

letter to each grant recipient to obtain information on unbilled grant expenses.

Title: Unbilled Grant Expenses from Grant Officials at Year-end (EPA ICR No. 1810.02., OMB Control Number 2030-0037) expiring 09/30/2000.

Abstract: EPA's Financial Management Division (FMD) prepares annual financial statements that present the financial position and results of operations for EPA. The financial statements must comply with the Statements of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) and other accounting requirements. EPA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits these financial statements to determine whether they fairly and accurately reflect EPA financial conditions.

To meet the SFFAS requirements, EPA must report the estimated amount of its accrued liabilities. These accrued liabilities include: (1) Grant expenses incurred during the fiscal year that the grant recipient has paid and recorded in its accounting records but has not yet billed to EPA; and (2) grant expenses that vendors have billed the grant recipient between October 1 and November 15 (following the end of the Federal fiscal year) that relate to the prior fiscal year. EPA, working with its OIG, has evaluated the use of existing reports as a source of accrued liability information. However, grants paid through the ACH and ASAP electronic funds transfer mechanisms, do not report this information. Therefore, EPA can't obtain this information without contacting the grant recipients themselves. ASAP and ACH drawdown requests do not include period of performance data, which is essential for determining accruals. To minimize the amount of burden associated with gathering this data, EPA believes that information from a sample of approximately 185 grants would be sufficient to meet its financial statement needs. EPA would use estimation techniques to project the amount of grant accruals applicable to all EPA grants paid through ACH. The grant recipients selected in the sample would only be asked to report the accrual information on the specific grant, and not all EPA grants to that grantee. Further, other EPA grant recipients would not be affected by this information collection request.

Unless EPA is able to obtain this information from the selected grant recipients, and develop a reasonable estimate of accruals based on that data, EPA does not believe it will be able to obtain an unqualified ("clean") audit opinion from the OIG on its financial statements. Thus the information is

crucial for EPA to meet its fiduciary responsibilities. The grantees selected in the sampling process are not required to respond to our request, but the grantees' cooperation will enable EPA to fairly report the accrued liability on the financial statement. The submitted information is not intended to be shared with other grantees or used in any other Agency program. 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: 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.

EPA believes that a grant recipient should require no more than 6 hours to prepare the information requested, and the data collection will not require grant recipients to purchase new equipment or develop new procedures to compile and report the data. Thus, the total reporting burden would be 1100 hours,

or a total estimated annual cost of \$27,500.

Dated: February 18, 2000.

Juliette McNeil,

Acting Director, Financial Management Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[AD-FRL-6544-8]

Electric Utility Steam Generating Units: Solicitation of Additional Information for Making Regulatory Determination

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of additional information.

SUMMARY: The EPA must determine whether hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions from electric utility steam generating units should be regulated under section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended, on or before December 15, 2000. In making this determination, the Agency is soliciting any additional information that the public may wish to provide to the EPA prior to the determination.

DATES: Any additional information must be submitted to the EPA no later than March 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public should submit additional information to Public Docket No. A-92-55 at the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. The docket is located at the above address in Room M-1500, Waterside Mall (ground floor), and may be inspected from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Maxwell, Combustion Group, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, telephone number: (919) 541-5430, facsimile number: (919) 541-5450, e-mail maxwell.bill@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 112(n)(1)(A) of the CAA requires the EPA to perform a study (i.e., utility toxics study) of the hazards to public health reasonably anticipated to occur as a result of HAP emissions from electric utility steam generating units, after imposition of the requirements of the CAA, and to prepare a Report to Congress containing the results of the study. The Agency is to proceed with

rulemaking activities under section 112 to control HAP emissions from electric utility steam generating units if the EPA finds such regulation is appropriate and necessary after considering the results of the study. The utility toxics study was completed and the Final Report to Congress issued on February 24, 1998. The Agency is required to make a finding as to whether it is appropriate and necessary to control HAP emissions from electric utility steam generating units no later than December 15, 2000.

In the Final Report to Congress, the EPA stated that mercury is the HAP emission of greatest potential concern from coal-fired utilities and noted several areas where additional research and monitoring were merited. Among the additional research areas noted were: (1) Collection and assessment of additional data on the mercury content of various types of coal; (2) collection and assessment of additional data on mercury emissions; (3) collection and assessment of additional information on control technologies or pollution prevention options that are available, or will be available, and the costs of those options; and (4) further review of the available data on the health impacts associated with exposure to mercury.

The EPA has ongoing investigations and analyses pertaining to these research areas. Three efforts are prominent. First, following issuance of the Final Report to Congress, the EPA initiated an information collection request to gather, under the authority of section 114 of the CAA, data on the mercury content of the coals burned in, and the exhaust gases from, coal-fired utility units during 1999. In addition, the EPA, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy and other parties, is collecting information to assess the effectiveness and costs of various mercury pollution control technologies and pollution prevention options. Finally, the EPA has an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to perform a review of the available data on the health impacts associated with exposure to mercury. In addition, the EPA is conducting or supporting investigations into mercury transport, human exposure, and other areas.

As indicated above, section 112(n)(1)(A) of the CAA requires the Administrator to regulate electric utility steam generating units under section 112 if such regulation is found to be appropriate and necessary. The Administrator believes that in addition to considering the results of the utility toxics study, she may consider any other available information in making her decision. The activities noted above will provide some of this other

information. The EPA is also soliciting any additional information that the public may consider appropriate for consideration during the decision-making process.

Dated: February 17, 2000.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6544-4]

Proposed Settlement, Clean Air Act Citizen Suit

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed consent decree; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act, as amended ("EPA"), 42 U.S.C. 7413(g), notice is hereby given of a proposed consent decree in litigation instituted against the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by the South Coast Air Quality Management District ("District" or "plaintiff"). This lawsuit, filed on November 4, 1998, concerns EPA's failure to act under section 110(k) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq., to approve or disapprove the District's proposed revisions to the state implementation plan (SIP) for the South Coast.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed consent decree must be received by March 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Dave Jesson, Air Division (AIR-2), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105-3901, (415) 744-1288, jesson.david@epa.gov. Copies of the proposed consent decree are available from Kay Kovitch at the above address, (415) 744-1267, kovitch.kay@epa.gov. On January 11, 2000, the parties lodged the proposed consent decree with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA*, No. 98-9789 (C.D. CA), the plaintiff alleges, among other things, that EPA failed to approve or disapprove the District's proposed revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The proposed revisions in the District's claim include ozone and particulate matter (PM-10) plans

adopted by the District on November 15, 1996, approved by the State on January 23, 1997, and submitted to EPA on February 5, 1997; and 46 rules submitted at various times by the District through the State to EPA for inclusion in its SIP.

In order to resolve this matter without protracted litigation, the plaintiff and EPA have reached agreement on a proposed consent decree that has been signed by the parties and was lodged with the District Court on January 11, 2000. The proposed consent decree provides that EPA shall take final action on the following SIP submittals as specified: (1) Ozone plan submitted on February 5, 1997, no later than 20 days after the District provides written notice to EPA requesting such actions; (2) District Rules 429, 2002, and 2005 on or before January 31, 2000; and (3) District Rules 518.2 and 1623 on or before February 15, 2000. In the proposed consent decree, the District agreed to file a voluntary dismissal without prejudice of that portion of its complaint challenging EPA's failure to take final action on all of the remaining rules identified in the District's claim.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the proposed consent decree from persons who were not named as parties or intervenors to the litigation in question. EPA or the Department of Justice may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed consent decree if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act.

Dated: February 18, 2000.

Gary S. Guzy,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 00-4781 Filed 2-28-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6544-3]

Proposed Settlement Agreement, Clean Air Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act, as amended ("Act"), notice is hereby given of a proposed settlement agreement in the following case: *Chemical Manufacturers*