

forms and procedures for filing response claims against the Fund, including a provision requiring the claimant to make a sworn verification of the claim to the best of his/her knowledge. EPA has promulgated the RCP pursuant to the section 112 authority.

Under the RCP and pursuant to sections 111(a)(2) and 122(b)(1) of CERCLA, individuals, private entities, and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) (including States and political subdivisions) are eligible to submit claims against the Fund for reimbursement of response costs. As specified by section 111(a)(2) of CERCLA and section 300.700(d) of the NCP, all proposed response actions must be approved in advance by EPA through the preauthorization process in order for a subsequent claim to be awarded. Applicants may obtain preauthorization from EPA for proposed response actions by completing and submitting the "Application for Preauthorization of a CERCLA Response Action" (EPA Form 2075-3). EPA will review and evaluate such applications and will respond in writing to applicants within approximately 45 days of receipt of a completed application. After completing this review, EPA will develop a Preauthorization Decision Document (PDD). The PDD will establish a record of the Agency's preauthorization decision and will contain the terms and conditions that must be satisfied for the applicant to be reimbursed from the Fund.

After an applicant has obtained preauthorization from EPA and has completed the preauthorized response action (or a preauthorized phase of a response action), he/she may submit a claim for reimbursement of the resultant response costs. In order to file a claim, the claimant must complete and submit to EPA the "Claim for CERCLA Response Action" (EPA Form 2075-41). EPA will review and evaluate the information contained on the completed claim form and will make a determination on whether to award or deny the claim, in whole or in part.

The application for preauthorization and the claim form may be obtained from any of the EPA Regional Offices, and shall be submitted to the appropriate EPA Regional Office for review. The EPA Regional Office will review and evaluate the application for preauthorization and the claim form in coordination with the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and other offices, as necessary. Both forms will be evaluated

according to the criteria set forth in the RCP. The information contained on the application and the claim form will be retained in the EPA Regional Office for three years after the completion of a project and will be available (if not deemed confidential), upon request, to the public through the public docket in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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** document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 8/4/97 (62 FR 41962); no comments were received.

Burden Statement: EPA estimates that five preauthorization requests will be submitted annually with an average of 258 work hours per request. It is estimated that 12 claim applications will be submitted annually with an average of 42 work hours per claim. Once claims are awarded, claimants will have to maintain records for 10 years. Record maintenance will be performed by 10 claimants annually at an average of 15 hours per activity. The total annual costs will be \$107,650.

The total burden hours for completing the preauthorization application, the claim form, and maintaining necessary records is an average of 317 hours. Total annual average burden for all respondents is 1,968 hours.

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.

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.1304.05 and OMB Control No.2050-0106 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460 (or email Farmer.Sandy@epamail.epa.gov).

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: December 16, 1997.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Notice of Agency Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b), notice is hereby given that at 10:10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 1997, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation met in closed session to consider matters relating to the Corporation's personnel and supervisory activities.

In calling the meeting, the Board determined, on motion of Director Joseph H. Neely (Appointive), seconded by Director Ellen S. Seidman (Director, Office of Thrift Supervision), concurred in by Director Eugene A. Ludwig (Comptroller of the Currency), and Acting Chairman Andrew C. Hove, Jr., that Corporation business required its consideration of the matters on less than seven days' notice to the public; that no earlier notice of the meeting was practicable; that the public interest did not require consideration of the matters in a meeting open to public observation; and that the matters could be considered in a closed meeting by authority of subsections (c)(2), (c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), and (c)(9)(A)(ii) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b (c)(2), (c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), and (c)(9)(A)(ii)).

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the FDIC Building located at 550 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

James D. LaPierre,

Deputy Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-33419 Filed 12-18-97; 1034 am]

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