

The Project would entail construction of new 230-kV transmission lines and the upgrade of Western's Signal-Coolidge 115-kV transmission line to 230-kV to interconnect with Western's existing Liberty-Coolidge 230-kV transmission Line.

Because of the potential for incorporating new generation into Western's system, and the proposed interconnections with the existing system, Western has determined the need to prepare an EIS in accordance with U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) NEPA Implementing Procedures found at 10 CFR 1021, Appendix D6 to Subpart D. Although State and local agencies are responsible for issuing permits for the proposed electric generating facility, the EIS will include the analysis of effects from construction and operation of the generating facility as part of the proposed action.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures in conjunction with the Council of Environmental Quality regulations. Full public participation and disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. Western anticipates the EIS process will take about 15 months. It will include public information/scoping meetings; coordination and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies; public review and hearing on the published Draft EIS; a published Final EIS; a review period; and publication of a Record of Decision (ROD). Publication of the ROD is anticipated in the fall of 2001.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

**Michael S. HacsKaylo,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 00-22510 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Notice of Wetlands Involvement for the Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kV Transmission Line Access Road Creek Crossing

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of wetlands involvement.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to install culverts at the access road crossing of a tributary to Miners Creek about 2 miles southwest of Big Bend, California, and about 2,500 feet east of the confluence of Miners Creek and the

Pit River. An existing bridge at the creek crossing has collapsed, denying access to a dead-end transmission structure on the Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. If access to the structure is not restored, Western's maintenance crews would need to bulldoze across the creek to reach the structure in the event of structure damage or other emergency. Per a review of the flood hazard maps for Shasta County, California, Western determined that creek crossing does not involve a 100-year floodplain. However, a field review indicates that wetlands associated with the creek and its floodplain could be affected by the crossing. In accordance with the U.S. Department of Energy's Floodplain/Wetland Review Requirements (10 CFR part 1022), Western will prepare a wetland assessment as part of an environmental assessment for the creek crossing and will perform the proposed actions in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to, or within, the affected wetland.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed floodplain action are due to the address below no later than September 18, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Ms. Nancy Werdel, Environment Manager, Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA, 95630-4710, fax (916) 985-1934, e-mail [werdel@wapa.gov](mailto:werdel@wapa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Dave Swanson, Environmental Specialist, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO, 80228-8213, telephone (720) 962-7261, fax (720) 962-7263, e-mail [swanson@wapa.gov](mailto:swanson@wapa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposal to install culverts at the creek crossing of the tributary to Miners Creek would involve construction activities that could affect the wetlands of the tributary. Construction activities may include the placement of culverts within the creek bed, grading at and near the banks of the creek, and filling road bed material over and around the culverts. The environmental assessment will examine the installation of culverts and alternative crossing methods. The creek crossing is located in Shasta County, California, in T. 36 N., R. 1 W., Section 2. Maps and further information are available from Western from the contacts above.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

**Michael S. HacsKaylo,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 00-22511 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Washoe Project, Stampede Division—Rate Order No. WAPA-93

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of rate order.

**SUMMARY:** The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) has confirmed and approved Rate Order No. WAPA-93 and Rate Schedule SNF-5 placing into effect provisional nonfirm energy rates for the Washoe Project, Stampede Division (Stampede), of the Western Area Power Administration (Western). The provisional rates will be in effect for an interim basis until the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) confirms, approves, and places them into effect on a final basis or until they are replaced by other rates. The provisional rates will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and repay the power investment in the allowable period.

**DATES:** The provisional rates will be effective from October 1, 2000, and continue on an interim basis until FERC confirms, approves, and places the rate schedule into effect on a final basis for 5 years ending September 30, 2005, or until the rate schedule is superseded.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Debbie Dietz, Rates Manager, Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, California 95630-4710, (916) 353-4453, e-mail [ddietz@wapa.gov](mailto:ddietz@wapa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Deputy Secretary of Energy approved the existing Rate Schedule SNF-4 for Stampede nonfirm energy on September 29, 1995 (Rate Order No. WAPA-67, 60 FR 53785, October 17, 1995). FERC confirmed and approved the rate schedule on March 31, 1997, under FERC Docket No. EF96-5161-000 (78 FERC ¶ 61364). The existing Rate Schedule is effective from October 1, 1995, through September 30, 2000, and is being superseded by Rate Schedule SNF-5.

To serve project use loads and market the energy from Stampede, Western's contract with Sierra Pacific Resources (Sierra) provides for the Stampede

Energy Exchange Account (SEEA). SEEA is an annual energy exchange account for Stampede energy. Under this contract, Sierra accepts delivery of all energy generated from Stampede into Sierra's electrical system. The dollar value of the Stampede energy received by Sierra during any month is credited into the SEEA at the provisional floor rate. Western uses the SEEA to benefit project use facilities, market energy from Stampede to preference entities over Sierra's transmission system, and sell a portion of the energy to Sierra. As long as Western has a balance in the SEEA, Western and Sierra agree to do any combination of the above transactions in any month. After project use requirements have been met, available nonfirm energy is sold to Sierra at the provisional floor rate or to

other entities, giving priority to preference customers, at a rate not greater than the provisional ceiling rate but no lower than the provisional floor rate. Beginning January 1, 2005, energy available after meeting project use requirements will be sold to the Central Valley Project (CVP) at the provisional ceiling rate, as provided in the CVP 2004 Marketing Plan. The formula for the provisional floor rate is equal to 85 percent of the then effective, nontime differentiated rate provided in Sierra's California Quarterly Short-Term Purchase Price Schedule for as-available purchases from qualifying facilities with capacities of 100 kilowatts (kW) or less. This provisional floor rate is used to calculate the value of the SEEA for the benefit of project use facilities. Western applied the ratio of the projected costs

for project use service to the projected revenue from Stampede generation recorded in the SEEA, to the projected power costs to calculate the nonreimbursable costs. The reimbursable costs are reduced by revenues from sales made at less than the ceiling rate. The remaining reimbursable costs and the estimated energy remaining after meeting project use service were used to calculate the ceiling rate necessary to repay Stampede costs.

Under Rate Schedule SNF-5, the provisional nonfirm energy rate is 17.89 mills per kilowatthour (mills/kWh) for the floor rate and 90.07 mills/kWh for the ceiling rate. This table compares existing and provisional rates.

Nonfirm energy rates	Existing rates as of October 1, 1995 mills/kWh	Provisional rates beginning October 1, 2000 mills/kWh	Percent change
Rate Schedule .....	SNF-4	SNF-5	.....
Floor Rate .....	19.26	17.89	- 7
Ceiling Rate .....	80.44	90.07	12

**Provisional Rates for Stampede Nonfirm Energy**

Provisional rates for the sale of Stampede nonfirm energy consist of floor and ceiling rates and are designed to recover an annual revenue requirement including investment repayment, interest, project use costs, and operation and maintenance expenses. A power repayment study indicates the provisional ceiling rate provides sufficient revenue to repay all annual costs, including interest expense, and the investment in the allowable period. Other analyses indicate the provisional floor rate provides sufficient revenue to pay annual operation and maintenance expenses.

The provisional rates for Stampede nonfirm energy are developed under the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101-7352), through which the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation under 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, were transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy.

By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published

November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a nonexclusive basis to Western's Administrator; and (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to FERC. In Delegation Order No. 0204-172, effective November 24, 1999, the Secretary of Energy delegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary.

Western followed the DOE procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions, 10 CFR part 903, in developing these provisional rates.

Rate Order No. WAPA-93, confirming, approving, and placing the proposed Stampede nonfirm energy rates into effect on an interim basis, is issued. The new Rate Schedule SNR-5 will be submitted promptly to FERC for confirmation and approval on a final basis.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

**T. J. Glauthier,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

**Order Confirming, Approving, and Placing the Washoe Project, Stampede Division Nonfirm Power Service Rates Into Effect on an Interim Basis**

These rates are developed under the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101-7352), through which the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation under 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 specifically applicable to the project involved, were transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy (Secretary).

By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a nonexclusive basis to Western's Administrator; and (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In Delegation Order No. 0204-172, effective November 24, 1999, the Secretary

delegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary. Existing DOE procedures for public participation in power rate adjustments are found in 10 CFR part 903. Procedures for approving Power Marketing Administration rates by FERC are found in 18 CFR part 300.

#### Acronyms and Definitions

As used in this rate order, the following acronyms and definitions apply:

*Administrator*: The Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (Western).

*CVP*: Central Valley Project.

*Customer*: An entity with a contract and receiving service from Western's Sierra Nevada Region.

*DOE*: United States Department of Energy.

*DOE Order RA 6120.2*: An order dealing with power marketing administration financial reporting and rate-making procedures.

*Energy*: Measured in terms of the work it is capable of doing over a period of time. It is expressed in kWh.

*Energy Rate*: The rate which sets forth the charges for energy. It is expressed in mills/kWh and applied to each kWh delivered to each customer.

*FERC*: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

*FY*: Fiscal year; October 1 to September 30.

*Interior*: United States Department of the Interior.

*kV*: Kilovolt. The electrical unit of measure of electric potential that equals 1,000 volts.

*kW*: Kilowatt. The electrical unit of capacity that equals 1,000 watts.

*kWh*: Kilowatthour. The electrical unit of energy that equals 1,000 watts in 1 hour.

*Mill*: A monetary denomination of the United States that equals one tenth of a cent or one thousandth of a dollar.

*Mills/kWh*: Mills per kilowatthour. The unit of charge for energy.

*MW*: Megawatt. The electrical unit of capacity that equals 1 million watts or 1,000 kilowatts.

*NEPA*: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*).

*Net Revenue*: Revenue remaining after paying all annual expenses.

*Nonfirm*: A type of product and/or service that is not always available at the time requested by the customer.

*O&M*: Operation and maintenance.

*Power*: Capacity and energy.

*Preference*: The requirements of Reclamation Law which provide that preference in the sale of Federal power must be given to municipalities and

other public corporations or agencies and also to cooperatives and other nonprofit organizations financed in whole or in part by loans under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (Reclamation Project Act of 1939, section 9(c), 43 U.S.C. 485h(c)).

*Project Use*: Power used to operate the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery and the Marble Bluff Fish Facility, which are project use loads of the Washoe Project.

*Provisional Rates*: Rate schedules which have been confirmed, approved, and placed in effect on an interim basis by the Deputy Secretary of DOE.

*PRS*: Power repayment study.

*Rate Brochure*: A document prepared for public distribution explaining the rationale and background of the rate proposal contained in this rate order dated March 2000.

*Reclamation*: United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

*Reclamation Law*: A series of Federal laws. Viewed as a whole, these laws create the originating framework in which Western markets power.

*Revenue Requirement*: The revenue required to recover the reimbursable portion of O&M expenses, project use costs, interest, deferred expenses, and repayment of Federal investment within the allowable period.

*Secretary*: Secretary of Energy.

*SEEA*: Stampede Energy Exchange Account.

*Sierra*: Sierra Pacific Resources, formally known as the Sierra Pacific Power Company.

*Sierra Nevada Region*: The Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region of Western.

*Stampede*: Power system of Washoe Project, Stampede Division.

*Washoe Project*: A Federal water project in the Lahontan Basin in west-central Nevada and east-central California.

*Western*: United States Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration.

#### Effective Date

The provisional rates will take effect on the first day of the first full billing period beginning on or after October 1, 2000. They will be in effect pending FERC's approval of them or substitute rates on a final basis through September 30, 2005, or until superseded.

#### Public Notice and Comment

Western followed the DOE Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions, 10 CFR part 903, in developing these rates. Stampede is a power system which has annual sales of

less than 100 million kWh and an installed capacity of less than 20,000 kW; therefore, this rate adjustment constitutes a minor rate adjustment as defined in 10 CFR part 903.2(f). Since this is a minor rate adjustment, no public meetings were scheduled; however, Western accepted comments from interested parties. Western took these steps to ensure involvement of interested parties in the rate process:

1. Published a **Federal Register** notice on March 28, 2000 (65 FR 16390), officially announcing the proposed nonfirm power rate adjustment and initiating the public consultation and comment period.

2. Mailed letters on April 3, 2000, to all Washoe customers and interested parties transmitting the **Federal Register** notice of March 28, 2000, and announcing the beginning of the consultation and comment period.

3. Made a rate brochure available to all interested parties upon request in March 2000.

4. Ended the comment period on April 27, 2000.

#### Project Description

The Stampede Dam and Reservoir are on the Little Truckee River about 8 miles above the junction of the Little Truckee and Truckee Rivers. The dam and reservoir are in Sierra County, California, about 11 miles northeast of the town of Truckee. The water source for the Stampede Reservoir is the Little Truckee River drainage basin containing about 136 square miles of densely wooded slopes and grass meadowlands.

When the Stampede Dam and Reservoir project was authorized in 1956, hydroelectric power development was included. However, power facilities were not constructed at the time the Stampede Dam was built during 1966–1970, because the power function was not economically justified. Nevertheless, provisions were made to facilitate the addition of power facilities at a later date.

Subsequently, preliminary reevaluation of a powerplant at Stampede was conducted and published in a special Reclamation report, *Adding Powerplants at Existing Federal Dams in California* (July 1976). In the report, Reclamation recommended construction of a Stampede powerplant. As a result, definite plan studies were initiated in FY 1977, and construction of the powerplant was completed in 1987. A one-half mile 60–kV transmission line interconnects the Stampede power facilities with Sierra's transmission system.

The Stampede Dam and Reservoir are operated for four specific purposes;

flood control, fisheries enhancement, recreation, and power generation. The powerplant is a 3.65 MW generator, and provides about 11 million kWh annually. The energy generated by the powerplant has a priority reservation for designated project use loads. All remaining energy generation is sold on a nonfirm basis, giving priority to preference entities. Energy generated at Stampede depends on the run of the river and is nonfirm.

**Power Repayment Study**

Western prepares a PRS each FY to determine if power revenues will be sufficient to pay the revenue requirement in the prescribed time periods. Repayment criteria are based on law, policies, and authorizing legislation.

**Existing and Provisional Rates**

The provisional rates for nonfirm energy sales from Stampede consist of

floor and ceiling rates and are designed to recover the revenue requirement. The formula for the provisional floor rate is equal to 85 percent of the then effective, nontime differentiated rate provided in Sierra's California Quarterly Short-Term Purchase Price Schedule for as-available purchases from qualifying facilities with capacities of 100 kW or less. This table compares existing and provisional rates.

Nonfirm energy rates	Existing rates as of October 1, 1995 mills/kWh	Provisional rates beginning October 1, 2000 mills/kWh	Percent change
Rate Schedule .....	SNF-4	SNF-5	.....
Floor Rate .....	19.26	17.89	-7
Ceiling Rate .....	80.44	90.07	12

**Certification of Rates**

Western's Administrator certified that the Stampede nonfirm power rates placed into effect on an interim basis are the lowest possible rates consistent with sound business principles. The provisional rates were developed under administrative policies and applicable laws.

**Discussion**

To serve project use loads and market the energy from Stampede, Western's contract with Sierra provides for the SEEA. The SEEA is an annual energy exchange account for Stampede energy. Under this contract, Sierra accepts delivery of all energy generated from Stampede into Sierra's electrical system. The dollar value of the Stampede energy received by Sierra during any month is credited into the SEEA at the provisional floor rate. Western uses the SEEA to benefit project use facilities, market energy from Stampede to preference entities over Sierra's transmission system, and sell a portion of the energy to Sierra. As long as Western has a balance in the SEEA, Western and Sierra agree to do any combination of the above transactions in any month.

After meeting project use power requirements, the remaining energy available through the SEEA is sold to Sierra at the provisional floor rate or to other entities, giving priority to preference customers, at a rate not greater than the provisional ceiling rate but no lower than the provisional floor rate. Beginning January 1, 2005, energy available after meeting project use requirements will be sold to the CVP at

the provisional ceiling rate, as provided in the CVP 2004 Marketing Plan.

The formula for the provisional floor rate is equal to 85 percent of the then effective, nontime differentiated rate provided in Sierra's California Quarterly Short-Term Purchase Price Schedule for as-available purchases from qualifying facilities with capacities of 100 kW or less. This provisional floor rate is used to calculate the value of the SEEA for the benefit of project use facilities. Western applied the ratio of the projected costs for project use service to the projected revenue from Stampede generation recorded in the SEEA, to the projected power costs to calculate the nonreimbursable costs. The reimbursable costs are reduced by revenues from sales made at less than the ceiling rate. The remaining reimbursable costs and the estimated energy remaining after meeting project use service were used to calculate the ceiling rate necessary to repay Stampede costs.

**Statement of Revenue and Related Expenses**

This table shows a summary of revenue and expense data through the 5-year cost evaluation period.

	Cost evaluation period for rate schedule SNF-5
Revenues .....	\$3,135,275
Revenue Distribution:	
O&M .....	553,912
Project Use .....	501,830
Interest .....	1,201,814
Capitalized Expenses ....	877,719

This table shows a summary of the average annual revenues and expenses for the 5-year cost evaluation period.

	Cost evaluation period average annual revenue and expenses
Revenues .....	\$627,055
Revenue Distribution:	
O&M .....	110,782
Project Use .....	100,366
Interest .....	240,363
Capitalized Expenses ....	175,544

**Basis for Rate Development**

The existing rates for Stampede nonfirm power in Rate Schedule SNF-4 expire on September 30, 2000. The provisional power rates will produce sufficient revenue to pay the revenue requirement. The provisional rates take effect on October 1, 2000, to correspond with the start of the FY and remain in effect through September 30, 2005.

**Comments**

During the 30-day comment period, Western did not receive any written comments either requesting information or commenting on the rate adjustment.

**Environmental Compliance**

In compliance with the NEPA of 1969, 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 determined this action is categorically excluded from the preparation of 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. This notice is not required to be cleared by the Office of Management and Budget.

### Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to do 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. Western has determined this action does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis since it is a rulemaking of particular applicability involving rates or services applicable to public property.

### Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

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

### Availability of Information

Information about this rate adjustment, including PRSs, letters, memorandums, and other supporting material made or kept by Western used to develop the provisional rates, is available for public review. This information is in the Power Marketing Manager's office, Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, California.

### Submission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

The provisional rates herein confirmed, approved, and placed into effect, together with supporting documents, will be submitted to FERC for confirmation and final approval.

### Order

In view of the foregoing and under the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Energy, I confirm and approve on an interim basis, effective October 1, 2000, Rate Schedule SNF-5 for the Washoe Project, Stampede Division, for the Western Area Power Administration. The rate schedule will remain in effect on an interim basis, pending FERC confirmation and approval of it or substitute rates on a final basis through September 30, 2005.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

T.J. Glauthier,  
*Deputy Secretary of Energy.*

### Rate Schedule for Nonfirm Power Service

**Effective:** The first day of the first full billing period beginning on or after October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2005.

**Available:** In the area served by the Stampede Division.

**Applicable:** To power customers for general power service.

**Character and Conditions of Service:** Alternating current, 60-hertz, three-phase, delivered and metered at the voltages and points established by the contract.

**Demand Charge:** None.

**Energy Charge:** There is a floor and ceiling rate for nonfirm energy sales from Stampede. The floor rate is 85 percent of the then effective, nontime differentiated rate as provided in Sierra Pacific Power Company's California Quarterly Short-Term Purchase Price Schedule for as-available purchases from qualifying facilities with capacities of 100 kW or less. The ceiling rate is calculated by dividing the revenue requirement needed to repay all annual reimbursable power costs (less any revenue for sales made at less than the ceiling rate) by the nonfirm energy remaining after providing project use service. The ceiling rate will be calculated and customers told of changes in the ceiling rate by April 1 each year. Sales of nonfirm energy will be made at the floor or ceiling rates or at a rate between the floor and ceiling rates.

**Adjustments:** Stampede energy will be adjusted for losses and delivered at Donner Summit Metering Station, Gonder Substation, or another point of delivery on Sierra Pacific Power Company's system.

[FR Doc. 00-22512 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6863-2]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**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: State Clean Air Act Section 507 Program Cooperative Agreement Outreach Pilot Program Evaluation, ICR No. 1958.01; this is a new collection. This generic ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before October 2, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, referencing ICR No. 1958.01, to the following address: Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the ICR contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by e-mail at farmer.sandy@epa.gov, or download off of the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1958.01. For technical questions about the ICR contact Karen V. Brown, at EPA, by telephone (202) 260-1390, via FAX on (202) 401-2302 or, by e-mail brown.karen@epa.gov.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** State Clean Air Act Section 507 Program Cooperative Agreement Demonstration Outreach Pilot Program Evaluation; EPA ICR No. 1958.01 (new collection).

**Abstract:** The EPA Office of the Small Business Ombudsman was authorized and funded by the fiscal year 1999 VA/ HUD & Independent Agencies Appropriations Act to award grants or cooperative agreements to "Strengthen State Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) and State Technical Assistance Programs (SBAP) Created Under Section 507 of The Clean Air Act Amendments." The ultimate objective of these awards is to make improvements and strengthen these programs. The Congress further emphasized the important role these programs can play in promoting small business compliance with emission limitations set under State Implementation Plans to attain National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Under the Congressional mandate, EPA must report on "the grants (cooperative agreements), their use and effectiveness," and also provide Congress with an estimate of emission reductions achieved by these projects more generally. Thus, through a