

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 these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10319 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11561 Alaska]

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative; Notice of Intent To Conduct Environmental Scoping Meetings and a Site Visit

April 14, 1998.

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 allows applicants to prepare their own Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects and file it with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) along with their license application as part of the applicant-prepared EA (APEA) process. The Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) intends to prepare an EA to file with the Commission for the proposed Old Harbor Hydroelectric Project, No. 11561. AVEC will hold two scoping meetings, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, to identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

Scoping Meetings

The times and locations of the two scoping meetings are:

| Public meeting | Agency meeting |
|---|--|
| Date: Tuesday, May 12, 1998. Place: City Hall, Old Harbor, Alaska. | Time: 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, 1998, Division of Seniors Conference Room, 3601 C Street, Suite 310A, (Frontier Building), Anchorage, Alaska, 9:00 a.m. |

At the scoping meetings, AVEC will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) outline any resources they believe would not require a detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EA; (4) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantitative data, on the resources at issues; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to attend either or both meetings to assist in identifying and clarifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions at the meetings, AVEC prepared and distributed an Initial State Consultation Document (ISCD) on November 13, 1997, and a Scoping Document on April 10, 1998. Copies of the ISCD and the Scoping Document can be obtained by calling Daniel Hertrich of Polarconsult Alaska, Inc., AVEC's agent, at (907) 258-2420. Copies of both documents will also be available at both scoping meetings.

Site Visit

For those who intend to participate in scoping, AVEC will also conduct a site visit to the proposed Old Harbor Project on Tuesday, May 12, 1998. Those attending must meet at the Sitkalidak Lodge in Old Harbor, Alaska at 10:00 A.M. We will promptly leave for the project site, via helicopter. Those being shuttled by helicopter to the project site may need to sign a waiver of liability regarding helicopter use. Because of the remoteness and difficulty of ground access at the project site, those attending the site visit should be physically fit and must wear appropriate clothing and footwear. The site visit should be completed by 4:30 P.M. Participants must provide their own sack lunches.

To plan on helicopter use in advance of the visit, AVEC must identify the number of individuals interested in the site visit. Therefore, if you intend on

visiting the proposed project site, you must register with Daniel Hertrich at (907) 258-2420, no later than April 24, 1998. If inclement weather prevents a site visit on May 12, the alternate date will be May 13 at the same time and location.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be conducted according to the procedures used at Commission scoping meetings. Because this meeting will be a NEPA scoping meeting under the APEA process, the Commission will not conduct a NEPA scoping meeting after the application and draft EA are filed with the Commission.

Both scoping meetings will be recorded by a stenographer or tape recorder, and will become part of the formal record of the proceedings for this project.

Those who choose not to speak during the scoping meetings may instead submit written comments on the project. Written comments must be submitted by June 15, 1998, and should be mailed to: Mr. Daniel Hertrich, Polarconsult Alaska, Inc., 1503 West 33rd Avenue, Suite 310, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. All correspondence should show the following caption on the first page:

Scoping Comments, Old Harbor Hydroelectric Project, No. 11561, Alaska

For further information please contact Daniel Hertrich at (907) 258-2420, or E-mail at Dan Hertrich <polarak@Alaska.NET>, or Nan Allen of the Commission at (202) 219-2938, or E-mail at nan.allen@ferc.fed.us.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10294 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5999-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under EPA's AgSTAR 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: "Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements under EPA's AgSTAR Program," OMB Control Number 2060-0329 and expiration date 6/30/98. 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 20, 1998.

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. 1735.02.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements under EPA's AgSTAR Program." (OMB Control No. 2090-0329; EPA ICR No. 1735.02) expiring 6/30/98. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: AgSTAR is an EPA-sponsored, voluntary program that encourages livestock producers to implement methane recovery technologies to increase livestock production profit margins and reduce emissions from manure methane, a greenhouse gas. AgSTAR further encourages utilities, regulatory agencies and universities to support and promote the use of methane recovery technologies. The program organization consists of two types of AgSTAR participants: "Partners" and "Allies." AgSTAR Partners, who are primarily livestock producers, agree to survey and install methane recovery technologies, if profitable. AgSTAR Allies, which are primarily utilities and marketers of methane recovery systems or members of related associations, work with EPA to increase awareness of methane reduction technologies and provide information on products and services.

For AgSTAR Partners, participation in the AgSTAR program begins with completion and submittal to EPA of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which provides information on the AgSTAR Partner and its operations and outlines the responsibilities of the AgSTAR Partner and EPA. The MOU commits an AgSTAR Partner to survey all of its facilities and consider the full set of technical, operational, and procedural options that maximize on-farm profits and minimize methane

emissions. The Partner further agrees to consider installing methane recovery technologies within three years of signing the MOU, if such technologies are expected to be profitable. As a program participant, the Partner submits an Annual Report describing improvements made to demonstrate the benefits of methane recovery systems. In addition, the AgSTAR Partner agrees to make appropriate use of EPA-developed materials and inform EPA of any changes or problems with the program.

As mentioned above, agricultural and energy industries, energy regulatory offices, universities, and electric utilities may choose to become Allies of the AgSTAR program. Ally participation also begins with completion and submittal of an MOU. The MOU commits the Ally to providing information for the development of AgSTAR methane recovery systems. In addition, Allies work with EPA to increase awareness of methane emissions recovery systems and to promote and provide technical support to Partners. Specifically, Allies agree to provide case studies of successful methane emissions reduction systems. Allies also agree to consider developing promotional and educational documents for Partners. Allies must also obtain EPA approval for the use of EPA-developed materials or reproduction of materials bearing the AgSTAR logo.

EPA needs to collect information to establish program participation and to obtain general information on AgSTAR participants. EPA also uses the information collection to evaluate a Partner's progress and performance, and assess overall program results. Participation in the AgSTAR program is voluntary. AgSTAR 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 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 12/20/97; No comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for

this collection of information is estimated to average 2.3 hours per AgSTAR Partner and 2.2 hours per AgSTAR Ally. 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: Livestock Producers (Partners) and Utilities/Marketers of Methane Recovery Systems or related association members (Allies).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 75 Partners and 86 Allies.

Frequency of Response: varies.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 181 for Partners and 194 for Allies.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$500 for Partners and Allies combined.

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. 1735.02 and OMB Control No. 2060-0329 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: April 14, 1998.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.
[FR Doc. 98-10396 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

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