

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST
FOR
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR
BEACH ACT GRANTS (RENEWAL)**

**EPA ICR No. 2048.04
OMB Control No. 2040-0244**

January 2012

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INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST

1. Identification of the Information Collection

1(a) Title of the Information Collection

BEACH Act Grant Program

1(b) Short Characterization/Abstract

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act amends the Clean Water Act (CWA) in part and authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award BEACH Act Program Development and Implementation Grants to coastal and Great Lakes states, tribes, and territories (collectively referred to as states) for their beach monitoring and notification programs. The grants will assist those states to develop and implement a consistent approach to monitor recreational water quality; assess, manage, and communicate health risks from waterborne microbial contamination; notify the public of pollution occurrences, and post beach advisories and closures to prevent public exposure to microbial pathogens. To qualify for a BEACH Act Grant, a state must submit information to EPA documenting that its beach monitoring and notification program is consistent with nine performance criteria outlined in the *National Beach Guidance and Performance Criteria for Recreation Waters*. For EPA to award a BEACH Act Implementation Grant, a state must document that its coastal monitoring and notification program includes or will include the following:

- Risk-based beach evaluation and classification.
- Sampling design and monitoring implementation plan.
- Monitoring report submission and delegation.
- Methods and assessment procedures.
- Public notification and risk communication plan.
- Measures to notify EPA and local governments.
- Measures to notify the public.
- Notification report submission and delegation.
- Public evaluation of program.

All beach program information will be collected by EPA's Office of Science and Technology, stored in the Beach Database, and displayed on EPA's Beaches website for use by the public, state environmental and public health agencies, and EPA.

The third Information Collection Request (ICR) approval period expires in January 2012. This Supporting Statement is for the renewal ICR being submitted to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for re-approval of the Reporting Requirements for BEACH Act Grants information collection. For the fourth ICR approval period after rule promulgation, EPA estimates that the annual respondent burden for the 37 eligible coastal and Great Lakes states, tribes, and territories will be 88,812 hours and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs of

\$3,943,080, for a total annual cost of \$8,571,118. There are no start-up costs. Because the Agency does not incur any additional O&M costs, the total annual respondent and Agency burden and cost estimate is 91,957 hours (respondents and Agency) and \$8,778,500 (which includes the respondent and Agency burden costs and the respondent O&M costs of \$3,943,080). EPA requests that OMB review and approve this ICR package proposal for 3 years.

2. Need for and Use of the Collection

2(a) Need/Authority for the Collection

The BEACH Act (Public Law 106-284) established a grant program to assist states in implementing a uniform monitoring and notification program for their coastal recreational waters. As a condition of receipt of a BEACH Act Grant, states must show evidence of meeting the nine performance criteria and the conditions under the BEACH Act. Therefore, a state applying for a grant must submit information on its programs to its EPA Regional Coordinator to document that its program is consistent with the performance criteria.

2(b) Practical Utility/Users of the Data

Data will be used by EPA, state and local environmental and public health agencies, and the public. EPA will use the information submitted by a state to determine whether the state's program is consistent with the performance criteria and the BEACH Act. State and local environmental and public health agencies will use the data as an indicator of program performance, and the public will use the data as reference to make informed decisions before going to the beach. The information provided by each state will also be used to report the status of beach monitoring and notification programs nationwide. A state must implement measures to notify EPA of the results of its water quality sampling. Therefore, these data will be used to create and maintain a national database of water quality trends, advisories, and closings.

3. Nonduplication, Consultations, and Other Collection Criteria

3(a) Nonduplication

The information requested from the states is required for receipt of a BEACH Act Grant and is not available from other sources. EPA has made every reasonable attempt to ensure that the beach monitoring and notification data and information requested through the BEACH Act Grant Program is not already available through less burdensome mechanisms.

3(b) Public Notice Required Prior to ICR Submission to OMB

EPA published the first *Federal Register* notice for this ICR on September 20, 2011 (76 FR 58266). EPA requested comment from the public. EPA received one comment during the comment period, which was not relevant to the information collection¹.

3(c) Consultations

EPA consulted with the following state beach coordinators, asking them to compare EPA's average burden estimates with their experience: Shannon Briggs (Michigan), Jon Dinneen (Connecticut), and Heather Merritt (Maryland). Shannon commented that the numbers were similar to Michigan's estimates and were therefore reasonable. Jon provided a detailed breakdown of Connecticut's burden on a task-by-task basis, with estimates that were higher in some places and lower in others, resulting in an overall annual burden higher than EPA's estimates by 476 hours. Heather responded that the burden estimates seemed reasonable overall, but noted that Maryland spends more time on sample collection. Based on these responses, EPA feels that the state burden provided in the ICR is a reasonable estimate for an average state.

3(d) Effects of Less Frequent Collection

The requirement for a state to submit its monitoring and notification data is a statutory requirement under the BEACH Act. The frequency and format of such submittal is at the Administrator's discretion [see CWA section 406(b)(B)(3)]. Since 2003, EPA has required states to submit their monitoring and notification data annually. However, to provide more up-to-date information to the public on the state of their beaches, the Agency is encouraging more frequent reporting. The Agency continues to expect state grant performance reports annually.

3(e) General Guidelines

The BEACH Act Grant Program will be conducted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act [Title 5 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) section 1320.5(d)(2)] and will adhere to OMB's general guidelines for information collections.

3(f) Confidentiality

Measures to ensure the confidentiality of the collected beach monitoring and notification data are not necessary because the information submitted by the respondents is public information.

3(g) Sensitive Questions

No information of sensitive nature will be collected as a result of this ICR.

4. The Respondents and the Information Requested

4(a) Respondents/SIC Codes

Information collected by EPA under the BEACH Act will be submitted by environmental and public health agencies in coastal and Great Lakes states, territories, and tribes. No private industries will be required to submit information, and, therefore, no SIC codes are relevant.

4(b) Information Requested

EPA is requiring states to provide information on how a beach monitoring and notification program is consistent with the following nine performance criteria, developed from the BEACH Act and summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. BEACH Act Grant performance criteria summary

Category	Performance criteria	Requirement	BEACH Act section
Evaluation and Classification	1	Risk-based Beach Evaluation and Classification	406(b)(2)(A)(ii-iv) 406(c)(1)
Monitoring	2	Sampling Design and Monitoring Implementation Plan	406(c)(3)
	3	Monitoring Report Submission and Delegation	406(b)(3)(A), (B) 406(c)(2)
	4	Methods and Assessment Procedures	406(c)(4)
Public Notification and Prompt Risk Communication	5	Public Notification and Risk Communication Plan	406(c)(7)
	6	Measures to Notify EPA and Local Governments	406(c)(5)
	7	Measures to Notify the Public	406(c)(6)
	8	Notification Report Submission and Delegation	406(b)(3)(A), (B) 406(c)(2)
Public Evaluation	9	Public Evaluation of Program	406(b)(2)(A)(v)

1) Risk-based Beach Evaluation and Classification

A state must develop a risk-based beach evaluation and classification plan and apply it to state coastal recreation waters. A state or tribal program must describe the factors used in its evaluation and classification process and explain how its beaches are ranked as a result of the process. The process must result in the identification of a list of coastal recreation waters in the state, including coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of access used by the public.

2) Sampling Design and Monitoring Plan

A state must develop a sampling design and monitoring implementation plan. The plan must adequately address the frequency and location of monitoring and assessment of coastal recreation waters according to the periods of recreational use of the waters, the nature and extent of use during certain periods, the proximity of the waters to known point sources and nonpoint sources of pollution, and any effect of storm events on the waters.

3) Monitoring Report Submission and Delegation

A state must develop a mechanism to collect relevant information, submit timely reports to EPA, and document any delegation of monitoring responsibilities to local governments.

Report Submission

A state recipient of a grant must submit to the EPA Administrator timely information and reports that describe the data collected as part of the monitoring program and the actions taken to notify the public when water quality standards are exceeded.

Delegation

If monitoring responsibilities are delegated to local governments, the state grant recipient must describe the process by which the state may delegate to local governments responsibility for implementing the monitoring program.

4) Methods and Assessment Procedures

A state must develop detailed methods and assessment procedures. Those procedures must adequately address both the methods to be used for detecting levels of pathogens and pathogen indicators that are harmful to human health and the assessment procedures for identifying short-term increases in pathogens and pathogen indicators that are harmful to human health.

5) Public Notification and Risk Communication Plan

A state must develop an overall public notification and risk communication plan. The plan must describe the state's public notification efforts and measures to inform the public of the potential risks associated with water contact activities in the coastal recreation waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards.

6) Measures to Notify EPA and Local Governments

A state must identify measures for promptly communicating to EPA and local governments of the occurrence, nature, location, pollutants involved, and extent of any exceeding of, or likelihood of exceeding, applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators. The state must identify how that information will be promptly communicated to EPA and to a designated official of the local government that has jurisdiction over land adjoining the coastal recreation waters for which the failure to meet applicable standards has been identified.

7) Measures to Notify the Public

A state must develop measures to notify the public by posting signs at beaches or similar points of access or through functionally equivalent communication measures that are sufficient to give notice to the public that the coastal recreation waters are not meeting or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators.

8) Notification Report Submission and Delegations

A state must develop a mechanism to collect relevant information, submit timely reports to EPA, and document any delegation of notification responsibilities to local governments.

Report Submission

A state or tribal recipient of a grant must submit to the EPA Administrator timely information and reports that describe data collected as part of the notification program and the actions taken to notify the public when water quality standards are exceeded.

Delegation

If notification responsibilities are delegated to local governments, the state grant recipient must describe the process by which the state may delegate to local governments responsibility for implementing the notification program.

9) Public Evaluation of Program

A state must identify how to provide the public with an opportunity to review the program through a process that provides for public notice, review, and an opportunity to comment. That can be accomplished through a record of public comments, meetings, forums, or workshops.

5. The Information Collected-agency Activities, Collection Methodology, and Information Management

5(a) Agency Activities

The BEACH Act Grant Program will be administered by EPA Headquarters and EPA Regional Offices, which have planned for and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management of the grant program. EPA is conducting the following activities in administering the BEACH Act grants:

- EPA Headquarters is to monitor state programs annually to ensure compliance with the performance criteria.
- EPA Regions are to monitor state programs annually to ensure compliance with the performance criteria.
- EPA Regions and EPA Headquarters are to provide miscellaneous support to the states.
- EPA Regions are to revise work plans and update the Quality Management Plan.
- EPA Regions are to perform technical review of a Quality Assurance Project Plan and Grants Management Plan.
- Regions are to ensure that a Quality Assurance Project Plan is complete before implementation.

5(b) Collection Methodology and Management

The EPA Beach Program encourages states to electronically transmit beach monitoring and notification data directly to EPA. Electronic reporting is intended to achieve data collection efficiencies and reduce the possibility of data input error.

It is the state's responsibility to conduct ongoing data analysis, including performing data quality assurance/quality control to check for anomalies in the data that might be related to data entry or laboratory errors. Data quality review and analysis will include continuous analysis of laboratory results, pollution occurrence events, public notification, and review of all program data. The beach monitoring and notification data will be maintained in the eBEACHES data system. Reporting of beach data to EPA consists of beach program information, notification data, monitoring data, locational data. The data collected under the BEACH Act Grant Program will be used for program performance evaluation to determine if a state program is consistent with the *BEACH Guidance and Performance Criteria* document, to analyze pollution occurrences at beaches across the nation and report to Congress on the status of the nation's recreation waters.

5(c) Small Entity Flexibility

Measures to assist small entities are not applicable because the respondents for the BEACH Act Grant Program are state government agencies. However, EPA may make a grant to a local government for implementing a monitoring and notification program only if, after the 1-year period beginning on the date of publication of performance criteria, EPA determines that the state is not implementing a program that meets the performance criteria.

5(d) Collection Schedule

A state must show evidence documenting its compliance with the nine performance criteria as listed in the *Federal Register* and the *National Beach Guidance and Performance Criteria* to be eligible for a BEACH Act Grant.

6. Estimating the Burden and Cost of the Collection

6(a) Estimating Respondent Burden

The BEACH Act requires states to devote time and resources to implement a monitoring and notification program to meet the performance criteria outlined in the *National Beach Guidance and Performance Criteria for Recreation Waters*. To develop burden estimates, EPA estimated the number of hours that will be required by states to adhere to the following performance criteria:

1. Risk-based beach evaluation and classification.
2. Sampling design and monitoring implementation plan.
3. Monitoring report submission and delegation.
4. Methods and assessment procedures.
5. Public notification and risk communication plan.

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6. Measures to notify EPA and local governments.
 7. Measures to notify the public.
 8. Notification report submission and delegation.
 9. Public evaluation of program.

The Agency estimated that implementing a monitoring and notification program in accordance with the nine performance criteria will take an annual average of 88,812 hours and \$3,943,080 O&M for all 37 respondents.

The following assumptions were made for this ICR on the basis of data collected by EPA and consultations with respondents listed in section 3(c):

- The average beach (monitoring) season was assumed to be 18 weeks.
- The average number of samples collected per week at each monitored beach during the beach season was assumed to be 2 samples.
- The average cost of sample analysis was assumed to be \$30 per sample.
- The frequency of reporting to EPA is assumed to be quarterly.

6(b) Estimating Respondent Cost

The annual cost for a state to implement the performance criteria necessary to comply with the BEACH Act Grant Program are attributed to labor costs and O&M costs. The total cost burden over 3 years for the 37 states and territories is estimated to be \$25,713,355, which consists of \$25,713,355 in labor costs and \$11,829,240 in O&M costs.

Labor Costs

To develop labor costs, EPA multiplied the number of hours that will be required to implement a monitoring and notification plan by the state employee hourly rate to generate a cost estimate. Because labor rates vary so widely among the state government personnel involved in implementing a state monitoring and notification program, EPA used an average loaded hourly rate that is representative of the average salary for a managerial and technical state employee as listed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for full-time state and local government workers in the 2010 National Compensation Survey. The managerial salary of \$82.58 per hour is calculated as the hourly rate of \$51.61 times an overhead factor of 1.6. That is, $\$51.61 \times 1.6 = \82.58 . The technical salary of \$49.74 per hour is calculated as \$31.09 times the 1.6 factor. Table 2 presents an estimate of the burden that state governments will incur to meet each performance criterion outlined in the *National Beach Guidance and Grant Performance Criteria for Recreation Waters*. The table identifies the activities to be performed by the state, the associated hours required for each activity, and the labor cost for each activity. Annual totals are presented at the end of Table 2.

Operation and Maintenance Costs

In addition to labor costs, the states and territories incur O&M costs associated with the analytical fees and shipping for the water quality samples. Non-labor costs for the 37 states and

territories are solely attributed to the laboratory fees that will be charged for analysis and to shipping charges for sending the sample bottles to the appropriate laboratory.

Table 2. Individual respondent 3-year state burden hours

Performance criterion	State activity	3-year managerial burden		3-year technical burden		Total 3-year burden	
		Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$134.19/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$80.83/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost (dollars)
1 - Risk-based Beach Evaluation and Classification	Identify coastal recreation waters	1	\$83	6	\$298	7	\$381
	Identify and submit list of monitored waters	1	\$83	6	\$298	7	\$381
	Collect and submit beach lat/long coordinates (georeference beaches using maps, GPS, etc.)	20	\$1,652	180	\$8,954	200	\$10,605
	Identify bathing beaches and submit beach miles	20	\$1,652	80	\$3,980	100	\$5,631
	Determine legal authority for administering monitoring and notification programs	3	\$248	6	\$298	9	\$546
	Review available information	5	\$413	15	\$746	20	\$1,159
	Rank beaches	3	\$248	100	\$4,974	103	\$5,222
	Performance Criterion 1 Total	53	\$4,377	393	\$19,549	446	\$23,926
	2 - Sampling Design and Monitoring Implementation Plan	Identify sampling plan (when and where to sample, what depth to sample, etc.)	3	\$248	5	\$249	8
Ensure data quality		12	\$991	100	\$4,974	112	\$5,965
Staff monitoring programs		4	\$330	7	\$348	11	\$679
Train monitoring staff		16	\$1,321	200	\$9,949	216	\$11,270
Create database and data submission process		40	\$3,303	360	\$17,908	400	\$21,211
Manage data for beach season		20	\$1,652	180	\$8,954	200	\$10,605
Program implementation and oversight		120	\$9,909	120	\$5,969	240	\$15,878
Performance Criterion 2 Total		215	\$17,754	972	\$48,351	1,187	\$66,105

Performance criterion	State activity	3-year managerial burden		3-year technical burden		Total 3-year burden	
		Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$134.19/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$80.83/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost (dollars)
3 - Monitoring Report Submission and Delegation	Submit report that describes data collected and public notification activities	12	\$991	35	\$1,741	47	\$2,732
	Describe process by which the state may delegate to local governments the responsibility for implementing a monitoring program	6	\$495	18	\$895	24	\$1,391
	Performance Criterion 3 Total	18	\$1,486	53	\$2,636	71	\$4,123
4 - Methods and Assessment Procedures	Identify laboratories for analysis	1	\$83	12	\$597	13	\$680
	Determine analytical procedures	0	\$0	4	\$199	4	\$199
	Identify sample collection techniques	1	\$83	6	\$298	7	\$381
	Collect water sample	0	\$0	1,350	\$67,154	1,350	\$67,154
	Determine data validation and verification procedures	2	\$165	9	\$448	11	\$613
	Analyze and submit monitoring data to EPA	140	\$11,561	2,600	\$129,334	2,740	\$140,895
	Identify the use of predictive tools in beach monitoring. (If using predictive tools, identify what type of tool, how used, how applicable, etc.)	4	\$330	20	\$995	24	\$1,325
	Performance Criterion 4 Total	148	\$12,221	4,001	\$199,026	4,149	\$211,247
5 - Public Notification and Risk Communication Plan	Perform a problem assessment and audience identification	2	\$165	22	\$1,094	24	\$1,260
	Determine and develop content and procedures for advisories and closings	4	\$330	44	\$2,189	48	\$2,519
	Performance Criterion 5 Total	6	\$495	66	\$3,283	72	\$3,779

Performance criterion	State activity	3-year managerial burden		3-year technical burden		Total 3-year burden	
		Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$134.19/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$80.83/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost (dollars)
6 - Measures to Notify EPA and Local Governments	Determine the mechanisms for states to notify local governments of advisories and closings, and removal of advisories and closings	3	\$248	23	\$1,144	26	\$1,392
	Determine the mechanisms for states to notify EPA of advisories, closings, and removal of advisories and closings	1	\$83	13	\$647	14	\$729
	Collect and submit notification data to EPA	4	\$330	22	\$1,094	26	\$1,425
	Performance Criterion 6 Total	8	\$661	58	\$2,885	66	\$3,546
7 - Measures to Notify the Public	Determine the mechanisms for states to notify the public of advisories, closings, and removal of advisories and closings	2	\$165	20	\$995	22	\$1,160
	Implement notification program (could include posting signs or functional equivalent)	45	\$3,716	855	\$42,531	900	\$46,247
	Performance Criterion 7 Total	47	\$3,881	875	\$43,526	922	\$47,407
8 - Notification Report Submission and Delegation	Submit report that describes data collected and the public notification activities	6	\$495	50	\$2,487	56	\$2,983
	Describe process by which the state may delegate to local governments the responsibility for implementing a notification program	2	\$165	22	\$1,094	24	\$1,260
	Performance Criterion 8 Total	8	\$661	72	\$3,582	80	\$4,242

Performance criterion	State activity	3-year managerial burden		3-year technical burden		Total 3-year burden	
		Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$134.19/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost \$80.83/hour (dollars)	Total burden per activity (hours)	Total labor cost (dollars)
9 - Public Evaluation of Program	Ensure the monitoring and notification program meets the needs of the audiences and the objectives of the Agency	8	\$661	96	\$4,775	104	\$5,436
	Evaluate the monitoring and notification program	8	\$661	96	\$4,775	104	\$5,436
	Performance Criterion 9 Total	16	\$1,321	192	\$9,551	208	\$10,872
Total		519	\$42,857	6,682	\$332,389	7,201	\$375,246
Annual Total		173	\$14,286	2,227	\$110,796	2,400	\$125,082

The O&M costs were calculated as an average for the 3,651 coastal and Great Lakes beaches identified in EPA's 2010 National Beaches Survey (the most recent version available) for the 37 states and territories eligible to participate in the BEACH Act Grant Program. EPA obtained laboratory fees and shipping costs from testing labs and estimated the cost to be \$30 per sample. The cost for each state was calculated using the equation below:

$$\frac{3,651 \text{ beaches} \times 36 \text{ samples (twice per week for 18 week season)} \times \$30/\text{sample}}{37 \text{ states}} = \$106,570/\text{state}$$

EPA estimates an annual O&M cost of \$106,570 per state, an annual total O&M cost of \$3,943,080 for all 37 states, and a total O&M cost of \$11,829,240 for 37 states over 3 years.

6(c) Estimating Agency Burden and Cost

The BEACH Act requires EPA to devote time and resources to manage the grant program. To develop burden estimates, EPA estimated the number of hours that will be required to administer the program. The Agency estimates that it will take 85 hours per respondent to review and process the applications, monitor respondent programs, and provide miscellaneous support. When multiplied by 37 respondents, the annual Agency burden is 3,145 hours to administer the program and a total Agency burden of 9,435 hours over 3 years. The Agency used an average hourly salary for Agency employees of \$65.94, which was calculated using an hourly rate of \$41.21 plus an overhead factor of 60%. That is, $\$41.21 \times 1.6 = \65.94 . The labor rate was obtained using 2011 salary tables provided by the Office of Personnel Management.

Table 3 presents an estimate of the burden that EPA will incur to manage the BEACH Act Grant Program for years 1 through 3 of this ICR. The annual totals are presented at the bottom of the table.

Table 3. Total Agency burden hours per activity over 3 years

Activities	Agency burden hours	Agency burden dollars
EPA Headquarters to monitor state programs annually to ensure compliance with the performance criteria.	1,480	\$97,591
EPA Regions to monitor state programs annually to ensure compliance with the performance criteria.	2,035	\$134,188
EPA Headquarters and EPA Regions to provide miscellaneous support to states.	1,480	\$97,591
EPA Regions to revise work plans and update beach monitoring and notification program procedures.	1,268	\$83,612
EPA Regions to perform technical review on Quality Assurance Project Plan and Grants Management Plan, DQOs and SOPs prior to implementation.	3,172	\$209,162
Total over 3 years	9,435	\$622,144
Annual total	3,145	\$207,381

6(d) Estimating the Respondent Universe and Total Burden and Costs

Table 4 presents an estimate of the total respondent burden and costs expected for the BEACH Act Grant Program. The total annual respondent burden is expected to be 88,812 hours and \$3,943,080 O&M Costs. There are no start-up costs.

Table 4. Annual respondent burden and cost

Performance criteria	Respondent hours/year	Respondent labor cost/year	O&M cost/year	Number of respondents/year	Total hours/year	Total cost/year*
1	148.67	\$7,975		37	5,501	\$295,086
2	395.67	\$22,035		37	14,640	\$815,295
3	23.67	\$1,374		37	876	\$50,848
4	1,383.00	\$70,416		37	51,171	\$2,605,380
5	24.00	\$1,260		37	888	\$46,602
6	22.00	\$1,182		37	814	\$43,731
7	307.33	\$15,802		37	11,371	\$584,687
8	26.67	\$1,414.06		37	987	\$52,320
9	69.33	\$3,624		37	2,565	\$134,089
Total	2,400.33	\$125,082	\$3,943,080	37	88,812	\$8,571,118

*Values might not add up exactly due to rounding.

6(e) Bottom Line Burden Hours and Cost Tables

Table 5 presents an estimate of the total annual State and Agency burden and costs expected for the BEACH Act Grant Program. As shown in Table 5, the annual burden for the Agency and 37 states, tribes, and territories with coastal recreation waters is 91,957 hours and \$8,778,500 including O&M costs.

Table 5. Total annual respondent and Agency burden and costs

	Burden (hours)	Burden cost*	O&M cost	Total cost*
37 States	88,812	\$4,628,038	\$3,943,080	\$8,571,118
Agency	3,145	\$207,381	\$0	\$207,381
Total	91,957	\$4,835,420	\$3,943,080	\$8,778,500

*Values might not add up exactly due to rounding.

6(f) Reasons for Change in Burden

The respondent average annual burden increased from the 2008 level of 2,374 hours to 2,400 hours for the total number of 37 respondents. The Agency annual burden decreased from the 2008 level of 3,200 hours to 3,145 hours. EPA used 37 for the number of respondents (37 currently receive BEACH Act grants) compared to 40 respondents used in the 2008 ICR. EPA used 40 for the number of respondents in the 2008 ICR because the Agency expected additional tribes to apply for BEACH Act grants that had not done so during the original ICR period. However, no additional tribes applied for grants. Therefore, for this ICR renewal EPA used the actual number (37) of states, territories, and tribes that currently receive BEACH Act grants. The increase in respondent burden is because EPA is encouraging states to voluntarily report monitoring and notification data more frequently, up to four times each year. The increase in burden is minimized, however, because respondents have become more efficient in their reporting of data and information over the past several years and EPA has made improvements to the eBEACHES data system. The annual O&M costs for all respondents also increased from \$3,938,760 to \$3,943,080 for all states. That is because the estimated number of beaches monitored by grant recipients increased slightly from 3,647 (estimated from EPA’s 2007 National List of Beaches) to 3,651 (estimated from the 2010 Annual Swimming Season Report). Relative to the 2008 ICR, EPA maintained its estimate of two samples collected each week per monitored beach with a beach season length of 18 weeks and sample cost of \$30 per sample, according to data that EPA collected and comments received from several state Beach Program contacts and testing labs.

EPA also revised the labor rates, which increased from \$47.00 to 51.61 for a managerial employee and decreased from \$31.25 to \$31.09 for a technical employee according to the average Bureau of Labor Statistics salaries for managerial and technical employees in state and local governments as shown in its 2010 National Compensation Survey Table.

6(g) Burden Statement

The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2,400 hours per response. 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. That includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and use 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 Part 15.

To comment on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including the use of automated collection techniques, EPA has established a public docket for this ICR under Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0357, which is available for public viewing at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426. An electronic version of the public docket is available through Regulations.gov at <http://www.regulations.gov/>. To submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically, use the Regulations.gov website. Once there, click **search**, then key in the docket ID number identified above. Also, you can send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: Desk Office for EPA. Please include the EPA Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0357 and OMB control number 2040-0244 in any correspondence.