ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY


Information Collection Request Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for Analysis of Cryptosporidium Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (Renewal)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency has submitted an information collection request (ICR)—Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for Analysis of Cryptosporidium Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA ICR No. 2067.06, OMB Control No. 2040–0246—to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. This is a proposed extension of the ICR, which is currently approved through March 31, 2018. Public comments were previously requested via the Federal Register on October 16, 2017, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments. A fuller description of the ICR is given below, including its estimated burden and cost to the public. 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.

DATES: Additional comments may be submitted on or before March 2, 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OW–2002–0011, to (1) EPA online using www.regulations.gov (our preferred method), by email to oirarequest@epa.gov, or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, and (2) OMB via email to oira_submission@omb.eop.gov. Address comments to OMB Desk Officer for EPA. EPA’s policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Hautman, Technical Support Center (TSC), Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, (MC–140), Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268; telephone number: 513–569–7274; fax number: 513–569–7191; email address: hautman.dan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Supporting documents, which explain in detail the information that the EPA will be collecting, are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at www.regulations.gov or in person at the EPA Docket Center, WJC West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202–566–1744. For additional information about EPA’s public docket, visit http://www.epa.gov/dockets.

Abstract: Under the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR), EPA requires public water systems (PWS) to use approved laboratories when conducting Cryptosporidium monitoring. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 141.705(a) provides for approval of Cryptosporidium laboratories by “an equivalent” state laboratory certification program (i.e., equivalent to EPA’s Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program). In the preamble to the LT2ESWTR as well as several other notices, EPA has described the criteria for approval of laboratories to analyze Cryptosporidium samples under the LT2ESWTR.

Form Numbers: None.

Respondents/affected entities:

Interested states and laboratories.

Respondent’s obligation to respond: Voluntary.

Estimated number of respondents: 43 labs and 20 states/territories.

Frequency of response: Annual.

Total estimated burden: 3,741 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.00(b).

Total estimated cost: $669,490, includes $332,891 annualized capital or operation & maintenance (O&M) costs.
Changes in Estimates: There is a decrease of 1,731 hours and $134,284 in the total estimated respondent burden compared with the ICR currently approved by OMB. This decrease is due to a reduced number of laboratories (45 to 43), re-evaluation of hours for tasks, and an improved demonstration of capability by the laboratories.

Courtney Kerwin,
Director, Regulatory Support Division.
[FD Doc. 2016–01899 Filed 1–30–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Availability of the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Assessment Plan for Uranium

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a 30-day public comment period associated with release of the draft IRIS Assessment Plan for Uranium. This document communicates information on the scoping needs identified by EPA program and regional offices and the IRIS Program’s initial problem formulation activities. Specifically, the assessment plan outlines the objectives for each assessment and the type of evidence considered most pertinent to address the scoping needs. EPA is releasing this draft IRIS Assessment Plan for public comment at least 60 days in advance of a public science webinar planned on March 22, 2018.

DATES: The 30-day public comment period begins January 31, 2018, and ends March 2, 2018. Comments must be received on or before March 2, 2018.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the public comment period, contact the ORD Docket at the EPA Headquarters Docket Center; telephone: 202–566–1752; facsimile: 202–566–9744; or email: Docket_ORD@epa.gov.

For technical information on the draft IRIS Assessment Plan for Uranium, contact Dr. James Avery, NCEA; telephone: 202–564–1494; or email: avery.james@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background Information on IRIS Assessment Plans

EPA’s IRIS Program is a human health assessment program that evaluates quantitative and qualitative risk information on effects that may result from exposure to chemicals found in the environment. Through the IRIS Program, EPA provides the highest quality science-based human health assessments to support the Agency’s regulatory activities and decisions to protect public health. As part of scoping and initial problem formulation activities prior to the development of a draft assessment, the IRIS Program carries out a broad, preliminary literature survey to assist in identifying health effects that have been studied in relation to the chemical or substance of interest, as well as science issues that may need to be considered when evaluating toxicity. This information, in conjunction with scoping needs identified by EPA program and regional offices, is used to inform the development of an IRIS Assessment Plan (IAP).

The IAP communicates the plan for developing each individual chemical assessment to the public and includes summary information on the IRIS Program’s scoping and initial problem formulation, objectives and specific aims for the assessment, and a PECO (Populations, Exposures, Comparators, and Outcomes) for the systematic review. The PECO provides the framework for developing literature search strategies and inclusion/exclusion criteria, particularly with respect to evidence stream (i.e., human, animal, mechanistic), exposure measures and outcome measures. The IAP serves to inform the subsequent development of chemical-specific systematic review protocols, which will be made publicly available.

II. Public Webinar

In order to allow for public input, EPA is convening a public webinar to discuss the draft IRIS Assessment Plan for Uranium on March 22, 2018. Specific teleconference and webinar information regarding this public meeting will be provided through the IRIS website (https://www.epa.gov/iris) and via EPA’s Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and IRIS listservs. To register for the HHRA or IRIS listserv, visit the IRIS website (https://www.epa.gov/iris) or visit https://www.epa.gov/iris/forms/