

the 1930's. All of these treatments were based on broad spectra toxicity with little concern for environmental implications.

The earliest references to treating wood for fire retardancy dates back to the first century AD when the Romans used alum and vinegar to protect boats against fire. The science of fire retardancy started in the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1820 Gay-Lussac used ammonium phosphates and borax as fire retardants. Most of the inorganic fire retardants used today were developed between 1800 and 1870.

Protecting wood from moisture damage also dates back into antiquity. Waxes, oils, resins, paints, and coatings have been used to help exclude moisture since shortly after wood was first used by humans.

Protecting wood from damage caused by weathering also dates from the early use of wood. Stains and coatings have been used to cover wood from the degradation caused both by water and ultraviolet radiation.

The process of protecting wood from one type of degradation can cause another type of degradation to take place. For example, in fire retardant formulations involving free phosphoric acid, treated wood has been shown to lose strength. While the wood is very effectively treated for fire retardancy, service life is shortened by the loss in strength. Similarly, wood decking treated with chromated-copper-arsenate (CCA), while having excellent anti-fungal properties, is being replaced after a few years due to cracking and splitting caused by moisture damage.

Since there are only four basic chemistries involved in the degradation mechanisms of wood (hydrolysis, oxidation, dehydration, and reduction), there are many similarities in the degradation pathways regardless of the source of the degradation. Through a better understanding of these common degradation chemistries, it should be possible to protect wood in a more holistic way. That is, controlling one degradation chemistry can lead to the protection of another degradation mechanism. This leads to the idea of combined treatments to control several degradation pathways.

The Forest Products Laboratory is requesting support for this project. The support is in the form of membership in the consortium and funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per year for the three-year proposed duration of the Consortium.

An informational and organizational meeting of the Consortium will be held beginning May 5, 1997, 1 p.m. and ending May 6, 1997, at 12 Noon, at the

USDA, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, One Gifford Pinchot Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53705-2398.

Technical questions may be directed to Roger M. Rowell at the above address, by fax at (608) 231-9262, or by phone at (608) 231-9416.

Questions of a business or legal nature may be directed to John G. Bachhuber at the above address, by fax at (608) 231-9585, or by phone at (608) 231-9282.

A copy of the proposed Cooperative Research and Development Agreement to be executed by consortium members may be obtained by writing Joanne M. Bosch at the above address, by faxing her at (608) 231-9585, or by phoning her at (608) 231-9205.

Done at Madison, WI, on March 11, 1997.
Thomas E. Hamilton,
Director.

[FR Doc. 97-7084 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Connecticut Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 1997, at the U.S. Sheraton Hartford Hotel, Silas Deane Room, 315 Trumbull Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103. The purpose of the meeting is to 1) provide an orientation for new Committee members, and 2) plan project activities for FY 1997.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Dr. Ivor J. Echols, 860-688-2009, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 12, 1997.
Carol-Lee Hurley,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 97-7083 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of the Census.
Title: Questionnaire for Building Permit Official.

Form Number(s): SOC-QBPO.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0125.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 209 hours.

Number of Respondents: 835.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Bureau of the Census uses the Questionnaire for Building Permit Official in conjunction with the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions (OMB number 0607-0110), also known as the survey of construction (SOC). Data collected in the SOC are used to produce statistics on residential construction and are needed by economic policy makers to monitor this sector of the economy. Census field interviewers use the Questionnaire for Building Permit Official to obtain information on the operating procedures of a sample of the building permit issuing offices in the United States in order to locate, classify, list, and sample building permits for residential construction. This information is used to carry out the sampling for the SOC and to verify and update the geographic coverage of permit offices.

In July 1997, we plan to convert to an electronic form to collect this data. We have been experimenting with Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and have been using this technology on a test basis since November 1995. Currently, interviewers use a paper form to record respondents' answers. We have improved the CAPI instrument over the paper form based on a reassessment of our data capture needs and efforts to minimize burden. For example, we have deleted some items that are no longer used, added others that enhance the conduct of the SOC, and improve the flow of questions and overall survey administration.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 USC, Section 182.