

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9392-4]

Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program Research Strategy**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a final document.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) is announcing the availability of its *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program Research Strategy*, EPA 620/R-02/002. The *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program Research Strategy* serves to guide the planning of EPA research efforts, led by the Office of Research and Development (ORD), in developing indicators and unbiased statistical design frameworks that allow the condition of aquatic ecosystems to be assessed at local, tribal, state, regional, and national scales.

ADDRESSES: A limited number of copies of the *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program Research Strategy* are available from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications. Request a copy by telephoning 1-800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190 and providing the title and the EPA number for the document, EPA 620/R-02/002. Internet users may download a copy from the EPA's Office of Research and Development home page. The URL is <http://www.epa.gov/ORD/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael McDonald, the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's EMAP Program Manager, (MD-B-243-01), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: 919-541-7973; facsimile: 919-541-4621; e-mail: mcdonald.michael@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In assessing environmental risk and determining restoration priorities, current environmental conditions must be known and rates of change must be measurable. Because of EPA's responsibilities under the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program, within the Office of Research and Development, has focused on improving monitoring and assessment methodologies for aquatic ecosystems and their associated landscapes. EMAP has focused on developing indicators and unbiased statistical design frameworks to assess the status and trends of aquatic ecosystems at local, state, regional, and

national scales. As is EMAP's primary mission, the goal of this Strategy is the development of sound scientific approaches to determine the health of the nation's aquatic ecosystems and the stressors most closely associated with impairment.

EMAP efforts ensure that comprehensive and comparable methods are being used at a national level, allowing meaningful assessments and the first regional comparisons of aquatic ecosystem conditions across the entire U.S. These results will significantly improve the quality of performance-based reporting to Congress and will better inform EPA national and regional decisions on priority issues and areas.

State managers and technical staff frequently struggle to balance local information needs with federal reporting requirements. EMAP will continue to work with State partners to develop cost-effective monitoring methodology to aid in decision-making. Results to date from EMAP approach applications in more than 30 States show cost-savings while producing full-coverage condition estimates. Often these cost-savings are used to address priority issues also identified through the EMAP process.

Finally, EMAP's approach and associated indicators serve the Agency and the public by contributing to scientifically based reports such as EPA's upcoming state of the environment report and the Heinz Center's "The State of the Nation's Ecosystems" report. EMAP's efforts help to fill important information needs at both national and at local levels. EMAP information will improve our ability assess our progress in environmental protection and provide valuable information for decision makers and the public.

This *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program Research Strategy* was subjected to external peer review by independent scientific experts. The final strategy reflects the comments of both internal and external peer review.

Dated: October 2, 2002.

Paul Gilman,

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION**Availability of Final Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity****AGENCY:** Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: EEOC hereby announces the availability of its final information quality guidelines on its web site.

DATES: Effective Date: October 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lizette Molina, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Information Technology, (202) 663-4446, or Jay Friedman, Director of Strategic Planning and Management Controls Division, Office of Research, Information and Planning, (202) 663-4094.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has finalized its Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. These guidelines are currently published on EEOC's Web site www.eeoc.gov. Individuals without Internet access may contact EEOC's Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs at (202) 663-4900 or TTY (202) 663-4494 for a hard copy.

Dated: October 2, 2002.

Sallie T. Hsieh,

Chief Information Officer, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission**

September 26, 2002.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to