

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.

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[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

to State and Local Governments'' includes the management requirements for these potential grantees. These regulations include only those provisions mandated by statute, required by OMB Circulars or added by EPA to ensure sound and effective financial assistance management. This SF-83 combines all of these requirements under OMB Control Number 2030-0020. The information required by these regulations will be used by the EPA award official to make assistance awards, to make assistance payments, and to verify that the recipient is using Federal funds appropriately to comply with OMB Circulars. 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.

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: The annual record keeping burden for this collection is estimated to average 32 hours per application. The estimated annual number of respondents is approximated 4,474. The estimated total burden hours on respondents: 143,168. The frequency of collection: as required.

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

Dated: March 14, 1996.

Gary M. Katz,

Director, Grants Administration Division.

[FR Doc. 96-7033 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5445-2]

Acid Rain Program: Notice of Draft Written Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of draft written exemptions.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing draft written exemptions from Acid Rain permitting and monitoring requirements to 11 utility units at 5 plants in accordance with the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR part 72). Because the Agency does not anticipate receiving adverse comments, the exemptions are also being issued as a direct final action in the notice of written exemptions published elsewhere in today's Federal Register.

DATES: Comments on the exemptions proposed by this action must be received on or before April 22, 1996 or 30 days after publication of a similar notice in a local newspaper.

ADDRESSES: *Administrative Records.* The administrative record for the exemptions, except information protected as confidential, may be viewed during normal operating hours at the following locations: For plants in New York: EPA Region 2, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007-1866; for plants in Texas: EPA Region 6, First Interstate Bank Tower, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75202-2733; and for plants in Kansas and Missouri: EPA Region 7, 726 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS, 66101.

Comments. Send comments to: For plants in New York, Conrad Simon, Director, Air and Waste Management Division, EPA Region 2, (address above); for plants in Texas, Samuel Coleman, P.E., Director, Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division, EPA Region 6, (address above); and for plants in Kansas and Missouri, William Spratlin, Director, Air and Toxics Division, EPA Region 7, (address above).

Submit comments in duplicate and identify the exemption to which the comments apply, the commenter's name, address, and telephone number, and the commenter's interest in the matter and affiliation, if any, to the owners and operators of the unit covered by the exemption.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For plants in New York, Gerry DeGaetano, 212-637-4020; for plants in Texas, Dan Meyer, 214-665-7233, and for plants in Kansas and Missouri, Lisa Hanlon, 913-551-7599.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If no significant, adverse comments are

timely received, no further activity is contemplated in relation to these draft written exemptions and the exemptions issued as a direct final action in the notice of written exemptions published elsewhere in today's Federal Register will automatically become final on the date specified in that notice. If significant, adverse comments are timely received on any exemption, that exemption in the notice of written exemptions will be withdrawn and all public comment received on that exemption based on the relevant exemption in this notice of draft written exemptions. Because the Agency will not institute a second comment period on this notice of draft written exemptions, any parties interested in commenting should do so during this comment period.

For further information and a detailed description of the exemptions, see the information provided in the notice of written exemptions elsewhere in today's Federal Register.

Dated: March 19, 1996.

Brian J. McLean,

Director, Acid Rain Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 96-7031 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5445-1]

Acid Rain Program: Notice of Direct Final Written Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of written exemptions.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing, as a direct final action, written exemptions from the Acid Rain permitting and monitoring requirements to 11 utility units at 5 plants in accordance with the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR part 72). Because the Agency does not anticipate receiving adverse comments, the exemptions are being issued as a direct final action.

DATES: Each of the exemptions issued in this direct final action will be final on May 1, 1996 or 40 days after publication of a similar notice in a local newspaper, whichever is later, unless significant, adverse comments are received by April 22, 1996 or 30 days after publication of a similar notice in a local newspaper, whichever is later. If significant, adverse comments are timely received on any exemption in this direct final action, that exemption will be withdrawn through a notice in the Federal Register.