

[FRL-5804-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review; Bioremediation Field Initiative Database System

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 continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Office of Research and Development, Center for Environmental Research Information, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive (Mailstop G75), Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fran Kremer, phone (513) 569-7346, fax (513) 569-7585, email kremer.fran@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which are involved in the use of innovative technologies at Superfund sites, such as state and local governments, businesses, and non-profit institutions.

Title: Request for Information for the Bioremediation Field Initiative Database Systems, EPA ICR No. 1672.02, OMB No. 2080-0048, expires 04/30/97.

Abstract: This is an ICR renewal for gathering information on the design, operation, and performance of biological treatment technologies from remediation experts and managers working at sites where biological treatment technologies are being tested or implemented. The authority for collecting information on innovative treatment technologies is described at Section 311 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Section 8003 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Section 7001 of the Oil Pollution Act, and Section 10 of the Toxic Substance Control Act. The information will help the EPA to deploy innovative technologies more quickly at Superfund and other sites.

Selected respondents are asked to complete a two-part questionnaire. The first part requests general site information. The second part requests

site-specific biotechnology information. Following the initial questionnaire, respondents receive follow-up questionnaires on a semi-annual basis to update the information already provided. EPA has also developed an easy-to-use PC-based version of the questionnaire which is currently in use. Respondents may utilize either the paper- or the PC-based questionnaire, whichever they prefer.

EPA compiles information from completed questionnaires into the Bioremediation Field Initiative computer database. EPA developed a software program called the Bioremediation in the Field Search System (BFSS) to search, view, and report information in the database. BFSS is available to the public via computerized bulletin boards and from Web sites. The Bioremediation Field Initiative database has also appeared in the Bioremediation in the Field bulletin, distributed to approximately 3,500 addressees who have registered for Bioremediation Field Initiative mailings.

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 **Federal Register** Notice required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 12/31/96 (Vol 61, No. 252, p. 69092); no comments were received.

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 public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 to 5 hours per

response. 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.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Site remediation personnel.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 781.

Frequency of Response: semi-annual.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 1620 hours.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1672.02 and OMB Control No. 2080-0048 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 24, 1997.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 97-7951 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[ER-FRL-5478-6]

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 March 17, 1997 through March 21, 1997, pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 970092, Draft EIS, AFS, UT, Sheepherder Hill Sanitation Salvage Sale, Management of Selected