

workshop in 1998, EPA believes that this assumption corresponds to the real-world problems of selenium contamination.

While recognizing that the BAF can vary from site to site, EPA is requesting scientific information, data, and views on the general approach of using a uniform tissue benchmark (expressed as total selenium concentration in whole body) without regard to site differences that might include:

- The species to be protected,
- The type of water body,
- The character of the food web, for example, autochthonous versus nonseleniferous allochthonous,
- The form and concentration of selenium in the water or diet,
- The form of selenium in the sampled tissue,
- The nature of the selenium release,
- Interactions with other trace elements,
- Acclimation or adaptation,
- Hormesis,
- Climatic conditions, and
- Any other relevant site factors.

EPA is also requesting scientific information, data, and views relevant to the need for and appropriate basis for adjusting the tissue benchmark to account for site-specific factors.

5. Saltwater Chronic Criterion

For chronic exposure, we found no data that were useful for deriving a saltwater aquatic life criterion. However, selenium might be as toxic in the tissues of saltwater organisms as it is in the tissues of freshwater organisms. Therefore, the draft contains the cautionary recommendation that the status of the saltwater fish community be monitored if selenium exceeds 5.85 µg/g dw in summer or fall or 7.91 dw during any season (same as the freshwater benchmarks) in the whole-body tissue of saltwater fishes.

EPA is requesting scientific information, data, or views on (a) toxicity thresholds applicable to protecting saltwater organisms exposed to selenium through the food chain, or (b) the appropriateness of extending to saltwater what is known about freshwater toxicity thresholds.

6. Acute Criteria Concentrations

As discussed above, selenium toxicity problems have generally involved contamination of the food web. If the diet of the target species is not contaminated, very high water-column concentrations are needed to bring out effects, particularly when exposure is brief. As with bioaccumulative pollutants in general, acute toxicity (that is, toxicity from a brief sharp increase in

the water concentration) is of less concern than chronic exposure through the food chain.

Nevertheless, a large body of toxicity test data are available for brief water-only exposure. Therefore, EPA was able to derive acute criteria to protect aquatic life against the toxic effects of that type of exposure to selenium. For ambient freshwater, the draft selenite or Se (IV) acute criterion is 258 µg/L, and the draft sulfate-dependent selenate or Se (VI) criterion ranges from 109 to 1590 µg/L at sulfate concentrations from 10 to 1000 mg/L. For ambient saltwater the draft selenite acute criterion is 127 µg/L.

EPA is requesting scientific information, data, and views on the appropriateness of the draft values for the acute exposure criteria.

References

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- Versar. 2000. Peer review of statistical analysis of selenium toxicity data. Report submitted to U.S. EPA, Office of Water, Washington, DC.
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- White, W. 2002. Letter to Geoffrey H. Grubbs. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, CA. May 15, 2002.

Dated: December 9, 2004.

Geoffrey H. Grubbs,

Director, Office of Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 04-27665 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

SUMMARY: On June 15, 1984, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) its approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act, as per 5 CFR 1320.16, to approve of and assign OMB control numbers to collection of information requests and requirements conducted or sponsored by the Board under conditions set forth in 5 CFR 1320 Appendix A.1. Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB inventory of currently approved collections of information. Copies of the OMB 83-Is and supporting statements and approved collection of information instruments are placed into OMB's public docket files. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Request for comment on information collection proposal

The following information collection, which is being handled under this delegated authority, has received initial Board approval and is hereby published for comment. At the end of the comment period, the proposed information collection, along with an analysis of comments and recommendations received, will be submitted to the Board for final approval under OMB delegated authority. Comments are invited on the following:

- a. whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Federal Reserve's functions; including whether the information has practical utility;
- b. the accuracy of the Federal Reserve's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- c. ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- d. ways to minimize the burden of information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 15, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by FR 1374, by any of the following methods:

- Agency Web Site: <http://www.federalreserve.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm>.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: regs.comments@federalreserve.gov.

Include docket number in the subject line of the message.

- FAX: 202/452-3819 or 202/452-3102.

- Mail: Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20551.

All public comments are available from the Board's web site at www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm as submitted, except as necessary for technical reasons. Accordingly, your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Public comments may also be viewed electronically or in paper in Room MP-500 of the Board's Martin Building (20th and C Streets, N.W.) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the proposed form and instructions, the Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (OMB 83-I), supporting statement, and other documents that will be placed into OMB's public docket files once approved may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below.

Cindy Ayouch, Federal Reserve Board Clearance Officer (202-452-3829), Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact (202-263-4869), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

Proposal to approve under OMB delegated authority the extension for three years, without revision, of the following report:

Report title: Intermittent Survey of Businesses

Agency form number: FR 1374

OMB control number: 7100-0302

Frequency: Biweekly and semiannually

Reporters: Purchasing managers, economists, or other knowledgeable individuals at business firms

Annual reporting hours: 125 hours
Estimated average hours per response: 15 minutes

Number of respondents: biweekly, 10; semiannually, 120

General description of report: This information collection is voluntary (12 U.S.C. §§ 225a and 263) and is given confidential treatment (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)).

Abstract: The survey data are used by the Federal Reserve to gather information specifically tailored to the Federal Reserve's policy and operational responsibilities. It is necessary to conduct the survey biweekly to keep up with the rapidly changing developments in the economy and to provide timely information to staff and Board members. Usually, the surveys are conducted by staff economists telephoning purchasing managers, economists, or other knowledgeable individuals at selected, relevant businesses. The frequency and content of the questions, and the businesses contacted would vary depending on changing developments in the economy.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 14, 2004.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 04-27654 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 6210-01-S

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Federal Travel Regulation (FTR)

Maximum Per Diem Rates for Colorado, Florida and Texas

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration (GSA).

ACTION: Notice of Per Diem Bulletin 05-3, revised continental United States (CONUS) per diem rates.

SUMMARY: The General Services Administration (GSA) has reviewed the lodging rates of certain locations in the States of Colorado, Florida and Texas and determined that they are inadequate. The per diems prescribed in Bulletin 05-3 may be found at <http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem>.

DATES: This notice is effective December 17, 2004 and applies to travel performed on or after December 27, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For clarification of content, contact Lois Mandell, Office of Governmentwide Policy, Travel Management Policy, at (202) 501-2824. Please cite FTR Per Diem Bulletin 05-3.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

After an analysis of the per diem rates established for FY 2005 (see the **Federal Register** notices at 69 FR 53071, August 31, 2004, and 69 FR 60152, October 7, 2004), the per diem rate is being changed in the following locations:

State of Colorado

- City of Aurora

State of Florida

- Brevard County

State of Texas

- Dallas County

B. Procedures

Per diem rates are published on the Internet at www.gsa.gov/perdiem as an FTR Per Diem Bulletin and published in the **Federal Register** on a periodic basis. This process ensures timely increases or decreases in per diem rates established by GSA for Federal employees on official travel within CONUS. Notices published periodically in the **Federal Register**, such as this one, now constitute the only notification of revisions in CONUS per diem rates to agencies.

Dated: December 13, 2004.

Thomas J. Horan,

Deputy to the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Transportation and Personal Property.

[FR Doc. 04-27605 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-14-S

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Unmodified Public Financial Disclosure Access Customer Service Survey

AGENCY: Office of Government Ethics (OGE).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: After this first round notice and public comment period, OGE plans to submit the Public Financial Disclosure Access Customer Service Survey form to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for three-year extension of approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act. OGE is proposing no changes to the survey form.

DATES: Comments by the public and agencies on this proposed information collection extension are invited and should be received by March 2, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Mary T. Donovan, Office of Administration and Information