

receipt of actual notice, whichever occurs first. All such comments shall be filed with the Office of Hearings and

Appeals, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585-0107.

Dated: February 27, 1997.
George B. Breznay,
Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals.

LIST OF CASES RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

[Week of January 6 through January 10, 1997]

Date	Name and location of applicant	Case No.	Type of submission
1/10/97	Energy Market & Policy Analysis, Inc., Reston, VA.	VFA-0259	Appeal of an Information Request Denial. If Granted: The December 5, 1996 Freedom of Information Request Denial issued by the Office of Executive Secretariat would be rescinded, and Energy Market & Policy Analysis, Inc. would receive access to certain DOE information.
1/10/97	Marine Drilling Companies, Sugar Land, TX.	RR272-273	Request for Modification/Rescission in the Crude Oil Refund Proceeding. If Granted: The November 6, 1996 Dismissal, Case No. RF272-95276, issued to Marine Drilling Companies would be modified regarding the firm's Application for Refund submitted in the Crude Oil refund proceeding.

[FR Doc. 97-5638 Filed 3-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P 1

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00472; FRL-5591-8]

Pesticides Worker Protection Standards; Request for Comments on Revision of Agency Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) is coming up for renewal. This ICR, entitled "Pesticides Worker Protection Standard Training and Notification," EPA ICR No. 1759.02, OMB No. 2070-0148, will expire on May 31, 1997. Before submitting the renewal packages to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments identified by the docket control number OPP-00472 and the appropriate ICR number by mail to: Public Response Section, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring comments directly to the OPP docket which is located in Rm. 1132 of Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Copies of the complete ICR and accompanying appendices may be obtained from the OPP docket at the above address or by contacting the person whose name appears under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form or encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "OPP-00472" and the appropriate ICR number. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found in Unit III. of this document.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice. All written comments will be available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the Virginia address given above from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Kramer, Policy and Special Projects Staff, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code (7501C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (703) 305-6475, e-mail: kramer.ellen@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability: Electronic copies of this document and the ICR are available from the EPA home page at the Environmental Sub-Set entry for this document under "Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>).

I. Information Collection Requests

EPA is seeking comments on the following Information Collection Request (ICR).

Title: Pesticides Worker Protection Standard Training and Notification (40 CFR Parts 156 and 170).

ICR Numbers: EPA No. 1759.02 and OMB No. 2070-0148.

Expiration Date: Current OMB approval expires on May 31, 1997.

Affected Entities: Parties affected by this information collection are agricultural employers, including employers in farms as well as nursery, forestry, and greenhouse establishments.

Abstract: EPA is responsible for the regulation of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for agricultural pesticides, 40 CFR part 170 and 40 CFR part 156, subpart K, includes requirements for protection of agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from hazards of pesticides used on farms, on forests, in nurseries, and in greenhouses. 40 CFR part 170 contains the standard and workplace practices and 40 CFR part 156 prescribes the statements that must be placed on the pesticide label and in pesticide labeling. The WPS workplace practices are designed to reduce or eliminate exposure to pesticides and establish procedures for responding to exposure-related emergencies. The practices include prohibitions against applying pesticides in a way that would cause exposure to workers and others; a waiting period before workers can return to areas treated with pesticides (restricted entry period); basic safety

training and distribution and posting of information about pesticide hazards, as well as pesticide application information; arrangements for the supply of soap, water, and towels in case of pesticide exposure; and provisions for emergency assistance.

Prior to September 1995, the WPS information collection activities were covered under OMB ICR No. 2070-0060. In September 1995, however, OMB approved an ICR that consolidated all the WPS information collection activities under a new ICR (EPA No. 1759; OMB No. 2070-0148). The information collection activity associated with the pesticides WPS includes a voluntary program to verify that training has been provided; the WPS provisions for display of basic pesticide safety information and pesticide-specific treatment (application) information at a central location on the agricultural establishment; the provisions requiring that employers provide employees with pesticide-specific treatment (application) information in the form of oral or written (posted) notification; the provisions that require the actual training for which the verification program was established or that basic pesticide safety information be provided to employees who have not completed the full WPS pesticide safety training and before they enter a treated area; the provisions requiring that pesticide handler employers provide pesticide-specific information to agricultural employers prior to treatment, that pesticide handler employers provide notification to handler employees regarding the safe operation and repair of equipment to be used in handling activities, and that pesticide handler employers provide emergency information on pesticide treatments to employees believed to be poisoned or those treating them; and the provisions requiring that employers provide employees with notification when exceptions/exemptions to the early entry restrictions are being implemented. (The major WPS labeling program was a one-time collection and is completed. Registrants of EPA-registered products may request that the Agency amend their previously approved label. Future requests from registrants for label amendments are covered as part of routine label amendments under a separate ICR approved by OMB under 2070-0060 (EPA ICR No. 277)).

The WPS requires that agricultural employers assure that agricultural workers and pesticide handlers are trained in basic pesticide safety practices to reduce the risk of pesticide

poisoning and other injuries. The EPA Training Verification Program is intended to achieve this by requiring the issuance of safety information to workers and handlers. Upon the completion of the training, the WPS provides for the issuance of "EPA-Approved Worker Protection Standard Training Certificates" to workers and handlers to allow employers to verify that workers and handlers have received WPS safety training. The initial burden for this collection activity (24,990 burden hours) is predicted to taper off to a much lower annual burden.

Burden Statement: The annual respondent burden for providing the notifications associated with this activity is estimated to total 3,443,705 hours, including all third party WPS training and notification requirements, such as provisions requiring employers to provide employees pesticide-specific treatment (application) information in the form of oral or written notification, provisions requiring that employers assure that employees receive basic pesticide safety information or training, a voluntary program to verify training and relieve duplication of training, provisions requiring handler notification to employers regarding pesticide treatments (applications) and provision for emergency information on pesticide treatments, and provisions requiring employers to notify employees when an exception/exemption to the WPS is being implemented.

II. Request for Comments

The Agency would appreciate any comments or information that could be used to:

- (i) Evaluate whether the proposed collections of information described above are 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 estimates of the burdens of the proposed collections of information.
- (iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- (iv) Minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated or electronic collection technologies or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The Agency is particularly interested in comments and information about the burden estimates, including examples that could be used to reflect the burdens imposed. Send comments regarding these matters, or any other aspect of

these information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burdens, to the docket under ADDRESSES listed above.

III. Public Record

A record has been established for this action under docket control number "OPP-00472" (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Rm. 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in ADDRESSES at the beginning of this document.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Information collection requests, Pesticides, and Worker protection standards.

Dated: February 28, 1997.

Lynn R. Goldman,
Assistant Administrator for Prevention,
Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 97-5682 Filed 3-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

[ER-FRL-5478-1]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 OR (202) 564-7153.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed February 24,