

Deborah Osborne from the DRS and Douglas Sipe from the Office of Energy Projects will facilitate the workshop.

The Workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The DRS will be available during the afternoon to answer any questions or to discuss specific areas that the participants raise. To attend, please register by email to [douglas.sipe@ferc.gov](mailto:douglas.sipe@ferc.gov) or call Douglas Sipe at (202) 502-8837. For more information on the DRS, visit the FERC Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/drs/drs.htm> or contact Richard Miles at (202) 502-8702 or [richard.miles@ferc.gov](mailto:richard.miles@ferc.gov).

Additional workshops may be held in other regions of the country if industry response to the January 9th workshop is warranted. Please contact Douglas Sipe if you have any questions or comments regard these future workshops.

**Magalie R. Salas,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of FERC Staff Participation at MISO-PJM-SPP Reliability Seams Workshop

December 16, 2002.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hereby gives notice that on December 18, 2002, members of its staff will attend the MISO-PJM-SPP reliability seams workshop, concerning proposed solutions to address parallel path flow issues and the coordination of congestion management processes and ATC/AFC values between the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. (MISO), PJM Interconnection (PJM) and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) regions. The staff's attendance is part of the Commission's ongoing outreach efforts. The meeting is sponsored by MISO, PJM and SPP, and will be held on December 18, 2002, 10 a.m. at the Radisson Airport Hotel & Conference Center, 1375 North Cassady Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

This meeting is open to the public. The meeting may discuss matters at issue in Docket No. RM01-12-000, Remedying Undue Discrimination Through Open Access Transmission Service and Standard Electricity Market Design, and in Docket No. EL02-65-000, *et al.*, Alliance Companies, *et al.*

For more information, contact Patrick Clarey, Office of Markets, Tariffs and

Rates, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at (202) 502-8540 or [patrick.clarey@ferc.gov](mailto:patrick.clarey@ferc.gov).

**Magalie R. Salas,**

*Secretary.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7426-1]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Seven-County Study of Air Quality and Birth Defects: Computer-Assisted Telephone Questionnaire for Subset of Study Population

**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 EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Title: Seven-County Study of Air Quality and Birth Defects: Computer-Assisted Telephone Questionnaire for Subset of Study Population. 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 February 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Public comments should be submitted to: Dr. Pauline Mendola, US EPA (MD 58A) Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Interested persons may obtain technical information or a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting: Dr. Pauline Mendola, (919) 966-6953; FAX: (919) 966-7584; E-mail:

[mendola.pauline@epa.gov](mailto:mendola.pauline@epa.gov), or by mailing a request to the address above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are women who delivered a live-born or stillborn infant or who experienced a recorded fetal death in seven Texas counties in 1999 already enrolled in the record-linkage component of the Seven-County Study of Air Quality and Birth Defects.

**Title:** Seven-County Study of Air Quality and Birth Defects: Computer-Assisted Telephone Questionnaire for Subset of Study Population.

**Abstract:** Previous U.S. studies examining the relationship between air pollution and adverse reproductive outcomes have not used data beyond the Environmental Protection Agency's stationary ambient monitors to estimate exposure. The proposed computer-assisted questionnaire contains a maximum of 28 questions categorized into 6 sections: Residential History, Work History, Time Spent Outside the Home (Weekdays), Time Spent Outside the Home (Weekends), Multivitamin Use, and Tobacco Use. Study participants will be the mothers of infants born with and without birth defects in 1999 in seven Texas counties. These women will be selected from a larger records-linkage-based case-control study of air pollution and birth defects in the state.

Obtaining questionnaire information on maternal residence at conception will allow us to more precisely estimate exposure during the critical window of gestational weeks three through eight. Maternal work history, outdoor activities, and time spent outside the home will be used to refine exposure estimates for outdoor air pollution. The sections on maternal vitamin use and smoking during pregnancy will provide relevant data on potential confounders of the association between air pollution and birth defects.

The study investigators will use this data to help estimate the association between air pollution exposure and risk of selected birth defects. This will be the first study in this research area to collect this type of data, and if it proves useful, will indicate a need for such supplemental data collection in future studies.

The information will appear in the form of final EPA reports, dissertation manuscripts, and journal articles, and will also be made publicly available.

The total cost of this study is estimated to be approximately \$150,000.

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 practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information,