

written notice by the other party with no penalties or continuing obligations.

By joining the partnership, a company agrees to track and report an estimate of its SF₆ emissions to EPA annually. The International Magnesium Association (IMA) acts as a third party, assembling the reported data and transmitting it to EPA for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of data submitted by individual companies. A partner company's annual report will indicate:

- An estimated normalized SF₆ emission rate in terms of the weight of SF₆ emitted (kg) per unit weight of magnesium produced or processed (metric tons).

- Estimated total SF₆ emissions.
- Information provided at the partner's discretion on efforts the company has undertaken to reduce SF₆ use or emissions.

It is anticipated that SF₆ emissions will be reported based on records of SF₆ use, with any necessary adjustments made to account for emission reductions achieved by the Company during the year. IMA will prepare a report for EPA that presents a total SF₆ emissions estimate for all reporting partners. The partnership will track progress as a group using the aggregate total SF₆ emissions estimate and by individual company using the normalized emissions rate. The emissions data will be presented along with the optional descriptions of partner activities in an annual report in an effort to promote technical information sharing. In preparing this report, any information designated confidential by partners will be omitted or otherwise protected. 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 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 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 technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: In estimating the expected burden, EPA assumes 10 companies will join in the first year and 5 companies will join in each of the second and third years for an average of 15 partners/year over the 3 years covered by this ICR.

Average annual reporting burden hours = 1,834.

Average burden hours/response = 122.

Frequency of response = 1/year.

Estimated number of respondents = 15.

Estimated total annual cost burden = \$95,251.

Total capital and start-up costs = \$931.

Total operation and maintenance costs = \$26,400.

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: December 20, 1999.

Jeanne Briskin,

Chief, State Outreach & Industrial Branch.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6522-5]

Adequacy Status of Submitted State Implementation Plans for Transportation Conformity Purposes: Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) 9% Rate-of-Progress for Ozone

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy status.

SUMMARY: In this document, EPA is announcing that the motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in the

submitted DFW 9% Rate-of-Progress (ROP) for ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. As a result of this determination, the budgets from the submitted DFW 9% ROP SIP may be used for future conformity determinations in the DFW area. No comments were received during the public comment period.

DATES: These budgets are effective January 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. J. Behnam, P. E., The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202; telephone (214) 665-7247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. The EPA's conformity rule, 40 CFR part 93, requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to SIPs and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards. The criteria by which EPA determines whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). An adequacy review is separate from EPA's completeness review, and it should not be used to prejudge EPA's ultimate approval of the SIP. Even if we find a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

On March 2, 1999, the D. C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that budgets contained in submitted SIPs cannot be used for conformity determinations unless EPA has affirmatively found the conformity budget adequate. We have described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in the policy guidance dated May 14, 1999, and titled Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision. You may obtain a copy of this guidance from EPA's conformity web site: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> (once there, click on "conformity" and then scroll down) or by contacting us at the address above.

By this notice, we are simply announcing the adequacy determination that we have already made. On October 29, 1999, we received the DFW 9% ROP SIP which contained a volatile organic compounds budget of 147.22 tons/day and a nitrogen oxides budget of 284.14 tons/day. Notice that we had received this SIP was parallel processed and

posted on the EPA's website for a 30-day public comment period on August 16, 1999. The public comment period closed on September 15, 1999. We did not receive any comments. After the public comment process and formal submission of this SIP without substantive change, we sent a letter to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission stating that these budgets are adequate and can be used for conformity determinations.

Therefore, the budgets contained in the submitted DFW 9% ROP SIP as referenced above may be used for transportation conformity by the Metropolitan Planning Organization in DFW.

Dated: December 16, 1999.

Jerry Clifford,

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 00-730 Filed 1-11-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6422-4]

Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS); Announcement of 2000 Program; Request for Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; Announcement of IRIS 2000 Program and request for scientific information on health effects that may result from chronic exposure to chemical substances.

SUMMARY: The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) is an EPA data base that contains EPA scientific consensus positions on human health effects that may result from chronic exposure to chemical substances in the environment. On December 10, 1998, EPA announced the 1999 IRIS agenda and solicited scientific information from the public for consideration in assessing health effects from specific chemical substances (63 FR 68285). Most of the assessments listed are near completion, and EPA is preparing a new set of chemical health assessments for IRIS. This Notice describes the Agency's plans, and solicits scientific data and evaluations for consideration in EPA's new assessments. This Notice also discusses public availability of draft assessments, and cooperation between EPA and external parties on assessment development.

DATES: Please submit information in response to this Notice by March 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send relevant scientific information to the IRIS Submission Desk in accordance with the instructions provided under "Submission of Information" in this Notice. Note the new address for the IRIS Submission Desk.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information on the IRIS program, contact Amy Mills, National Center for Environmental Assessment (mail code 8601D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460, or call (202) 564-3204, or send electronic mail inquiries to mills.amy@epa.gov. For general questions about access to IRIS, or the content of IRIS, please call the Risk Information Hotline at (513) 569-7254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

IRIS is an EPA data base containing Agency consensus scientific positions on potential adverse human health effects that may result from chronic (or lifetime) exposure to chemical substances found in the environment. IRIS currently provides health effects information on over 500 specific chemical substances.

IRIS contains chemical-specific summaries of qualitative and quantitative health information in support of the first two steps of the risk assessment process, *i.e.*, hazard identification and dose-response evaluation. IRIS information includes the reference dose for non-cancer health effects resulting from oral exposure, the reference concentration for non-cancer health effects resulting from inhalation exposure, and the carcinogen assessment for both oral and inhalation exposure. Combined with specific situational exposure assessment information, the summary health hazard information in IRIS may be used as a source in evaluating potential public health risks from environmental contaminants.

The IRIS Program

EPA's process for developing IRIS consists of, (1) an annual **Federal Register** announcement of EPA's IRIS agenda and call for scientific information from the public on the selected chemical substances, (2) a search of the current literature, (3) development of health assessments and draft IRIS summaries, (4) peer review within EPA, (5) peer review outside EPA, (6) EPA consensus review and management approval, (7) preparation of final IRIS summaries and supporting documents, and (8) entry of summaries and supporting documents into the IRIS data base.

Assessments Completed in FY 1999 and Early FY 2000

The following assessments were completed and entered into IRIS in FY 1999 and early FY 2000. These assessments were announced in the **Federal Register** notice of December 10, 1998. All health endpoints, cancer and non-cancer, were assessed unless otherwise noted. Where information was available, oral reference doses, inhalation reference concentrations, and cancer unit risks and slope factors were developed.

Name	CAS No.
Acetonitrile	75-05-8
Benzene (inhalation carcinogenicity)	71-43-2
Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether	111-76-2

Assessments in Progress—Completion Planned for FY 2000 or FY 2001

The following assessments are underway or generally complete, and are planned for entry into IRIS in FY 2000 or FY 2001. These assessments were announced in the December 10, 1998, **Federal Register** notice. All health endpoints, cancer and non-cancer, are being assessed unless otherwise noted. Where information is available, oral reference doses, inhalation reference concentrations, cancer unit risks and slope factors are being developed.

Name	CAS No.
Acetaldehyde	75-07-0
Acetone	67-64-1
Ammonium perchlorate (and associated salts)	7790-98-9
Benzene (oral carcinogenicity and non-cancer endpoints)	71-43-2
Benzo[a]pyrene	50-32-8
Boron	7440-42-8
Bromate	7758-01-2
1,3-Butadiene	106-99-0
Cadmium	7440-43-9
Chloral hydrate	75-87-6
Chlorine dioxide	10049-04-4
Chlorite (sodium salts)	7758-19-2
Chloroethane	75-00-3
Chloroform	67-66-3
Chloroprene	126-99-8
Copper	7440-50-8
Cyclohexane	110-82-7
Dichloroacetic acid	79-43-6
1,3-Dichloropropene	542-75-6
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	117-81-7
Diflubenzuron	35367-38-5
Diesel emissions	[N.A.]
Ethylbenzene	100-41-4
Ethylene oxide	75-21-8
Formaldehyde	50-00-0
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene ...	77-47-4
Isopropanol	67-63-0
Methyl chloride	74-87-3
Methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK) ..	108-10-1
Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) ..	1634-04-4