

prepared for an application filed by the Georgia Power Company on January 29, 1998, requesting the Commission's authorization to permit the Clayton-Rabun County Water Authority (Authority) to increase its water withdrawal from Lake Rabun reservoir for municipal water supply from 806,000 gallons per day (gpd) currently to 2.0 million gpd.

The EA evaluates the environmental impacts that would result from permitting the Authority to increase its water withdrawal from Lake Rabun reservoir, as discussed above. Existing pumps and water treatment facilities at the site are able to accommodate this increased water withdrawal; consequently, the proposed action would not require any new construction activity.

The EA finds that approval of the application would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA can be viewed at the Commission's Reference and Information Center, Room 2A, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Copies also may be obtained by calling the EA coordinator, Jim Haimes, at (202) 219-2780.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-10614 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 516-280]

#### South Carolina Electric & Gas Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

April 16, 1998.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47910), the Office of Hydropower Licensing (OHL) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for an application for approval of non-project use of project lands and change of land rights on Lake Murray. South Carolina Gas & Electric Company (licensee) proposes to sell to Larry Koon and James Cromer (developers) 20.5 acres of project lands for residential purposes. The licensee also proposes to allow use of the lake's

75-foot buffer strip to provide parking and vehicular access to an approved Willows End Marina. In the EA, staff concludes that approval of the licensee's proposal would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Saluda Project is located on the Saluda River in Richland, Lexington, Saluda and Newberry Counties, near Columbia, South Carolina.

The EA was written by staff in the office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA are available for review at the Commission's Reference and Information Center, Room 2-A, 888 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-10612 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6000-6]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Environmental Documentation and Associated Reporting for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica

**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): Environmental Documentation and Associated Reporting for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica, EPA ICR No. 1808.02, OMB Control No. 2020-0007. 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 June 22, 1998.

**CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST:** For a copy of the ICR or for further information on this project, contact Mr. Joseph Montgomery or Ms. Katherine Biggs, Office of Federal Activities (2252A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington,

DC 20460; telephone (202) 564-7157 or (202) 564-7144, respectively. Information on this project, including the Supporting Statement for this ICR, is also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are nongovernmental operators, including tour operators, conducting expeditions to Antarctica.

**Title:** Environmental Documentation and Associated Reporting for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica, EPA ICR No. 1808.02, OMB Control No. 2020-0007, expiring August 8, 1998.

**Abstract:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated an Interim Final Rule for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica, 40 CFR part 8, in accordance with the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (Act), 16 U.S.C. 2401 *et seq.*, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 2403a, which implements the Protocol on Environmental Protection (Protocol) to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 (Treaty). The Interim Final Rule provides for assessment of the environmental impacts of nongovernmental activities in Antarctica, including tourism, and for coordination of the review of information regarding environmental impact assessments received from other Parties under the Protocol. The requirements of the Interim Final Rule apply to operators of nongovernmental expeditions organized in or proceeding from the territory of the United States to Antarctica and include commercial and non-commercial expeditions. Expeditions may include ship-based tours; yacht, skiing or mountaineering expeditions; privately funded research expeditions; and other nongovernmental or nongovernmental-sponsored activities. The Interim Final Rule does not apply to individual U.S. citizens or groups of citizens planning to travel to Antarctica on an expedition for which they are not acting as an operator. (Operators, for example, typically acquire use of vessels or aircraft, hire expedition staff, plan itineraries, and undertake other organizational responsibilities.)

#### Environmental Documentation.

Persons subject to the Interim Final Rule at 40 CFR part 8 must prepare environmental documentation, as appropriate, to support the operator's determination regarding the level of environmental impact of the proposed expedition. Environmental

documentation includes a Preliminary Environmental Review Memorandum (PERM), an Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE), or a Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE). The environmental documentation must be submitted to the Office of Federal Activities (OFA). If the operator determines that an expedition will have: (1) Less than a minor or transitory impact, a PERM must be submitted no later than 180 days before the proposed departure to Antarctica; (2) no more than minor or transitory impacts, an IEE must be submitted no later than 90 days before the proposed departure; or (3) more than minor or transitory impacts, a CEE must be submitted. Operators who anticipate such activities are encouraged to consult with EPA as soon as possible regarding the date for submittal of the CEE.<sup>1</sup>

The Protocol and the Interim Final Rule also require an operator to employ procedures to assess and provide a regular and verifiable record of the actual impacts of an activity which proceeds on the basis on an IEE or CEE, including monitoring of key environmental indicators for an activity proceeding on the basis of a CEE, or, if necessary, an IEE. For activities requiring an IEE, an operator should be able to use procedures currently being voluntarily utilized by operators to provide the required information. For activities requiring a CEE, OFA will consult with the National Science Foundation and other interested federal agencies regarding the monitoring regime that is appropriate to the activity proposed, and with regard to possible utilization by the operator of relevant monitoring data collected by the U.S. Antarctic Program.

The record developed through these measures must be designed to: (a) Enable assessments to be made of the extent to which environmental impacts of nongovernmental expeditions are consistent with the Protocol; and (b) provide information useful for minimizing and mitigating those impacts and, where appropriate, on the need for suspension, cancellation, or modification of the activity.

Environmental documentation will be reviewed by the OFA, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other interested federal agencies, and will also be made available to other Parties and the public, including tour operators and environmental groups, as required under the Protocol or otherwise requested.

Environmental documents (i.e., PERM, IEE, CEE) must be submitted to the Office of Federal Activities and may include electronic copy for ease in providing documentation to the public via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa>. At the time the Interim Final Rule was promulgated, EPA anticipated a total of eight respondents annually. The EPA further anticipated that the types of nongovernmental activities currently being carried out (e.g., ship-based tours and privately funded research expeditions) would typically be unlikely to have impacts that are more than minor or transitory, thus an IEE should be the typical level of environmental documentation. At the time the Interim Final Rule was promulgated, such documentation requirements were estimated to require about 120 hours total per year per operator for preparation of the IEE and associated records of assessment and verification.

In cases of emergency relating to the safety of human life or of ships, aircraft, equipment and facilities of high value, or the protection of the environment which require an activity to be undertaken without completion of the documentation procedures set out in the Interim Final Rule, the operator must notify the Department of State within 15 days of any activities which would have otherwise required preparation of a CEE, and provide a full explanation of the activities carried out within 45 days of those activities. For the 1997–1998 austral season, there were no emergencies requiring notification by U.S. operators.

For the 1997–1998 austral season, there were, in fact, nine respondents who submitted a total of four IEEs. Paperwork reduction provisions in the Interim Final Rule that were used by the operators included:

- (a) Incorporation of material into the environmental document by referring to it in the IEE;
- (b) Inclusion of all proposed expeditions by one operator within one IEE; and
- (c) Use of one IEE to address expeditions being carried out by more than one operator; e.g., one IEE included multiple expeditions by five operators in the Peninsular Area, and another IEE

included multiple expeditions by two operators for non-Peninsular Area expeditions.

*Coordination of Review of Information Received from Other Parties to the Treaty.* The Interim Final Rule also provides for the coordination of review of information received from other Parties and the public availability of that information including: (1) A description of national procedures for considering the environmental impacts of proposed activities; (2) an annual list of any IEEs and any decisions taken in consequence thereof; (3) significant information obtained and any action taken in consequence thereof with regard to monitoring from IEEs and CEEs; and (4) information in a final CEE. This provision fulfills the United States' obligation to meet the requirements of Article 6 of Annex I to the Protocol. The Department of State is responsible for coordination of these reviews of drafts with interested Federal agencies, and for public availability of documents and information. This portion of the Interim Final Rule does not impose paperwork requirements on any nongovernmental person subject to U.S. regulation.

*Background on ICR Burden:* Persons subject to the Interim Final Rule at 40 CFR part 8 must prepare environmental documentation to support the operator's determination regarding the level of environmental impact of the proposed expedition. The Interim Final Rule provides for incorporation of material into an environmental document by referring to it in the document when the effect will be to reduce paperwork. Further, an operator may include more than one proposed expedition within one environmental document and one environmental document may also be used to address expeditions being carried out by more than one operator to further reduce burden. The operator must submit its environmental documentation, along with an electronic copy in HTML format, if available, by mail or by special delivery. In cases of emergency, the operator must notify the Department of State within 15 days of any activities which would have otherwise required preparation of a CEE, and provide a full explanation of the activities carried out within 45 days of those activities.

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 EPA and other Federal agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (ii) Evaluate the accuracy of EPA's estimate of the burden of the proposed

<sup>1</sup> Article 3(4), of Annex I of the Protocol requires that draft CEEs be distributed to all Parties and the Committee for Environmental Protection 120 days in advance of the next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) at which the CEE may be addressed. For example, CEEs that would have been considered at the May 1997 ATCM for expeditions during the 1997–1998 austral season would have to have been distributed by January 1997, and CEEs to be considered at the May 1998 ATCM for expeditions during the 1998–1999 austral season would have to have been distributed by January 1998.

collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and 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 technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Burden Statement:** For the limited time the Interim Final Rule will be in effect, EPA assumed an IEE would be the most likely environmental documentation submitted by operators, and that there would be no reporting for cases of emergency. The EPA further assumed that, for the initial year the Interim Final Rule was in effect (e.g., 1997–1998) and the subsequent three years, the most likely scenario would be:

(1) For the initial year, no PERMs or CEEs would be submitted, with four IEEs submitted on behalf of nine operators;

(2) For the subsequent three years, four revised IEEs would be submitted on behalf of nine operators;

(3) For the initial year and subsequent three years, procedures would be implemented to assess and provide a regular and verifiable record of the actual impacts of any activity which proceeds on the basis of an IEE;

(4) No PERMs, new IEEs, or CEEs would be submitted during the subsequent three years; and

(5) For the initial year, no emergencies would occur requiring emergency reporting, and none would occur during the subsequent three years.

The detailed estimate of burden and costs, which considers all three levels of environmental documentation, and includes the models and assumptions for the estimate of burden and costs for operators is presented in EPA's Supporting Statement for this ICR which is available from the Contacts or at the World Wide Website listed above. In summary, based on the most likely scenario listed above, EPA anticipates the following:

**Affected Public:** Commercial tour operators and all other nongovernmental entities including privately funded research expeditions.

**Frequency of Reporting:** Once per year.

**Number of Respondents:** 9.

**Estimated Average Annual Time:** For the initial year, no PERMs or CEEs were submitted; four IEEs were submitted on behalf of nine operators with an

estimated average burden of 216 hours per IEE, or 96 hours per operator, including assessment and verification procedures. For each of the subsequent years, four IEEs are anticipated on behalf of nine operators with an estimated annual average burden of 96 hours per IEE, or 43 hours per operator, including assessment and verification procedures.

**Estimated Start-up Costs:** None.

**Estimated O&M Costs:** The O&M costs for the initial year and each of the subsequent years are estimated at \$140 for an IEE including assessment and verification procedures, or \$62 per operator.

**Estimated Total Burden for the Initial Year and Three Subsequent Years:** The total respondent burden is estimated as 2,020 hours, or 224 hours per operator; and the total respondent cost is estimated as \$126,746, or \$14,083 per operator.

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.

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.

Dated: April 16, 1998.

**Richard E. Sanderson,**

*Director, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 98–10715 Filed 4–21–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–U

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6000–9]

### Draft Residual Risk Report to Congress

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** This Report to Congress (RTC) was prepared in response to section 112(f)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and provides the information requested in section 112(f)(1) and also presents EPA's proposed strategy for assessing any risk remaining (residual risk) due to the continued emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) from any industry source category subject to the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards required by section 112(d) of the CAA. The CAA identified several topics to be addressed: (a) Methods of calculating the risk to public health remaining, or likely to remain, from sources subject to regulation under section 112(d); (b) the public health significance of such estimated remaining risk and the technologically and commercially available methods and costs of reducing such risk; (c) the actual health effects with respect to persons living in the vicinity of sources, any available epidemiological or other health studies, risks presented by background concentrations of hazardous air pollutants, any uncertainties in risk assessment methodology or other health assessment technique, and any negative health or environmental consequences to the community of efforts to reduce such risks; and (d) recommendations as to legislation regarding such remaining risk. Congress directed that this RTC be prepared "after consultation with the Surgeon General and after opportunity for public comment." This notice of document availability is in fulfillment of the requirement to have a time for the public to comment on this RTC.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This notice announces a 60-day public comment period beginning April 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the draft RTC will be available from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (MC–6102), Docket No. A–97–39, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Room M–1500, Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 260–7548, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying. Written comments should be submitted to this address. Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** of this notice. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted electronically.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis A. Pagano or Kelly Rimer, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards,