

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2494-002]

Puget Sound Energy, Inc.; Notice of Meeting

April 1, 1999.

A meeting will be convened by staff of the Office of Hydropower Licensing on April 23, 1999, at 1:30 p.m. EDT at the Commission's Headquarters, room 62-26, located at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC.

By letter dated March 26, 1999, Puget Sound Energy requested a meeting to provide an update on the White River collaborative settlement process and provided an outline of issues to be discussed.

We will not discuss issues dealing with the pending rehearing of the Commission's December 19, 1997, order issuing license for the project. We will restrict discussion primarily to process issues related to setting up and conducting a collaborative settlement process.

If a federal agency wishes to participate by teleconference, they need to call 1-700-991-1854 and enter access code 25369. A non-federal agency should call 1-800-545-4387 and an operator will answer. They will need to give the operator the conference identification number: M58619. The operator will ask them for their name and phone number. The AT&T conference operator will then call them back and they will be part of this conference call.

Any person wishing to attend or needing additional information should contact John Smith at (202) 219-2460 or e-mail at john.smith@ferc.fed.us.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-8584 Filed 4-6-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6320-6]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request; Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives—Health-effects Research Requirements for Manufacturers

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives—Health-effects Research Requirements for Manufacturers (40 CFR part 79—Subpart F) (EPA ICR Number 1696.03, OMB Control Number 2060-0297, expiration date: 7-31-99). Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Fuels and Energy Division, Office of Mobile Sources, Office of Air and Radiation, Mail Code 6406J, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460. A paper or electronic copy of the ICR may be obtained without charge by contacting the person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James W. Caldwell, (202) 564-9303, fax: (202) 565-2085, caldwell.jim@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Affected entities:* Entities potentially affected by this action are those which manufacture or import gasoline or diesel fuel, or manufacture or import an additive for gasoline or diesel fuel.

Title: Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives—Health-effects Research Requirements for Manufacturers (40 CFR part 79—Subpart F), OMB Control Number 2060-0297, EPA ICR Number 1696.03, Expiring: 7-31-99.

Abstract: In accordance with the regulations at 40 CFR part 79, Subparts A, B, C, and D, Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives, manufacturers (including importers) of gasoline and diesel fuel, and manufacturers (including importers) of additives for gasoline or diesel fuel, are required to have their products registered by EPA prior to their introduction into commerce. Registration involves providing a chemical description of the fuel or additive, and certain technical, marketing, and health-effects information. The development of health-effects data, as required by 40 CFR part 79, Subpart F, is the subject of this ICR. The information collection requirements for Subparts A through D, and the supplemental notification requirement of Subpart F (indicating how the manufacturer will satisfy the research requirements) are covered by a separate ICR (EPA ICR Number 309.09, OMB Control Number 2060-1050). The

health-effects information will be used to determine if there are any products whose evaporative or combustion emissions pose an unreasonable risk to public health, thus meriting further investigation and potential regulation. This information is required for specific groups of fuels and additives as defined in the regulations. For example, all gasolines and gasoline additives which consist of only carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulphur, and which involve a gasoline oxygen content of less than 1.5 weight percent, fall into a "baseline" group. Oxygenates, such as ethanol and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), when used in gasoline at oxygen levels of at least 1.5 weight percent, define separate "nonbaseline" groups for each oxygenate. Additives which contain elements other than carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulphur fall into separate "atypical" groups. There are similar grouping requirements for diesel fuels and additives.

Manufacturers may perform the research independently or may join with other manufacturers to share in the costs for each applicable group. Several research consortiums (groups of manufacturers) have been formed. The largest consortium, organized by the American Petroleum Institute (API), represents most of the manufacturers of baseline and nonbaseline gasolines, diesel fuels, and additives. The research is structured into three tiers of requirements for each group. Tier 1 requires an emissions characterization and a literature search for information on the health effects of those emissions. Voluminous Tier 1 data were submitted by API and others in 1997. Tier 2 requires short-term inhalation exposures of laboratory animals to emissions to screen for adverse health effects. Alternative Tier 2 testing can be required in lieu of the standard Tier 2 if EPA concludes that such testing would be more appropriate. The EPA reached that conclusion with respect to gasoline and gasoline-oxygenate blends, and alternative requirements have been established for the API consortium for baseline gasoline and six gasoline-oxygenate blends. A similar situation exists with the Ethyl Corporation and its manganese additive MMT, and alternative requirements have been proposed. The API submitted Tier 2 data for diesel in 1997. Tier 3 provides for follow-up research, if necessary. No Tier 3 requirements have been established, and it is unlikely that any will be during the next three years. Thus, Tier 3 is not addressed in this ICR. 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.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: There are approximately 200 fuel manufacturers, 700 additive manufacturers, 600 registered fuels, and 5500 registered additives. Due to the costs, it is likely that only limited additional Tier 1 research will be done. Future fuels and additives will almost exclusively be those that can group with existing Tier 1 data, and likely will come from manufacturers that have already paid for the Tier 1 research. It is estimated that new Tier 1 research will cost \$0.5 million per product, and that there will be only one Tier 1 submission over the next three years. Standard Tier 2 activity also will be very limited. The EPA has concluded that existing data cover standard Tier 2 for baseline diesel. Baseline gasoline, the six major nonbaseline gasoline oxygenates, and the atypical gasoline additive MMT, are subject to alternative Tier 2 requirements. It is estimated that new standard Tier 2 research will cost \$1 million per product, and that there will only be four standard Tier 2 submissions over the next three years. It is estimated that the alternative Tier 2 testing for gasoline and oxygenates will cost \$15 million over five years. It is estimated that the alternative Tier 2 testing for MMT will cost \$10 million over five years. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency.

This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: March 25, 1999.

John W. Holley,

Acting Director, Fuels and Energy Division.

[FR Doc. 99-8632 Filed 4-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6320-7]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; National Estuary Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: National Estuary Program, EPA ICR Number 1500.04, OMB Control Number 2040-0138, expiration date: June 30, 1999. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 7, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1500.04.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* National Estuary Program (OMB Control No. 2040-0138; EPA ICR No. 1500.04) expiring 6/30/99. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Annual Workplans: The National Estuary Program (NEP) involves collecting information from

those state or local agencies or nongovernmental organizations that receive funds under section 320 of the Clean Water Act. The regulation requiring this information is found at 40 CFR part 35. Prospective grant recipients seek funding to develop or oversee and coordinate implementation of comprehensive conservation and management plans (CCMP) for estuaries of national significance. In order to receive funds, grantees must submit an annual workplan to EPA. The workplan consists of two parts: (a) progress on projects funded previously; and (b) new projects proposed with dollar amounts and completion dates. The workplan is reviewed by EPA and also serves as the scope of work for the grant agreement. EPA also uses these workplans to track performance of each of the 28 estuary programs currently in the NEP.

Biennial Reviews: EPA provides funding to NEPs after their CCMPs have been approved by the Administrator if such programs demonstrate adequate progress in implementing their CCMPs through a biennial review process. Biennial reviews are used to determine progress each NEP is making in implementing its CCMP and achieving environmental results. In addition to evaluating progress, the results are used to identify areas of weakness each NEP should address for long-term success in protecting and restoring their estuaries. EPA will also compile successful tools and approaches as well as lessons learned from all biennial reviews to transfer to the NEPs and other watershed programs. For this ICR cycle, biennial reviews will be required of the first 17 NEPs in FY1999 and the first 21 NEPs in FY2001. Biennial reviews are required in addition to annual workplans.

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. The **Federal Register** document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 12/23/98 (63 FR 71115); no comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public recording and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 100 hours per response for annual workplans and 250 hours per response for biennial review. Burden means the total time, effort or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain or disclose or provide information to or for a