

Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of a notice of intent, competing application, or motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Dated: April 1, 1997, Washington, D.C.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5806-9]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Information Collection Request for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs

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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Information Collection Request for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs; OMB Control Number 2040-0185. 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 5, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CALL: Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260-2740, and refer to EPA ICR No. 1803.02.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Information Collection Request for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs (OMB Control No. 2040-0185; EPA ICR No. 1803.02). This is a

request for a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 authorize the creation of State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs in each state and Puerto Rico to assist public water systems to finance the costs of infrastructure needed to achieve or maintain compliance with the SDWA requirements and to protect public health. SDWA authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award capitalization grants to the States and Puerto Rico which, in turn, provide low-cost loans and other types of assistance to eligible drinking water systems.

The information collection activities will occur primarily at the program level through the Capitalization Grant Application/Intended Use Plan, Biennial Report, Annual Audit and Assistance Application Review.

The State must prepare a Capitalization Grant Application that includes an Intended Use Plan (IUP) outlining in detail how it will use the program funds. The agreement is an instrument by which the State commits to manage its revolving fund program.

The State must agree to complete and submit a Biennial Report on the uses of the fund. The report indicates how activities financed contribute toward meeting the goals and objectives and provides information on loan recipients, loan amounts, loan terms, project categories of eligible costs, and similar data on other forms of assistance.

The State must also agree to conduct or have conducted a separate audit of its DWSRF. The audit report will contain an opinion on the financial statements of the DWSRF, a report on its internal controls, and a report regarding whether the compliance requirements have been met.

Also, since States provide assistance to local applicants, the States must review completed loan applications and verify that proposed projects meet all applicable federal and state requirements.

EPA will use the Capitalization Grant Application/Intended Use Plan, Biennial Report and Annual Audit to conduct its oversight responsibilities as mandated by the SDWA.

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** Notice

required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 12/31/96 (FRL-5672-7); 3 comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1095 hours per State response and 80 hours per local community response. 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.

Respondents/Affected Entities: State, local, and tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 714.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 108,885 hours.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1803.02 and OMB Control No. 2040-0185 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

And

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 31, 1997.

Richard T. Westlund,

Acting Director, Regulatory Information Division.

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