

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: EPA estimates that costs for any given year would be approximately \$32,000 (EPA staff time) and \$664,000 (contractor support). There are no costs to respondents, since participation is entirely voluntary. The hour burden for respondents is estimated at no more than 870 per year, with an average time per respondent of 1 hour per year. 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.

Dated: March 7, 1996.

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett,

Director, Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities.

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[FRL-5442-1]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; the 1997 Hazardous Waste Report (Biennial Report) Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that EPA is planning to submit a continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow the Agency to collect

data for the 1997 Hazardous Waste Report (Biennial Report). This Report is a compilation of information that is required to be submitted to EPA under sections 3002 and 3004 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) every two years by generators and managers of hazardous waste. This ICR is a reinstatement of a previously approved information collection. 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 May 14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Analysis and Information Branch (5302W), 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the draft ICR by calling (703) 308-8440.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Burchard, Analysis and Information Branch. (703) 308-8440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities affected by this action are generators and owners/operators of hazardous waste management facilities.

Title: 1997 Hazardous Waste Report, EPA ICR #0976.06, OMB No. 2050-0024.

Abstract: Generators and owners/operators of hazardous waste management facilities must compile, under RCRA sections 3002 and 3004, a biennial report of information on location, amount, and description of hazardous waste handled. EPA uses the information to define the population of the regulated community and to expand its data base of information for rulemaking and compliance with statutory requirements. 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.

EPA is soliciting comments on the following three options for the 1997 Hazardous Waste Report ICR:

(i) Renewing the existing ICR which authorized collection of information for the 1995 Biennial Report cycle. This would entail sending out Biennial Report Instructions and Forms identical to those used for the 1995 Biennial Report cycle.

(ii) Modifying the existing ICR. In fitting with the Agency's goal to significantly reduce paperwork burden, the Agency might make modifications to the existing 1995 Biennial Report forms

such as eliminating the waste minimization questions, eliminating the entire Waste Treatment, Disposal, or Recycling Process Systems (PS) form, not collecting information on exempt wastes (e.g. wastewaters); and collecting information from only the larger generators, such as those which also report in the Toxics Release Inventory or those generating over 50,000 tons of waste per year. The Agency solicits comment on these and/or other potential modifications to the existing Biennial Reporting System forms. Specifically, the Agency is seeking comment on the following questions as they pertain to the information that is ordinarily obtained from the waste minimization questions, the PS form, and the information on the exempt wastes: who the users of this information are; shortcomings with the BRS as a collection method for this information; mechanisms other than the BRS to collect this information; and ways to improve the BRS as a collection method for this information.

(iii) Not renewing the Biennial Report ICR. Under this option, the Agency would not collect data for a 1997 Biennial Report cycle. Instead, it would undertake, during that time, a comprehensive reevaluation of the Biennial Report process in anticipation of developing a revamped Biennial Report process for the 1999 cycle. While the Agency has concerns whether this option meets the Agency's legal mandate, the Agency is still interested in comments on the impacts of this option and how we could be responsive to sections 3002 and 3004 of RCRA. The Agency is particularly concerned that this option could have serious impacts on a significant number of State programs. Therefore, the Agency specifically solicits comments on the effects this option would have on the operation of existing State hazardous waste programs. The Agency also specifically solicits comment on other methods of information collection that would satisfy the RCRA sections 3002 and 3004 requirements: using Toxics Release Inventory data along with information from hazardous waste permits; using survey techniques combined with valid statistical sampling methodologies as an alternative to a total census; or requiring the authorized States, rather than EPA, to collect the Biennial Report information (if commenting on this option, please indicate how non-authorized States would collect the Biennial Report information).

The Agency is also soliciting comments that:

(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, 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: The estimated average public burden for renewing the existing ICR is about 21 hours per respondent. This estimate includes all aspects of the information collection including time for reviewing instructions, gathering the data needed, reviewing the collection of information, and submitting the form.

Respondents: Generators and Handlers of Hazardous Waste.

Estimated number of Respondents: 20,250.

Frequency of Collection: Biennial.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 234,900 hours.

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.

Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to the above address.

Elliott P. Laws,

Assistant Administrator.

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[FRL-5442-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review; New Collection; Design for the Environment (DfE) Collection of Impact Data on Technical Information

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 the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) is seeking approval for a new Information Collection Request (ICR) from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As such, OPPTS has forwarded the following ICR to OMB: Design for the Environment (DfE) Collection of Impact Data on Technical Information (OMB Control No. 2070—(to be assigned); EPA ICR No. 1768), which is abstracted below. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument. On September 29, 1995, OPPTS published a notice in the Federal Register (60 FR 50568), requesting comment on this proposed collection and the draft ICR. OPPTS did not receive any comments.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 15, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CALL: Sandy Farmer at EPA, 202-260-2740, and refer to EPA ICR No. 1768.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Design for the Environment (DfE) Collection of Impact Data on Technical Information (OMB Control No. 2070-(to be assigned); EPA ICR No. 1768). This is a new collection.

Abstract: EPA's DfE program is a voluntary, non-regulatory approach to encourage industry to adopt technologies and use materials that result in lower levels of pollution, lessened reliance on toxic materials, higher energy efficiency and lower environmental health risks. Through DfE, EPA creates partnerships with industry, professional organizations, state and local governments, other federal agencies and the public to develop and disseminate technical information.

This is a generic ICR for a series of surveys, referred to as DfE Technical Information Impact Studies, to undertake data collection in support of EPA's DfE program. The studies will focus on various industrial sectors such as printing, printed wiring board

circuitry, and dry cleaning. The purpose of all DfE Technical Information Impact Studies is to evaluate the impact of DfE technical information on industry practices, use of materials and waste generation. In each case, EPA, often in collaboration with industry associations and universities, will have developed technical information for industry on the use of product reclamation processes and other workplace practices that may lower health risks to workers and prevent pollution. The proposed studies will each involve two separate surveys of owners or operators of target industry establishments. The initial survey will establish a baseline representing pre-technical information receipt. A follow-up survey will be administered approximately two years later to establish longer-term impacts of the technical materials. The overall goal of this before-and-after design is to understand the impacts of DfE technical information on workplace practices and technologies that generate or prevent pollution. This generic ICR will allow EPA to conduct a series of small conceptually interrelated surveys. It will permit the DfE program the ability to collect information in a timely manner and to evaluate the effectiveness of the technical materials EPA provides to industry. EPA will be the principal user of information developed from the survey findings, but EPA expects that tens of thousands of small businesses in a variety of industry sectors will benefit from the results of the studies. Responses to the collection of information are voluntary. EPA and the EPA contractor administering the survey will observe strict confidentiality precautions, based on the Privacy Act of 1974, which are outlined in detail in the ICR.

Burden Statement: EPA plans to conduct no more than eight surveys under the three year life cycle of the generic clearance. For each study, EPA expects that there will be an average burden of approximately 1.25 hours per response, and that the number of respondents will average 300 for each study. Thus, the total expected respondent burden is estimated at 375 hours for each survey. Over the three year life of the clearance, the total estimated respondent burden would be 3000 hours based on an estimated eight collections; the annual average estimated respondent burden would be 1000 hours. This estimate 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