

Dated: April 21, 1999.

Paul Lapsley,

*Acting Director, Regulatory Information
Division, Office of Policy.*

[FR Doc. 99-11709 Filed 5-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6338-7]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; the 1999 National Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees

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: The 1999 National Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees. 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 June 9, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epa.gov, or download a copy of the ICR off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1903.01.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The 1999 National Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees, (EPA ICR No. 1903.01). This is a new collection.

Abstract: The Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPPO) proposes to conduct a nationwide survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The information will be used to assess the general progress, status, and activity level of LEPCs. This collection also addresses reporting requirements under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, which stipulates that agencies focus on evaluating their program activities in terms of outputs and outcomes. This ICR is necessary to evaluate whether CEPPO is successfully providing national leadership and

assistance to local communities in preparing for and preventing chemical emergencies.

In general, LEPCs provide local citizens an opportunity to participate actively in understanding chemical hazards, planning for emergency response, and reducing the risk of chemical emergencies. To be judged effective, LEPCs must be compliant with the requirements of EPCRA and actively carry out these responsibilities. LEPC's level of satisfaction with the information, guidance, and support they receive will heavily influence their ability to fulfill their duties. The 1999 National Survey of LEPCs will collect information to evaluate the status and activity level of these planning bodies and their satisfaction with CEPPO products and services.

This proposed information collection builds upon previous assessments conducted by CEPPO. In 1994, a nationwide survey of LEPCs revealed various strengths and weaknesses among LEPCs. Since that time, no systematic nationwide measurement of the progress of LEPCs has been conducted. Over the past five years, local emergency planning has evolved, most notably, in the amount of information that is now available to assist LEPCs in preparing for and preventing chemical emergencies. Moreover, in June 1999, this information will expand further with the addition of facility specific chemical hazards data and risk management plans made available under amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990 (Section 112(r)—the Risk Management Program Rule for the prevention of chemical accidents).

The primary goals of this research are to: (1) track the progress of LEPCs by updating the 1994 baseline data on a series of key performance indicators; and (2) probe current LEPC practices and preferences regarding several important sets of issues—including: communications with local citizens, proactive accident prevention efforts, and the effectiveness of selected CEPPO products and services.

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 02/12/99 (64 FR 7189-7190); two (2) comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.25 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: Chairs or other leaders on Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,300.

Frequency of Response: This is a one-time survey.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 825 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Capital, Operating/Maintenance Cost Burden: \$0.

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. 1903.01 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, 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: May 4, 1999.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.
[FR Doc. 99-11713 Filed 5-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P