

options for a proposed rulemaking expected to be published during the second quarter of FY 1999. This includes determining which chemicals and the number of chemicals potentially affected by these rulemaking requirements. The chemicals included in the proposed and final rulemaking will be subject to section 12(b) export notification requirements. EPA anticipates that this will result in an increase of the information collection burden for section 12(b). The calculation for the increased burden will likely be a straightforward multiplication of number of chemicals not currently subject to section 12(b) requirements by the average number of hours and associated cost.

EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) has been working with industry representatives exploring opportunities for electronic submission of data to the Agency. One pilot includes electronic submission of section 12(b) export notifications. OPPT has recently developed a new database for accepting electronic submissions under section 12(b). The new database incorporates new web and public key infrastructure (PKI) technology that will allow for submissions via the Internet. The new database is currently undergoing beta testing and EPA anticipates it will be available for implementation later this calendar year. OPPT hopes to announce the details regarding its ability to accept electronic section 12(b) submissions in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice sometime later in FY 1999. EPA expects electronic submission will result in an overall reduction of the information collection burden for section 12(b) export notification.

Burden statement: The burden to respondents for complying with this ICR is estimated to total 6,200 hours per year with an annual cost of \$257,470. These totals are based on an average burden of approximately 0.564 hours per response for an estimated 350 respondents making one or more responses annually. These estimates include 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.

III. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this document, as well as the public version, has been established for this document under docket control number "OPPTS-00261" (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 12 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, Rm. NE-B607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:
oppt.ncic@epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form addressing ICR No. 0795.10 must be identified by docket control number "OPPTS-00261" and administrative record number 205. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Information collection requests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: January 5, 1999.

Susan H. Wayland,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 99-895 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00257; FRL-6050-4]

Toxic Chemicals; Agency Information Collection Activities

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 Information Collection Requests (ICRs)

to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before submitting the ICRs to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the information collections described in Unit I. and Unit II. of this document. The ICRs are: (1) A continuing ICR entitled "Health and Safety Data Reporting, Submission of Lists and Copies of Health and Safety Studies," EPA ICR No. 0575.08, OMB No. 2070-0004, which relates to reporting requirements found at 40 CFR part 716; (2) a continuing ICR entitled "Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Allegations of Significant Adverse Reactions to Human Health or the Environment," EPA ICR No. 1031.06, OMB No. 2070-0017, which relates to reporting requirements found at 40 CFR part 717; and (3) a continuing ICR entitled "Significant New Use Rules for Existing Chemicals," EPA ICR No. 1188.05, OMB No. 2070-0038, which relates to reporting requirements found at 40 CFR part 721. 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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Each comment must bear the respective docket control numbers and administrative record numbers as follows: Comments on ICR No. 0575.08 should reference docket control number "OPPTS-00258" and administrative record number 202; comments on ICR No. 1031.06 should reference docket control number "OPPTS-00259" and administrative record number 203; and comments on ICR No. 1188.05 should reference docket control number "OPPTS-00260" and administrative record number 204. All comments should be sent in triplicate to: OPPT Document Control Officer (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Rm. G-099, East Tower, Washington, DC 20460.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: oppt.ncic@epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit III. of this document. No TSCA Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

All comments that contain information claimed as CBI must be clearly marked as such. Three sanitized copies of any comments containing information claimed as CBI must also be submitted and will be placed in the public record for this document.

Persons submitting information on any portion of which they believe is entitled to treatment as CBI by EPA must assert a business confidentiality claim in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203(b) for each such portion. This claim must be made at the time that the information is submitted to EPA. If a submitter does not assert a confidentiality claim at the time of submission, EPA will consider this as a waiver of any confidentiality claim and the information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the submitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information contact: Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202-554-1404, TDD: 202-554-0551, e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov. For technical information contact: Frank Kover, Chemical Control Division (7405), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202-260-8130, Fax: 202-260-1096, e-mail: kover.frank@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability:

Internet

Electronic copies of the ICRs are available from the EPA Home Page at the **Federal Register** - Environmental Documents entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgrstr/>).

Fax-on-Demand

Using a faxphone call 202-401-0527 and select item 4062 for a copy of ICR No. 0575.08; select item 4063 for a copy of ICR No. 1031.06; or select item 4064 for a copy of ICR No. 1188.05.

I. Background

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are, with respect to ICR No. 0575.08, ICR No. 1031.06, and ICR No. 1188.05, those companies that manufacture, process, import, or distribute in commerce chemical substances or mixtures. For each collection of information addressed in this notice, EPA would like to solicit comments to:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

4. 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.

II. Information Collections

EPA is seeking comments on the following three ICRs, as well as the Agency's intention to renew the corresponding OMB approvals.

Title: Health and Safety Data Reporting, Submission of Lists and Copies of Health and Safety Studies.

ICR numbers: EPA ICR No. 0575.08, OMB No. 2070-0004.

Approval expiration date: April 30, 1999.

Abstract: Section 8(d) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and 40 CFR part 716 requires manufacturers and processors of chemicals to submit lists and copies of health and safety studies relating to the health and/or environmental effects of certain chemical substances and mixtures. In order to comply with the reporting requirements of TSCA section 8(d), respondents must search their records to identify any health and safety studies in their possession, copy and process relevant studies, list studies that are currently in progress, and submit this information to EPA.

EPA uses this information to construct a complete picture of the known effects of the chemicals in question, leading to determinations by EPA of whether additional testing of the chemicals is required. The information enables EPA to base its testing decisions on the most complete information available and to avoid demands for testing that may be duplicative. EPA will use information obtained via this collection to support its investigation of the risks posed by chemicals and, in particular, to support its decisions on whether to require industry to test chemicals under section 4 of TSCA.

Responses to the collection of information are mandatory (see 40 CFR part 716). Respondents may claim all or part of a notice confidential. EPA will disclose information that is covered by a claim of confidentiality only to the extent permitted by, and in accordance

with, the procedures in TSCA section 14 and 40 CFR part 2.

Burden statement: The burden to respondents for complying with this ICR is estimated to total 4,542 hours per year with an annual cost of \$352,179. These totals are based on an average burden ranging between approximately 2 and 34 hours per response, depending upon the category of respondent, for an estimated 1,203 respondents making one or more responses annually. These estimates include 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.

Title: Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Allegations of Significant Adverse Reactions to Human Health or the Environment.

ICR numbers: EPA ICR No. 1031.06, OMB No. 2070-0017.

Approval expiration date: April 30, 1999.

Abstract: TSCA section 8(c) requires companies that manufacture, process, or distribute chemicals to maintain records of significant adverse reactions to health or the environment alleged to have been caused by such chemicals. Since TSCA section 8(c) includes no automatic reporting provision, EPA can obtain and use the information contained in company files only by inspecting those files or requiring reporting of records that relate to specific substances of concern. Therefore, under certain conditions, and using the provisions found in 40 CFR part 717, EPA may require companies to report such allegations to the Agency.

EPA uses such information on a case-specific basis to corroborate suspected adverse health or environmental effects of chemicals already under review by EPA. The information is also useful to identify trends of adverse effects across the industry that may not be apparent to any one chemical company.

Responses to the collection of information are mandatory (see 40 CFR part 717). Respondents may claim all or part of a notice confidential. EPA will disclose information that is covered by a claim of confidentiality only to the extent permitted by, and in accordance

with, the procedures in TSCA section 14 and 40 CFR part 2.

Burden statement: The burden to respondents for complying with this ICR is estimated to total 30,279 hours at a cost of \$2,510,537. These totals are based on an average burden ranging between approximately 0.25 and 8 hours per response, depending upon the category of respondent, for an estimated 7,397 respondents making one or more responses annually. These estimates include 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.

Title: Significant New Use Rules for Existing Chemicals.

ICR numbers: EPA ICR No. 1188.05, OMB No. 2070-0038.

Approval expiration date: April 30, 1999.

Abstract: Section 5 of TSCA provides EPA with a regulatory mechanism to monitor and, if necessary, control significant new uses of chemical substances. Section 5 of TSCA authorizes EPA to determine by rule (a significant new use rule or SNUR), after considering all relevant factors, that a use of a chemical substance represents a significant new use. If EPA determines that a use of a chemical substance is a significant new use, section 5 of TSCA requires persons to submit a notice to EPA at least 90 days before they manufacture, import, or process the substance for that use.

EPA uses the information obtained through this collection to evaluate the health and environmental effects of the significant new use. EPA may take regulatory actions under TSCA section 5, 6 or 7 to control the activities for which it has received a SNUR notice. These actions include orders to limit or prohibit the manufacture, importation, processing, distribution in commerce, use or disposal of chemical substances. If EPA does not take action, TSCA section 5 also requires EPA to publish a **Federal Register** notice explaining the reasons for not taking action.

Responses to the collection of information are mandatory (see 40 CFR part 721). Respondents may claim all or part of a notice confidential. EPA will disclose information that is covered by

a claim of confidentiality only to the extent permitted by, and in accordance with, the procedures in TSCA section 14 and 40 CFR part 2.

Burden statement: The burden to respondents for complying with this ICR is estimated to total 1,032 hours per year with an annual cost of \$72,378. These totals are based on an average ranging between approximately 1 and 119 hours per response, depending upon the type of response, for an estimated 675 respondents making one or more responses annually (the great majority of respondents will experience a burden of 1 hour per response; a very few respondents, estimated at three, will experience a burden of 119 hours per response). These estimates include 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.

III. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this document, as well as the public version, has been established for this document under docket control number "OPPTS-00257" (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 12 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, Rm. NE-B607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at: oppt.ncic@epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form addressing ICR No. 0575.08 must be identified by docket control number "OPPTS-00258" and administrative record number 202. All

comments and data in electronic form addressing ICR No. 1031.06 must be identified by docket control number "OPPTS-00259" and administrative record number 203. All comments and data in electronic form addressing ICR No. 1188.05 must be identified by docket control number "OPPTS-00260" and administrative record number 204. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Information collection requests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: January 6, 1999.

Susan H. Wayland,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 99-896 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6218-9]

Notice of Availability of Letter from EPA to the State of Pennsylvania Pursuant to Section 118 of the Clean Water Act and Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a letter written from Region 3 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the State of Pennsylvania finding that certain provisions adopted as part of its water quality standards and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits program are inconsistent with section 118(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and 40 CFR part 132. EPA's findings are described in the December 18, 1998, letter from EPA Region 3 to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. EPA invites public comment on the findings in the letter and whether it should disapprove these provisions pursuant to 40 CFR 123.62 and 132.5.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by March 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on EPA's findings as described in the December 18, 1998, letter may be submitted to Evelyn S. MacKnight, Chief, PA/DE Branch (3WP11), Water Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia,