

(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: As a part of this ICR renewal, the Agency will evaluate this rulemaking's burden and cost. "Burden" means the total time and effort expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency, including 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. "Cost" means the value of resources expended to accomplish the tasks listed above, including the cost of labor and capital expenditures.

States, Tribal entities, and local entities will be the only affected entities for this rulemaking. Out of 54 States and Territories, the Agency estimates 40 percent (or 22) States will submit applications under this program. The Agency also expects each participating State will submit two applications under Options 1 and 2 during a 1-year period following promulgation of the rule and will submit a one-time application under Option 3.

Out of 80 local agencies, Indian tribes, etc., the Agency estimates 25 percent (or 20) local agencies, Indian tribes, etc. will submit applications under this program. It also estimates each participating agency will submit two applications under Options 1 and 2 during a 1-year period following promulgation of the rule and submit a one-time application under Option 3.

The Agency believes these submission estimates establish an upper bound to the potential scope of this rulemaking since State and local agencies may choose any combination of the three options and since reports for approval are expected to decrease in later years.

The Agency estimates the annual burden for the General criteria common to all options to be 39,608 person-hours

per year. The estimated cost to State and local agencies is \$1,269,232 per year.

The annual burden for Option #1, Adjusting a section 112 Rule, is estimated to be 4,367 person-hours per year. The Agency estimates the associated cost to State and local agencies is \$148,599 per year.

The annual burden for Option #2, Substituting a section 112 rule, is estimated to be 26,082 person-hours per year. The Agency expects Option #2 will cost \$835,858 per year.

The annual burden and cost for Option #3, Substituting a section 112 program, is estimated to be 8,936 person-hours and \$286,354 per year.

The Agency estimates the annual burden for Review and Withdrawal at 621 person-hours per year, at a cost of \$19,899 per year.

The total estimated cost for the three approval options including General criteria and Review and Withdrawal cost is \$2.6 million; or \$60 thousand per affected entity. The total burden for all options totals 80 thousand person-hours per year or two thousand person-hours per year for each affected entity. There may be variations in the annual bottom line since this is a one-time submittal. Periodic audits may occur at the discretion of the compliance and enforcement authorities.

Use of this rulemaking allows State and local agencies to gain approval of State air toxics rules and programs, which they can implement at a lower cost, thus providing them with a net decrease in terms of overall program expenditure. Because the above burdens and costs are based upon the *voluntary* participation of affected entities, it is believed that the use of this rulemaking will result in a net reduction in burden and costs to States, Tribal entities, and local entities. Additionally, the Agency believes this rulemaking is not significant because its cost is less than the \$25 million significance level established under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: March 13, 1996.

Karen Blanchard,

Acting Director, Information Transfer and Program, Integration Division.

[FR Doc. 96-7005 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5444-2]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Ecosystem Monitoring Survey

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 EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Ecosystem Monitoring Survey. 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 21, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Pacific Northwest Ecorisk Assessment Research Program, Western Ecology Division, National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 200 SW 35th St., Corvallis, OR 97333. A copy of the ICR may be obtained without charge from the contact identified below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul L. Ringold, Ph.D., (503) 754-4565, FAX (503) 754-4716, EMail: ringold@heart.cor.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which are involved with the use of monitoring data to support natural resource-related decisions in the Pacific Northwest.

Title: Ecosystem Monitoring Survey.
Abstract: The primary goal of the survey is to obtain information regarding the possible future requirements and applications of natural resources monitoring data in the Pacific Northwest. The survey will contribute to the process of designing monitoring programs for ecosystem management in the region, and will advance the ability of scientific and regulatory entities in the region to make informed decisions regarding resource management. Results of the survey will be used by the EPA in developing an integrated monitoring plan for the region. The survey will identify strengths and weaknesses of monitoring data, and suggest areas of broad data gaps in monitoring data specific to future regional natural resource management issues. The survey is targeted at monitoring issues which have not been specifically addressed by

FEMAT. There are three explicit objectives of the survey:

1. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of monitoring programs or data used in conjunction with one past natural resource-related decision.

2. Identify two of the most important future issues or decisions that could substantially affect natural resources in the region and identify monitoring data needs pertinent to each decision.

3. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing monitoring programs and data available to support these future decisions.

The survey is exploratory, and is not designed for statistical analysis of how monitoring data is used, or a critical evaluation of any specific monitoring program or system. The survey is voluntary, and although a list of interviewed individuals will accompany the published report, these individuals or organizations which they represent will not be associated with specific comments. The survey involves one and one-half hour interviews with approximately 30 persons representing State and local governments or other resource management entities in western Oregon and Washington. The information collection method will be personal interviews to maximize the likelihood of frank, informal perceptions of future resource issues and evaluations of monitoring programs, and longer responses containing valuable anecdotal information in regards to monitoring data supporting past decisions. The basic assumption is that the length and complexity of responses will be maximized in an interview situation where someone will be there to listen to respondent's ideas rather than read them later at some undetermined time, although respondents are encouraged to bring supporting materials to the interview if desired. Interviews will be tape recorded to minimize use of the respondent's time, and respondents will be offered the opportunity to review a summary of the interview before publication. 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, 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: 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.

Estimates of the projected cost and hour burdens for this ICR are as follows.:

Hour burden (survey respondents):

The public reporting burden (no recordkeeping is involved) for this one-time collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours and 40 minutes, comprised of the following components:

(i) 10 minute telephone contact to set up interviews (using a response rate of 50%, 60 persons will be contacted to arrange 30 interviews);

(ii) 30 minute review of background information and interview script;

(iii) 1.5 hour interview for 30 individuals; and

(iv) 30 minute review of interview summary (this is optional).

Total hour burden for survey: 2 hours and 40 minutes per respondent x 30 respondents = 80 hours, plus 5 hours (10 minutes x 30 persons) for persons who are contacted but choose not to participate in a personal interview, for a total of 85 hours.

Cost burden: There is no additional financial burden to respondents in the disclosure of information for this survey.

Dated: March 5, 1996.

Paul L. Ringold,

Ecologist, Regional Ecology Branch.

[FR Doc. 96-7028 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5444-1]

Agency Information Collection Activities

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 EPA is planning to submit the following proposed and/or continuing Information Collection Requests (ICRs) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before submitting the ICRs to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collections as described below.

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

ADDRESSES: Office of Grants and Debarment, 401 M Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20460, Mailstop 3903F.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Remit comments to: William G. Hedling, (202) 260-8269/Fax: (202) 401-2350/hedling.william@epamail.epa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which apply for EPA assistance.

Title: GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. EPA ICR #0938.05, OMB Control #2030-0020, Expiration 6/30/96.

Abstract: The information is collected from applicants/recipients of EPA assistance and is used to make awards, pay recipients and collect information on how Federal funds are being spent. EPA needs the information to meet its Federal stewardship. This Information Collection Request (ICR) renewal request authorizes the collection of information under EPA's General Regulations for Assistance Programs that establishes minimum management requirements for all recipients of EPA grants or cooperative agreements (assistance agreements). 40 CFR Part 30 "Grants with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations" includes the management requirements for these potential grantees. 40 CFR Part 31 "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements