, phone, fax, & email).
Preferred Assistance Agreement: (Grant or cooperative agreement).

B. Summary:
• Summary of the problem being addressed;
• Summary of project goal(s);
• Summary of project components;
• Summary of how the project components will address the problem & attain the goals.

C. Summary Work Plan:
• Proposed activities—list and describe activities and how they relate to the proposal criteria;
• Measures—how will the success of the project be measured? Include both

output and environmental outcome measures;

• Sharing results—how will the results of the project be shared across states/tribes?

D. Project Milestones:

• List project milestones with estimated dates, including estimated duration of project.

E. Project Costs:

• Include a detailed itemized budget for all project costs—distinguish the funds requested from any state/tribe contributions (in kind or other).

VI. Reports

Awarded recipients will be required to submit semi-annual and final progress reports to their project officer and to David Piantanida at the address below. A template reporting form will be e-mailed to all recipients. Recipients will also be required to complete annual financial status reports. All reports must be prepared in either Word or Wordperfect formats and delivered electronically to the appropriate project officer and to David Piantanida.

VII. Contact Information

For more information regarding this process, please contact David Piantanida at the address below: David Piantanida (2222A), US EPA—Ariel Rios South Rm 6149D, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, piantanida.david@epa.gov.
Tel: (202) 564-8318.
Fax: (202) 564-0034.

EPA Regional Contacts

EPA Region I

(Act) Enforcement Coordinator: Joel Blumstein—blumstein.joel@epa.gov
Enforcement Division Director: Stephen Perkins—perkins.stephen@epa.gov

EPA Region II

Enforcement Coordinator: Barbara McGarry—mcgarry.barbara@epa.gov
Enforcement Division Director: Dore LaPosta—laposta.Dore@epa.gov

EPA Region III

Enforcement Coordinator: Samantha Fairchild—fairchild.samantha@epa.gov

EPA Region IV

Enforcement Coordinator: Bruce Miller—miller.bruce@epa.gov
Enforcement Division Director: Mary Kay Lynch—lynch.mary-kay@epa.gov

EPA Region V

Compliance Assistance Coordinator: Linda Mangrum—mangrum.linda@epa.gov

EPA Region VI

Enforcement Coordinator: Connie Overbay—overbay.connie@epa.gov
 Enforcement Division Director: Gerald Fontenot—fontenot.gerald@epa.gov
EPA Region VII

Enforcement Coordinator: Althea Moses—moses.althea@epa.gov
EPA Region VIII

Enforcement Coordinator: Eddie Sierra—sierra.eddie@epa.gov
 Enforcement Division Director: Carol Rushin—rushin.carol@epa.gov
EPA Region IX

Enforcement Coordinator: Jim Grove—grove.jim@epa.gov
EPA Region X

Enforcement Coordinator: Deborah Flood—flood.deborah@epa.gov
 (Act) Enforcement Division Director: Mike Bussell—bussell.Mike@epa.gov

Dated: February 9, 2004.

Lisa Lund,

Acting Director, Office of Compliance.

[FR Doc. 04-3451 Filed 2-17-04; 8: 45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7624-5]

Gulf of Mexico Program Policy Review Board Meeting and Management Committee

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), EPA gives notice of a joint meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) Policy Review Board (PRB) and Management Committee (MC).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2004, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Homewood Suites, 901 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504-581-5599).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria D. Car, Designated Federal Officer, Gulf of Mexico Program Office, Mail Code EPA/GMPO, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000 at (228) 688-2421.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Proposed agenda is attached.

The meeting is open to the public.

Dated: February 9, 2004.

Gloria D. Car,
Designated Federal Officer.

Gulf of Mexico Program—Joint Policy Review Board/Management Committee Meeting

Homewood Suites, 901 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA.

Agenda

Thursday, March 18, 2004

- 8:30 Welcome and Introductions, Jimmy Palmer, EPA Regional Administrator, Region 4, Atlanta
 8:40 Overview of Meeting Agenda & Objectives Status Review of Follow-up Action Items, Bryon Griffith, Gulf of Mexico Program Office
 9 FY 2003 Program Accomplishments, Bryon Griffith, Gulf of Mexico Program Office

Purpose: Informational

- 9:30 Executive Order Status/Update, Bryon Griffith, Gulf of Mexico Program Office

Purpose: Informational

- 10 Break

- 10:45 Briefings on Emerging Initiatives

Purpose: To receive briefings and updates on issues and initiatives pertinent to the Gulf of Mexico.

PEW Commission Report—White House Views, Kameran Onley, Associate Director—CEQ

U.S. Ocean Commission Report (Governance Briefing), Dr. Frank Muller-Karger, Commissioner

- 12 Lunch

- 1 U.S. Mexico Gulf Programs Integration—Gulf of Mexico States Accord, Gary L. Springer, Executive Director—GOMSA

- 1:30 White Water to Blue Water Initiative, Patrick Cotter, EPA/Office of International Activities

- 2 Gulf Hypoxia—Implementation Plan Status Report, Larinda Tervelt, Gulf of Mexico Program Office

Industry-Led Solutions Workshop, Dr. Larry Beran, Texas Institute of Applied Environmental Research (TIAER)

- 2:30 FY 2004 Program Workplan Overview/PRB Endorsement and Proposed Addition of Choctawhatchee Basin as Priority Area, Bryon Griffith, Gulf of Mexico Program Office

- 2:45 Roundtable Discussion/Wrap-up and Next Steps

- 3 Adjourn

[FR Doc. 04-3453 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7624-4]

Gulf of Mexico Program Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), EPA gives notice of a meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2004, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Homewood Suites, 901 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504-581-5599).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria D. Car, Designated Federal Officer, Gulf of Mexico Program Office, Mail Code EPA/GMPO, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000 at (228) 688-2421.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Proposed agenda is attached.

The meeting is open to the public.

Dated: February 9, 2004.

Gloria D. Car,
Designated Federal Officer.

Gulf of Mexico Program—Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Homewood Suites, 901 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 581-5599.

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

- 8:30-8:45 Opening Remarks/ Introductions, Brian Grantham, Chair

- 8:45-10:45 EPA Water Quality 101 Workshop, Marjan Peltier, EPA Region 4

- 10:45-11 Break

- 10-12:30 EPA Water Quality 101 Workshop Continued

- 12:30-1:45 Lunch

- 1:45-2:30 Bacterial Source Tracking Presentation, Dr. R.D. Ellender, University of Southern Mississippi

- 2:30-3:15 Louisiana Wetlands Resolution Update, Jean Westbrook, CAC, Women for a Better Louisiana

- 3:15-3:30 Break

- 3:30-4 Wrap-Up and Discussion

[FR Doc. 04-3454 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P