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Posted by the Environmental Protection Agency on May 7, 2026

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The collection of NPDES information is paramount to successful data collection and accurate monitoring of our nation’s water quality. The NPDES Program also holds polluters accountable for point source pollution by enforcing regulation and monitoring effluent through inspections and reporting. All these actions are quite practical and necessary for the betterment of water quality in the United States.

I truly believe with the use of A.I, the amount of manpower will be lessened, and data collection and analysis will be made easier with technology. So, while currently there is an estimated total burden of 33,221,897 hours (Proposed Information Collection Request Supporting Statement for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (Renewal), 2026), this will dramatically decrease with the use of technology. We need to maintain the efforts of data collection so as to not compromise water quality and aim to not disregard keeping industry accountable.

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