

entered into pursuant to the Service Agreement and the Tariff.

MidAmerican requests an effective date of May 1, 1997 for these Agreements, and accordingly seeks a waiver of the Commission's notice requirement. MidAmerican has served a copy of the filing on Hudson, the Iowa Utilities Board, the Illinois Commerce Commission and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

*Comment date:* June 9, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

**Lois D. Cashell,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-14419 Filed 6-2-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2523-007; Project No. 11496-000]

##### N.E.W. Hydro, Inc. City of Oconto Falls, Wisconsin; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

May 28, 1997.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) Regulations, 18 CFR 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the applications for a new license for the Oconto Falls Hydroelectric Project, located on the Oconto River, in Oconto County, Wisconsin; and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. In the EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the existing

project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental protection measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street N.E., Washington, DC 20426. For further information, please contact Edward R. Meyer at (202) 208-7998.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[AD-FRL-5833-5]

##### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Information Collection Request for Iron and Steel Foundries

**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 proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Information Collection Request for Iron and Steel Foundries, EPA ICR Number 1809.01. 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 August 4, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties may submit written comments to the Emission Standards Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. A copy of the draft survey questionnaire may be obtained without charge by writing to this address or by contacting the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. A copy of the draft questionnaire and supporting statement are also available electronically on the Technology Transfer Network (TTN), one of EPA's electronic bulletin boards. The TTN provides information and technology exchange in various areas of air pollution control. The service is free,

except for the cost of a phone call. Dial (919) 541-5742 with a modem of up to 14,400 baud per second (BPS). The TTN is also accessible through the Internet at "TELNET tttnbbs.rtpnc.epa.gov." If more information on the TTN is needed, call the help desk at (919) 541-5384. The help desk is staffed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern time. A voice menu system is available at other times.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Maysilles, Metals Group, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone number (919) 541-3265, facsimile number (919) 541-5600, electronic mail address "maysilles.jim@epamail.epa.gov."

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are iron and steel foundries, which are facilities primarily engaged in manufacturing iron and steel castings. The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes for these facilities include 3321 (gray and ductile iron foundries), 3322 (malleable iron foundries), 3324 (steel investment foundries), and 3325 (steel foundries, not elsewhere classified).

**Title:** Information Collection Request for Iron and Steel Foundries, EPA ICR Number 1809.01.

**Abstract:** The EPA is charged under section 112 of the Clean Air Act (the Act) with developing national emission standards for listed hazardous air pollutants (HAP). Preliminary information indicates that there are major sources of HAP in the iron and steel foundry source categories. These categories were listed pursuant to section 112(c) of the Act on July 16, 1992, and section 112(d) of the Act requires the Administrator to promulgate regulations establishing emission standards for this source category. Standards must be promulgated by November 15, 2000. The responses to the survey are mandatory and are being collected under the authority of section 114 of the Act.

The Emission Standards Division (ESD) of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards plans to use the survey responses to develop legally defensible maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards. The focus of the survey is on determinations of HAP emissions, emission controls, and control performance, which are critical elements in the development of technology-based standards. Other questions in the survey provide information that ESD will use to develop reasonable estimates of impacts associated with potential standards,

including emission reductions, cost, and economic impacts.

Specifically, the information will be used by ESD to develop estimates of emissions of HAP, make determinations with respect to probable "major" sources, and develop MACT standards for both new and existing foundries. The data base compiled from the results will be used to make a determination of the MACT floor for existing sources based on the average emission limitation achieved by the best-performing 12 percent of sources. The results will also aid in identifying the best controlled sources for a determination of MACT for new foundries. In addition, the data base will be invaluable to make defensible estimates of the impacts of the standards, including emissions and emission reductions, costs of control options and their cost effectiveness, and economic impacts. Because many foundries meet the definition of small entities, the survey is necessary for EPA to meet the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

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 a 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 the 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 forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Burden statement:** The average burden for a respondent is estimated as 24 hours (\$770), including technical, management, and clerical labor. This estimate is the average labor required by eight companies who participated in a pretest of the survey and completed the questionnaire for a total of 12 foundries. The labor required to complete the

questionnaire by the facilities that participated in the evaluation ranged from 4 hours for a small foundry to 64 hours for a large corporation. The burden is a one-time occurrence for each of the 742 foundries that must prepare a 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.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

**John A. Edwardson,**

*Acting Director, Emission Standards Division.*

[FR Doc. 97-14445 Filed 6-2-97; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5833-9]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Obtaining Unbilled Grant Expenses From Grant Officials at Year-End

**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 a proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The ICR is intended to obtain information on unbilled grant expenses at year end from a sample of EPA grant recipients. Before submitting the ICR to OMB, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed collection of information as described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted August 4, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Comptroller, Financial Management Division, Mail Code 2733F, 401 M St. SW Washington D. C. 20460. Interested persons may

obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting Mr. Larry Achter.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Achter, 202-260-9446, Facsimile Number 202-260-4592, E-MAIL Address: [achter.larry@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:achter.larry@epamail.epa.gov)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** EPA will use the Probability Proportionate to Size sampling method to select approximately 110 grants awarded by the Agency and paid through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) process. EPA will contact the recipients of these selected grants to obtain information on unbilled expenses.

**Title:** Obtaining Unbilled Grant Expenses from Grant Officials at Year-end (EPA ICR No. 1810.01.)

**Abstract:** EPA's Financial Management Division (FMD) prepares annual financial statements that present the financial position and results of operations for EPA. The financial statements must comply with the Statements of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) and other accounting requirements. EPA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits these financial statements to determine whether they fairly and accurately reflect EPA financial conditions.

To meet the SFFAS requirements, EPA must report the estimated amount of its accrued liabilities. These accrued liabilities include: (1) Grant expenses incurred during the fiscal year that the grant recipient has paid and recorded in its accounting records but has not yet billed to EPA; and (2) grant expenses that vendors have billed the grant recipient between October 1 and November 15 (following the end of the Federal fiscal year) that relate to the prior fiscal year. EPA, working with its OIG, has evaluated the use of existing reports as a source of accrued liability information. However, for grants paid through the ACH electronic funds transfer mechanism, EPA has been unable to determine how to obtain this information without contacting the grant recipients themselves. ACH drawdown requests do not include period of performance data, which is essential for determining accruals. To minimize the amount of burden associated with gathering this data, EPA believes that information from a sample of approximately 110 grants would be sufficient to meet its financial statement needs. EPA would use estimation techniques to project the amount of grant accruals applicable to all EPA grants paid through ACH.

The grant recipients selected in the sample would only be asked to report