

Burden Statement: The average annual burden to the industry over the next three years from these recordkeeping and reporting requirements is estimated at 76,681.25 person-hours. This is based on an estimated 550 sources currently subject to the standard, and an additional 50 sources per year over the next three years. This estimate 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.

NESHAP Subpart V: Benzene for Equipment Leaks (Fugitive Emission Sources)

Affected entities: Entities affected by this action are those owners or operators of process units operating in volatile hazardous air pollutant (VHAP) service (those containing or contacting fluids (liquid or gas) consisting by weight of at least 10 percent VHAP).

Title: NESHAP for Equipment Leaks (Fugitive Emission Sources), OMB number 2060-0068, expires March 31, 1998.

Abstract: The standards apply to fugitive emissions from equipment sources operating in VHAP service (containing or contacting fluids with at least 10 percent VHAP by weight). More specifically, it applies to each of the following sources that are intended to operate in VHAP service: pumps; compressors; pressure relief devices; sampling connection systems; open-ended valves or lines; valves, flanges and other connectors; product accumulator vessels; and control devices or systems that contain or contact fluids (liquid or gas) consisting by weight of at least 10 percent VHAP.

Owners or operators of the affected process units must make the following one-time-only reports: application for approval of construction or modification; notification of startup; application of waiver of testing (if desired by source); application for equivalency (if desired by source); and an initial report, which is to include a list of the equipment installed for compliance, a description of the physical and functional characteristics of each piece of equipment, a

description of the methods which have been incorporated into the standard operating procedures for measuring or calculating emissions, and a statement that the equipment and procedures are in place and are being used.

Owners or operators are also required to submit semiannual reports of the number of valves, pumps, and compressors for which leaks were detected, and explanations for any leak repair delays.

Generally, the one-time-only reports are required of all sources subject to the NESHAP. However, the recordkeeping and other reporting requirements are specific to the provisions of Subpart V (Equipment Leaks Standards). To fulfill the recordkeeping requirement, affected process units must be monitored to detect leaks by Method 21 of Appendix A of 40 CFR part 60. The recordkeeping requirements of § 61.246 apply to leaks detected from pumps, compressors, valves, flanges, and pressure relief devices. Pumps are checked visually each calendar week, and pertinent information on each unit is recorded in a log, required in § 61.246(e). Compressor sensors are checked daily, and valves are monitored monthly. Recordkeeping requirements for these units are in effect only when a leak is detected (§§ 61.242-3, 242-7). Action taken to repair leaks must also be recorded and kept on file in a readily accessible location.

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;

(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 collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The majority of industry costs associated with the information collection activity in the

standards are labor costs. The respondent costs have been calculated on the basis of \$14.50 per hour plus 110 percent overhead. The current average annual burden to industry over the next three years is estimated to be \$716,762. The current annual burden to industry over the next three years from these reporting and recordkeeping requirements is estimated to be 23,539 person-hours. The estimated number of likely respondents within the term of this ICR is 200. The estimated average burden hours per response is 30.

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: August 8, 1997.

Bruce R. Weddle,

Acting Director, Office of Compliance.

[FR Doc. 97-22070 Filed 8-19-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5878-5]

Brownfields Showcase Communities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Solicitation of statements of interest from communities interested in being designated as Brownfields Showcase Communities.

SUMMARY: Participating Agencies Programs within the following Federal agencies are participating in the selection and implementation of the Brownfields Showcase Communities: Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation,

Department of the Treasury, Department of Veterans Affairs, General Services Administration, Small Business Administration.

Background

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. The Brownfields Initiative was launched to empower States, local governments, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together to assess, clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Communities have asked for more interaction among all levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. In response, Federal agencies have joined together to strengthen and improve their collaborative efforts to clean up and reuse contaminated property.

A partnership of Federal agencies with interests in brownfields redevelopment has been formed that will offer special technical, financial and other assistance to selected communities. These communities will be called Brownfields Showcases Communities and will be models demonstrating the benefits of focused attention on brownfields. The Federal partners plan to designate ten Brownfields Showcase Communities, distributed across the country, varying by size, resources and community character. The Brownfields Showcase Communities project will be the centerpiece of the Brownfields Initiative and will provide a pattern for future efforts.

Goals

The goals of the Brownfields Showcase Communities project are to:

- Promote environmental protection and restoration, economic redevelopment, job creation, community revitalization, and public health protection, through the assessment, cleanup, and sustainable reuse of brownfields;
- Link Federal, State, local and non-governmental action supporting community efforts to restore and reuse brownfields; and
- Develop national models demonstrating the positive results of public and private collaboration in addressing brownfields challenges.

Benefits

A community will receive the following benefits from being designated as a Brownfields Showcase Community.

- National visibility for a community's brownfields efforts;
- Coordinated delivery of technical and financial support from participating Federal agencies. Participating agencies and programs will vary for each Showcase Community depending upon the particular Showcase's needs and plans. For example, an urban Showcase Community might be served by different programs and resources than a rural community;
- Financial assistance, grants and cooperative agreements from participating agency programs subject to the requirements of those programs; and
- Staff support in the form of a Federal employee assigned to each Showcase Community to assist with coordination and implementation activities.

Structure of the Statement of Interest

To be considered for selection as a Brownfields Showcase Community, interested communities should submit a statement of interest that includes the following information:

- Proposal title;
- Location: city, county, and state of the Showcase area;
- Applicant identification: the name of the project director of the Showcase project;
- Contact Name/Title/Organization;
- Contact Phone/Fax/E-Mail;
- Name and contact information of the representative of the appropriate governmental subdivision (Mayor, County Executive, Tribal President) if different from the project director;
- Date submitted: the date when the proposal is postmarked or sent to EPA via registered or tracked mail;
- Proposal Overview: explain how designation as a Brownfields Showcase Community will help the community meet its objectives and will advance the Brownfields Showcase Community goals; and
- Related Designations: identify whether the applicant or the area for the proposed Showcase Community project is designated as a Federal or State Brownfields pilot, a Federal or State Empowerment Zone, Enterprise Community or other special economic area.

Statements of Interest are limited to two pages. Supplemental materials such as appendices, maps, records, etc., will not be considered during the initial screening phase of the selection process. All communities, or regional groupings of communities, are eligible for consideration as a Brownfields Showcase Community. Previous designation as an EPA brownfields pilot is not a requirement for consideration,

nor are such communities precluded from applying. Statements of Interest will be accepted from any party, but must be submitted in partnership with a governmental entity to be eligible for consideration.

Selection Process

Selection of the Brownfields Showcase Communities will be done in two phases. During Phase I, interested communities are invited to submit two-page Statements of Interest which describe how the community's designation as a Showcase Community will advance the goals of the Showcase Communities project as described above. For example:

- A community with well-defined brownfields problems that can be addressed effectively through environmental cleanup and sustainable reuse is more likely to be considered as a candidate community than a community that suspects that there are brownfields problems in their jurisdiction that may require attention;
- A community with an established network of working relationships among Federal, State, and local governments, and other public and private stakeholders is more likely to be considered as a candidate community than a community which is just beginning to create these types of relationships;
- A community that has begun preliminary work such as cleanup and redevelopment planning, securing private investors, and exploring public financial opportunities is more likely to be considered as a candidate community than a community that has just started to address its brownfields issues. Within two years after designation, a Brownfields Showcase Community should be able to demonstrate success in dealing with cleanup and reuse issues.

The Showcase Communities Selection Board, which represents the participating Federal agencies, will evaluate the Statements of Interest. It will screen the applications to create a list of 30 to 40 candidate communities which will then be invited to move into Phase II of the selection process.

During Phase II, the 30 to 40 candidate communities will be invited to submit ten-page proposals which more fully describe their brownfields efforts. At that stage, communities will be encouraged to submit supporting materials which demonstrate the breadth of support for their application within the community. The Showcase Communities Selection Board will then evaluate and select the ten Brownfields

Showcase Communities, using the detailed criteria listed below.

1. *Brownfields Potential*: Describe the brownfields that exist, or are perceived to exist, in the community and that have reasonable potential for environmental restoration and economic reuse in the near-term.

2. *Community Need*: Describe how this is an area which has social and economic conditions which would benefit from Federal assistance for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

3. *Local Commitment*: Describe the degree of local commitment to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment including existing community efforts and investment of community resources.

4. *Federal, State, and Local Partnerships*: Describe the Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations participating in the community's brownfields activities, including other programs and funds available for brownfields activities.

5. *Strategic Planning*: Describe the extent to which the brownfields strategy is part of a larger redevelopment strategy that will link brownfields cleanup to economic redevelopment strategies, job creation, increased environmental protection, and sustainability.

6. *Management Capability*: Describe prior experience or knowledge in managing similar redevelopment, cleanup, and community participation activities. Also describe what specific planning and programmatic requirements have been met for Federal financing programs anticipated for use.

7. *Environmental Justice*: Describe the extent to which low-income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities will participate in the development of community brownfields redevelopment plans.

8. *National Replicability*: Describe how the community will serve as a model for other similarly situated communities in addressing brownfields redevelopment.

Communities that are invited to submit Phase II proposals should respond directly to these criteria in their proposals. Further application requirements and guidelines will be provided to the candidate communities to assist them in preparing their application. Note that in Phase I (the initial Statement of Interest) of the selection process, interested communities should consider the detailed criteria, but do not have to respond to each criterion.

DATES: Submit Statements of Interest on or before September 19, 1997. All

proposals must be postmarked or sent to EPA via registered or tracked mail by the deadline cited above.

ADDRESSES: Address Statements of Interest to Gayle Rice or Sven-Erik Kaiser, U.S. EPA (5101), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gayle Rice, 202-260-8431 or Sven-Erik Kaiser, 202-260-5138.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information, if any, will be updated on the Internet Worldwide Web at the Universal Resource Location address of "http://www.epa.gov/brownfields." Persons lacking Internet access can communicate with the contact persons listed above.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Timothy Fields, Jr.,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

[FR Doc. 97-22071 Filed 8-19-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5878-2]

Determination of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance With Applicable Federal Environmental Laws for the Period October 1994-1996

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that, for the period October 1994 to October 1996, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which is operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), was in compliance with the pertinent Federal statutes and regulations designated in section 9(a)(1) of the 1992 Land Withdrawal Act, as amended. The Secretary of Energy was notified of the determination via letter from EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner dated August 14, 1997.

This determination was made under the authority of Section 9 of the amended WIPP Land Withdrawal Act. (Pub. L. Nos. 102-579 and 104-201.) Section 9 requires the Administrator of EPA to determine on a biennial basis, following the submittal of documentation of compliance by the Secretary of DOE, whether the WIPP is in compliance with EPA's standards for the management and storage of radioactive waste (40 CFR part 191, subpart A), the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and all other applicable Federal laws protecting public health and safety or the environment. This determination applies to WIPP's compliance with these laws during the period October 1994 to October 1996.

This determination is not directly related to, nor is it a part of, EPA's certification decision regarding whether the WIPP complies with the disposal standards for transuranic radioactive waste (40 CFR part 191). The certification decision will be accomplished through a separate rulemaking pursuant to the standards and procedures mandated by section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and in accordance with EPA's WIPP compliance certification criteria regulations at 40 CFR part 194. (61 FR 58499, November 15, 1996.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Monroe; telephone number: 202-233-9310; address: Radiation Protection Division, Mail Code 6602J, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Carol M. Browner,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-22072 Filed 8-19-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5878-3]

Determination of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance With Applicable Federal Environmental Laws for the Period October 1992-1994

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that, for the period October 1992 to October 1994, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which is operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), was in compliance with the Federal statutes and regulations designated in subparagraphs (A), (B), (D), (E), (F), and, in pertinent part, (H) of Section 9(a)(1) of the 1992 Land Withdrawal Act (LWA), as amended. To the extent that DOE has not provided EPA with documentation attesting to compliance with DOE orders, notices, and directives pertaining to public health, safety, and the environment for that period, EPA cannot determine DOE's compliance with respect to Section 9(a)(1)(G) and, in