

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6238-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles; EPA ICR Number 1887.01. 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 April 5, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR Number 1887.01.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles; EPA ICR Number 1887.01. This is a new collection.

Abstract: The National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) at EPA is funding four studies of personal exposure of high-risk subpopulations to particles and associated gases. The studies, which have been recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) under a directive from Congress, are considered necessary to support the proposed new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particles (PM_{2.5}).

Three of the studies are 3-year cooperative agreements with the following institutions: the Harvard School of Public Health, the New York University School of Medicine, and the University of Washington. The fourth study is an in-house study with contractual support. All four studies will employ the same questionnaire to supplement the collection of information on personal, indoor, and outdoor concentrations of the target

pollutants. Subjects will be selected by physicians from among their patients with respiratory or cardiovascular disease. Participation will be entirely voluntary.

The information will be used by scientists within ORD and external to the Agency to determine the relationship between personal exposure, indoor concentrations, and concentrations measured at a central monitoring site for one or more high-risk subpopulations, including particularly persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and persons with cardiovascular disease. The data will also be used by the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards in their review of the basis for the proposed PM_{2.5} regulation. The information will appear in the form of final EPA reports, journal articles, and will also be made publicly available in an electronic data base.

The cost of the four studies is expected to be \$6M over a period of three years. Approximately 312 respondents will be included over the three-year period. There are no costs to the respondents. An incentive payment will be offered to defray burden.

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 12/15/98 (63 FR 69073); no comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20.1 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: individuals that volunteer to participate in the study.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 104.

Frequency of Response: varies/on occasion.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 2,090 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$0.00.

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 the EPA ICR Number in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OP 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: February 26, 1999.

Richard T. Westlund,

Acting Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 99-5490 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6238-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; National Water Quality Inventory Reports

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment: National Water Quality Inventory Reports (Clean Water Act sections 305(b), 303(d), 314(a), and 106(e)); OMB Control No. 2040-0071, expires June 30, 1999. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 5, 1999.