

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6984-3]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; "General Administration Request for Assistance Programs (Lobbying & Litigation Certification Amendment)"**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following amendment to an existing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): General Administration Request for Assistance Programs (Lobbying & Litigation Certification Amendment), EPA ICR #0938.08, OMB #2030-0020. Before submitting the amendment to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Grants and Debarment, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. A copy of the ICR may be obtained at no charge by contacting Bill Hedling at the above address or at www.hedling.william@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Hedling, phone: (202) 564-5377, FAX: 202-565-2470, or e-mail at www.hedling.william@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Affected entities include not-for-profit institutions, educational institutions, state, local or tribal governments and other entities receiving assistance awards under EPA's fiscal years (FY) 2000 and 2001 Appropriations Acts. Depending on future EPA Appropriations Act language, this requirement may also apply to these entities that receive assistance awards in subsequent fiscal years. Recipients of fellowship awards and other individuals receiving assistance awards are not affected.

Estimated Number of Recipients: Approximately 2000 annually.

Frequency of Response: Once per project or annually.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 166 hours annually for all recipients.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost (non-labor) Burden: \$0.00.

Title: "General Administration Request for Assistance Programs (Lobbying & Litigation Certification Amendment)" OMB #2030-0020, EPA ICR #0938.08, expiring 12/31/2002.

Abstract: Public Law 106-377, § 424 of the FY 2001 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act (Appropriations Act) requires "A chief officer of any entity receiving funds under this Act shall certify that none of the funds have been used to engage in the lobbying of the Federal Government or in litigation against the United States unless authorized under existing law." Public Law 106-74, section 426 of the FY 2000 Appropriations Act contains a similar provision. These provisions impose additional information collection requirements on EPA assistance agreements and thus necessitate an amendment to the existing ICR.

The sole purpose of the certification is to validate that a chief executive officer of any entity receiving EPA assistance funds has certified that none of the funds were used in lobbying the Federal Government or in litigation against the United States. The certification will consist of a one-paragraph form that will be signed by a chief executive officer. It will normally be submitted with the final Financial Status Report. Recipients with multiple awards may choose to submit one certification covering all their awards on an annual basis.

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: It is projected that the time involved in signing this certification is minimal. The estimate of increased time to sign this certification is five minutes.

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: May 17, 2001.

Howard F. Corcoran,

Director, Office of Grants and Debarment.

[FR Doc. 01-13410 Filed 5-25-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6983-9]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program, EPA ICR Number 1736.02, OMB Control Number 2060-0328, expiring on 9/30/2001. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., MC 6202J, Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by writing to the above address or downloading it off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1736.02.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Gunning at EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program by phone at (202) 564-9736, by email at gunning.paul@epa.gov, or by fax at (202) 565-2254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected Entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which produce, process, transport, and distribute natural gas.

Title: "Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program", EPA ICR Number 1736.02, OMB Control Number 2060-0328, expiring on 9/30/2001.

Abstract: Natural Gas STAR is an EPA-sponsored, voluntary program that encourages natural gas companies to adopt cost effective methods for reducing methane emissions. Natural Gas STAR Partners agree to implement cost-effective Best Management Practices, which will save participants money and improve environmental quality. EPA needs to collect information to establish program participation and to obtain general information on new Natural Gas STAR Partners. EPA also uses the information collection to evaluate a Partner's progress and performance, assess overall program results, and develop technical guidance documents for the benefit of the industry. Information collection is accomplished through the use of an annual reporting process that allows companies to report their accomplishments in either a traditional hard-copy format or electronically. Participation in Natural Gas STAR is voluntary. Natural Gas STAR Partners may designate information submitted under this ICR as confidential business information. EPA will treat all such information as confidential business information and will not make the company or agency-specific information collected under this ICR available to the general 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. 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: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 47 hours per facility. 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.

Respondents/Affected Entities: 90.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 90.

Frequency of Response: varies.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 4,230 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$310,002.

Dated: May 11, 2001.

Kathleen Hogan,

Director, Climate Protection Partnership Division.

[FR Doc. 01-13419 Filed 5-25-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[IN 130; FRL-6984-5]

Adequacy Status of Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana Submitted Ozone Attainment Demonstration and Post 1999 Rate of Progress Plan for Transportation Conformity Purposes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy.

SUMMARY: In this notice, EPA is notifying the public that EPA has found that the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana (Northwest Indiana) ozone attainment demonstration and post 1999 Rate of Progress (ROP) plan are adequate for conformity purposes. These documents contain motor vehicle emission budgets for VOC for 2002, 2005, and 2007 and for NO_x for 2007. On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that submitted State Implementation Plans (SIPs) cannot be used for conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. As a result of our finding, Northwest Indiana can use the motor vehicle emissions budgets from the submitted ozone attainment demonstration and the submitted post 1999 ROP plan for future conformity determinations. These budgets are effective June 13, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The finding and the response to comments will be available at EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/transp/>, (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity").

Ryan Bahr, Environmental Engineer, Regulation Development Section (AR-18J), Air Programs Branch, Air and Radiation Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353-4366, bahr.ryan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Throughout this document, whenever "we," "us" or "our" is used, we mean EPA. Today's notice is simply an announcement of a finding that we have already made. EPA Region 5 sent a letter to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on May 9, 2001, stating that the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Northwest Indiana submitted ozone attainment demonstration and ROP plan for 2002,