

including emission reductions, cost, and economic impacts.

Specifically, the information will be used by ESD to develop estimates of emissions of HAP, make determinations with respect to probable "major" sources, and develop MACT standards for both new and existing foundries. The data base compiled from the results will be used to make a determination of the MACT floor for existing sources based on the average emission limitation achieved by the best-performing 12 percent of sources. The results will also aid in identifying the best controlled sources for a determination of MACT for new foundries. In addition, the data base will be invaluable to make defensible estimates of the impacts of the standards, including emissions and emission reductions, costs of control options and their cost effectiveness, and economic impacts. Because many foundries meet the definition of small entities, the survey is necessary for EPA to meet the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

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 a 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 the 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 forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden statement: The average burden for a respondent is estimated as 24 hours (\$770), including technical, management, and clerical labor. This estimate is the average labor required by eight companies who participated in a pretest of the survey and completed the questionnaire for a total of 12 foundries. The labor required to complete the

questionnaire by the facilities that participated in the evaluation ranged from 4 hours for a small foundry to 64 hours for a large corporation. The burden is a one-time occurrence for each of the 742 foundries that must prepare a 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.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

John A. Edwardson,

Acting Director, Emission Standards Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5833-9]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Obtaining Unbilled Grant Expenses From Grant Officials at Year-End

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 a proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The ICR is intended to obtain information on unbilled grant expenses at year end from a sample of EPA grant recipients. Before submitting the ICR to OMB, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed collection of information as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Comptroller, Financial Management Division, Mail Code 2733F, 401 M St. SW Washington D. C. 20460. Interested persons may

obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting Mr. Larry Achter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Achter, 202-260-9446, Facsimile Number 202-260-4592, E-MAIL Address: achter.larry@epamail.epa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: EPA will use the Probability Proportionate to Size sampling method to select approximately 110 grants awarded by the Agency and paid through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) process. EPA will contact the recipients of these selected grants to obtain information on unbilled expenses.

Title: Obtaining Unbilled Grant Expenses from Grant Officials at Year-end (EPA ICR No. 1810.01.)

Abstract: EPA's Financial Management Division (FMD) prepares annual financial statements that present the financial position and results of operations for EPA. The financial statements must comply with the Statements of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) and other accounting requirements. EPA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits these financial statements to determine whether they fairly and accurately reflect EPA financial conditions.

To meet the SFFAS requirements, EPA must report the estimated amount of its accrued liabilities. These accrued liabilities include: (1) Grant expenses incurred during the fiscal year that the grant recipient has paid and recorded in its accounting records but has not yet billed to EPA; and (2) grant expenses that vendors have billed the grant recipient between October 1 and November 15 (following the end of the Federal fiscal year) that relate to the prior fiscal year. EPA, working with its OIG, has evaluated the use of existing reports as a source of accrued liability information. However, for grants paid through the ACH electronic funds transfer mechanism, EPA has been unable to determine how to obtain this information without contacting the grant recipients themselves. ACH drawdown requests do not include period of performance data, which is essential for determining accruals. To minimize the amount of burden associated with gathering this data, EPA believes that information from a sample of approximately 110 grants would be sufficient to meet its financial statement needs. EPA would use estimation techniques to project the amount of grant accruals applicable to all EPA grants paid through ACH.

The grant recipients selected in the sample would only be asked to report

the accrual information on the specific grant, and not all EPA grants to that grantee. Further, other EPA grant recipients would not be affected by this information collection request. EPA will also request information from the selected grant recipients on their billing practices in order to conduct additional analyses to improve our accrual estimates.

Unless EPA is able to obtain this information from the selected grant recipients, and develop a reasonable estimate of accruals based on that data, EPA does not believe it will be able to obtain an unqualified ("clean") audit opinion from the OIG on its financial statements. Thus the information is crucial for EPA to meet its fiduciary responsibilities.

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.

EPA believes that a grant recipient should require no more than 6 hours to prepare the information requested, and the data collection will not require grant recipients to purchase new equipment or develop new procedures to compile and report the data. Thus, the total reporting burden would be 660 hours, or a total estimated annual cost of \$14,600.

Confidential information: FMD does not believe this information is confidential in nature. Therefore the additional protections afforded confidential data will not be provided.

OMB Control Numbers: 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. In this specific information collection, grant recipient responses will be voluntary.

Comments requested: EPA would like to solicit public comments on:

(i) 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) Whether the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information is accurate, and whether methodology and assumptions used are valid;

(iii) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Means to 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.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

Jack Shipley,

Director, Financial Management Division.

[FR Doc. 97-14448 Filed 6-2-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5833-2]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: National Request for Information (RFI) for Vendor Information System for Innovative Treatment Technologies (VISITT) and Vendor Field Analytical and Characterization Technologies System (Vendor FACTS), OMB Control Number 2050-0114, expiration date July 31, 1997. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 3, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CALL: Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260-2740, and refer to EPA ICR No. 1583.03.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Request for Information (RFI) for Vendor Information System for Innovative Treatment Technologies (VISITT) and Vendor Field Analytical and

Characterization Technologies System (Vendor FACTS) (OMB Control No. 2050-0114; EPA ICR No. 1583.03) expiring 7/31/97. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: EPA needs to collect data on innovative treatment technologies and measurement and monitoring technologies to address specific problems at contaminated waste sites. EPA will use this information to maintain two publicly available databases used by the remediation, manufacturing, and investment communities, and the general public. More accessible information may lead to increased technology use and export, and to improved environmental protection. One of EPA's highest priorities has been to encourage the use of innovative technologies to speed-up the site remediation process and at the same time to reduce project costs. EPA is working toward these goals by providing the site managers with the necessary information to select the most applicable and cost-effective technology for their site. In order to obtain such critical information, once a year, EPA invites vendors to participate in the databases by submitting or updating information on new technologies as they emerge or become commercially available. Participation in the databases is voluntary. 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 1/29/97 (62 FR 4282); No comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 25 hours for Vendor Information Form (VIF) per response and 13 hours for a VIF update. 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