

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.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-24892 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RT01-99-000]

#### Presentation on the Benefits of a Combined Northeast Regional Transmission; Organization Notice of Presentation

September 28, 2001.

Take notice that Mirant Corporation (Mirant) will present a study prepared by Energy and Environmental Analysis Incorporated of Rosslyn, Virginia, on the benefits of a combined Northeast RTO. This study was recently published in the Sept. 1, 2001 issue of Public Utilities Fortnightly.

Mirant will present the study at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Two duplicate sessions are scheduled for Thursday, October 4, from 1:30-3:30 in the Commission Meeting Room, and Friday, October 5, from 9:30 to 11:30 in Rooms 3M-2A & B.

All interested persons are invited to attend, although seating is limited. Additional information about the presentation may be obtained by contacting Jo Tolley at (202) 208-1260.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-24896 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM98-1-000]

#### Regulations Governing Off-the-Road Communications; Public Notice

September 28, 2001.

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(h), of the receipt of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who

make or receive an exempt or a prohibited off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested on-the-record proceeding, to deliver a copy of the communication, to the Secretary.

Prohibited communications will be included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such requests only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication should serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable proceeding in accordance with Rule 2010, 18 CFR 385.2010.

Exempt off-the-record communications will be included in the decisional record of the proceeding, unless the communication was with a cooperating agency as described by 40 CFR 1501.6, made under 18 CFR 385.2201(e)(1)(v).

The following is a list of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications recently received in the Office of the Secretary. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. The documents may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

#### Exempt

1. Project Nos. 20-000, 2401-000, 472-000, 8-17-01, John T. Gangemi
2. Docket No. CP01-22-000, *et al.*, 9-21-01, Gene Fisher
3. Docket No. CP98-150-000, *et al.*, Patricia A. Kurkul
4. Project Nos. 1975-000, 2061-000, 2777-000, 9-24-01, Susan Giannettino

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-24894 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7071-8]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Superfund Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System

**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: "Superfund Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System," OMB Control Number 2050-0095; expiring September 30, 2001. 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 November 5, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, referencing EPA ICR No. 1488.05 and OMB Control No. 2050-0095 to the following addresses: Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the ICR contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-4901, by e-mail at [Farmer.sandy@epa.gov](mailto:Farmer.sandy@epa.gov), or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1488.05. For technical questions about the ICR contact Randy Hippen at EPA by phone at (703) 603-8829 or by e-mail at [Hippen.randy@epa.gov](mailto:Hippen.randy@epa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Superfund Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System (OMB Control No. 2050-0095; EPA ICR No. 1488.05) expiring September 30, 2001. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, 1980 and 1986) amends the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP) to include criteria prioritizing releases

throughout the U.S. before undertaking remedial action at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is a model that is used to evaluate the relative threats to human health and the environment posed by actual or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. The HRS criteria take into account the population at risk, the hazard potential of the substances, as well as the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies, direct human contact, destruction of sensitive ecosystems, damage to natural resources affecting the human food chain, contamination of surface water used for recreation or potable water consumption, and contamination of ambient air.

Under this ICR, the States will apply the HRS by identifying and classifying those releases that warrant further investigation. The information collected under this ICR is required to help determine whether a site is eligible to be included on the National Priorities List (NPL). Only sites on the NPL are eligible for Superfund-financed remedial actions. 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 April 26, 2001; no comments were received.

**Burden Statement:** The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to range from 44 to 1,870 hours per site depending on how far a site progresses through the site assessment process. Sites needing Pre-CERCLIS Screening and no other Superfund site assessment work will require an average of 44 hours per site, while sites progressing through all of the major phases of the site assessment process will require an average of 1,870 hours per site. 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:** States, Indian Tribes, and U.S. Territories performing Superfund site evaluation activities.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 60.

**Frequency of Response:** One time.

**Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:** 230,533 hours.

**Estimated Total Annualized Capital, O&M Cost Burden:** \$0.

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 addresses listed above. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1488.05 and OMB Control No. 2050-0095 in any correspondence.

Dated: September 24, 2001.

**Oscar Morales,**

*Director, Collection Strategies Division.*

[FR Doc. 01-24898 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7071-8]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program

**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: "Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program," OMB Control Number 1736.03, and expiration date September 30, 2004. 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 November 5, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, referencing EPA ICR No. 1736.03 and OMB Control No. 2060-0328, to the following addresses: Susan Auby, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the ICR contact Susan Auby at EPA by phone at (202) 260-4901, by e-Mail at [auby.susan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:auby.susan@epamail.epa.gov), or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1736.03. For technical questions about the ICR contact Paul M. Gunning at 202-564-9736 or [gunning.paul@epa.gov](mailto:gunning.paul@epa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** "Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program." (OMB Control No. 2060-0328; EPA ICR No. 1736.03) expiring September 30, 2001. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Natural Gas STAR is an EPA-sponsored, voluntary program that encourages natural gas companies to adopt cost effective methods for reducing methane emissions. Natural Gas STAR Partners agree to implement cost effective Best Management Practices (BMPs), which will both save participants money and improve the protection of the environment. EPA needs to collect information to establish program participation and to obtain general information on new Natural Gas STAR Partners. EPA also uses the information collection to evaluate a Partner's progress and performance, assess overall program results, and to develop technical materials to facilitate implementation. Participation in the Natural Gas STAR program is voluntary.

Natural Gas STAR Partners may designate information submitted under this ICR as confidential business information. EPA will treat all such information as confidential business information and will not make the company or agency-specific information collected under this ICR available to the general public. 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