

Table 302.4 of 40 CFR 302.4. Section 103(f)(2) of CERCLA provides facilities relief from this per-occurrence notification requirement if the hazardous substance release at or above the RQ is continuous and stable in quantity and rate. Under the CRRR, to report such a release as a continuous release you must make an initial telephone call to the NRC, an initial written report to the EPA Region, and, if the source and chemical composition of the continuous release does not change and the level of the continuous release does not significantly increase, a follow-up written report to the EPA Region one year after submission of the initial written report. If the source or chemical composition of the previously reported continuous release changes, notifying the NRC and EPA Region of a change in the source or composition of the release is required. Further, a significant increase in the level of the previously reported continuous release must be reported immediately to the NRC according to section 103(a) of CERCLA. Finally, any change in information submitted in support of a continuous release notification must be reported to the EPA Region.

The reporting of a hazardous substance release that is equal to or above the substance's RQ allows the Federal government to determine whether a Federal response action is required to control or mitigate any potential adverse effects to public health or welfare or the environment.

The continuous release of hazardous substance information collected under CERCLA section 103(f)(2) is also available to EPA program offices and other Federal agencies who use the information to evaluate the potential need for additional regulations, new permitting requirements for specific substances or sources, or improved emergency response planning. State and local government authorities and facilities subject to the CRRR use release information for purposes of local emergency response planning. Members of the public, who have access to release information through the Freedom of Information Act, may request release information for purposes of maintaining an awareness of what types of releases are occurring in different localities and what actions, if any, are being taken to protect public health and welfare and the environment.

V. What are EPA's Burden and Cost Estimates for This ICR?

Under the PRA, "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. For this collection, it includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and use 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.

The ICR provides a detailed explanation of this estimate, which is only briefly summarized in this notice. The annual public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 92 hours per affected facility. The following is a summary of the estimates taken from the ICR:

Respondents/affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are facilities that manufacture, process, or otherwise use certain specified hazardous substances.

Estimated total number of facilities that will have to report continuous hazardous substance releases per year: 2,712.

Frequency of response: After reporting the continuous release to the NRC and EPA Region initially, only an annual report to the EPA Region is necessary unless there is a change in the source of the continuous release, a change in the chemical composition of the continuous release, or a significant increase in the level of the continuous release. In these cases the person in charge of the facility has to notify the NRC and the appropriate EPA Regional Office of the change in the continuous release.

Estimated total annual burden hours (averaged over 3 years): 249,451 hours.

Estimated total annual burden costs (averaged over 3 years): \$11,277,827.

VI. Are There Changes in the Estimates from the Last Approval?

In the renewal ICR, EPA will review the current burden and cost statement and adjust it accordingly. EPA does expect the burden and cost statement in the renewal ICR to be greater than the burden and cost statement in the current ICR. This increase may be due to an historical growth rate of about 7.5 percent per year in the number of reporting facilities; however, EPA continues to consider data that may reflect a greater growth rate than the 7.5 percent assumption in the background document. Specifically, EPA is considering data from the National

Response Center's data base that shows a significant increase in reporting in fiscal year 2000 (10/01/99–09/30/00). A summary table is available from the docket for this Information Collection Request or on the internet at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/resources/rq/nrc01data.pdf>.

VII. What is the Next Step in the Process for This ICR?

EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12. EPA will issue another **Federal Register** notice pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(1)(iv) to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB. If you have any questions about this ICR or the approval process, please contact Lynn Beasley, (703) 603-9086. Facsimile number: (703) 603-9104. Electronic address: beasley.lynn@epa.gov.

Dated: March 20, 2001.

Elaine F. Davies,

Acting Director, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6959-8]

Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB), Nominees, Meeting Date, and Agenda

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of nominees for membership and notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The EPA is soliciting nominees to serve on the ELAB. Nominees are being sought to fill vacancies in the following categories: environmental engineering associations or firms, Indian nations, third party assessors, commercial laboratories, purchasers of environmental laboratory services, public interest groups and others associated with the environmental monitoring community. Terms of service will commence on July 29, 2001 and terminate on July 29, 2003. Application forms must be submitted to provide information on experience, abilities, stakeholder interest, organizational description, and references. A copy of the application form can be obtained on the Internet (see address below).

The Agency will convene an open teleconference meeting of ELAB on April 24, 2001, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST to solicit input from the public on issues related to the NELAC standards and the NELAC environmental laboratory accreditation program. The call in number for the meeting is 202-260-1015, access code 9195#. For those wishing to participate in person, the meeting will be open to the public at the EPA Office of Research and Development Laboratory in Las Vegas, NV. Directions can be obtained by calling 202-798-2232.

The agenda will include discussions of issues related to laboratory accreditation raised to the Board by the Public as well as a review of outstanding recommendations and activities from earlier Board meetings. Comments on the NELAC standards and laboratory accreditation program will be solicited. The Internet site address for the NELAC standards and the above mentioned ELAB nominee application is: <http://ttnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov/html/nelac/nelac.htm#NL02>.

The public is encouraged to attend. Time will be allotted for public comment. Written comments are encouraged and should be directed to Stephen Billets; USEPA; PO Box 93478, Las Vegas, NV 89193. For additional information, please contact Dr. Billets at (702) 798-2232, fax (702) 798-2261, or E-mail: billets.stephen@epa.gov.

Henry L. Longest II,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6959-1]

Notice of Request for Proposals for Projects To Be Funded From the Water Quality Cooperative Agreement Allocation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA Region 6 is soliciting proposals from State agencies and Tribes interested in applying for Federal assistance for Water Quality Cooperative Agreements under the Clean Water Act section 104(b)(3) in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Region 6 EPA will award an estimated \$1 million to eligible applicants through assistance agreements ranging in size up to

\$200,000 for innovative projects/demonstrations/studies that can be used as models relating to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

DATES: EPA will consider all proposals received on or before 5 pm Central Time April 27, 2001. Proposals received after the due date will not be considered for funding.

ADDRESSES: Proposals should be mailed to: Terry Mendiola (6WQ-AT), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Overnight Delivery may be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Mendiola by telephone at 214-665-7144 or by E-mail at mendiola.teresita@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Is the Purpose of This Request for Proposals?

EPA Region 6's Water Quality Protection Division is requesting proposals from State agencies and Tribes for unique and innovative projects that address the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) program with special emphasis on wet weather activities, i.e., storm water, sanitary sewer overflows, and concentrated animal feeding operations as well as projects that enhance the ability of the regulated community to deal with non-traditional pollution problems in priority watersheds. Innovative studies leading to the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) is another priority on which these funds could be focused.

Tribal governments should submit proposals which strengthen implementation of tribal environmental protection.

An organization whose proposal is selected for Federal assistance must complete an EPA Application for Assistance, including the Federal SF-424 form (Application for Federal Assistance, see 40 CFR 31.10).

Has EPA Region 6 Identified High Priority Areas for Consideration?

EPA Region 6 has identified several project areas for priority consideration to the extent they are for research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies related to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution:

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

Alternative markets for excess manure

Voluntary Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for Animal Feeding

Operations with 300 to 500 animal units

Wet Weather (Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), Storm Water)

Integration of SSO and storm water requirements

Measuring the effectiveness of storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Trends analysis of load reductions due to implementation of storm water BMPs

Storm water monitoring techniques

Estimating quantified benefits of enhanced sewer performance (e.g., reduced backups)

Quantifying the impacts of sewage overflows

Evaluation of impacts of peak wet weather flows on Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)

Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) of POTWs

Inflow/Infiltration reduction

Sewer rehabilitation methods

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Programs

Stakeholder watershed approaches

Nutrient trading

Watershed integration of NPDES programs

Innovative Permit Writing Tools

Strategy to effectively manage Permit Backlog

Pretreatment

Performance measures

Facilitation of innovative technology transfer

Pretreatment on the Mexican Border

Environmental Management System (EMS)

Benefits and impacts of EMS

EMS adoption by public agencies

Cooling Water Intake Structures (Clean Water Act, Section 316(b))

Innovative technologies that reduce impingement and entrainment of aquatic organisms into cooling water intakes

Ecological effects of cooling water intake structures on aquatic environments

Effectiveness of ecological restoration activities in reducing the impact of cooling water intake structures on the aquatic environment

Infrastructure Funding Related To

Asset Management

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) issues for small communities

Capacity Building for Tribes/Native Villages/Environmental Justice