

OMITTED
 CAG-25.
 DOCKET# RP99-471 000, WILLIAMS
 FIELD SERVICES GROUP, INC. V. EL
 PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY
 CAG-26.
 OMITTED
 CAG-27.
 DOCKET# CP98-49 004, KN
 WATTENBERG TRANSMISSION
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Hydro Agenda

H-1.
 RESERVED

Electric Agenda

E-1.
 OMITTED

Oil and Gas Agenda

I.
 PIPELINE RATE MATTERS
 PR-1.
 RESERVED
 II.
 PIPELINE CERTIFICATE MATTERS
 PC-1.
 RESERVED

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-29252 Filed 11-4-99; 11:25 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6472-1]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Emergency Planning and Release Notification Requirements (EPCRA Sections 302, 303, and 304)

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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Emergency Planning and Release Notification Requirement (EPCRA sections 302, 303, and 304), OMB Control No. 2050-0092, expires January 31, 2000. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 8, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
 Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by email at

farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov, or download a copy of the ICR off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1395.04.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Emergency Planning and Release Notification Requirements (EPCRA sections 302, 303, and 304), OMB Control No. 2050-0092, ICR No. 1395.04, expiring January 31, 2000. This information collection is an extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: EPCRA established broad emergency planning and facility reporting requirements. Section 302 (40 CFR 355.30) requires any facility where an extremely hazardous substance (EHS) is present in an amount at or in excess of the threshold planning quantity (TPQ) to notify the state emergency response commission (SERC) by May 17, 1987. This activity has been completed; only new facilities are subject to this requirement. Section 303 (40 CFR 355.30) requires local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) to prepare emergency plans for facilities that have EHSs in excess of the TPQs in their local planning district. Facilities are required to provide local planners with information necessary for the preparation of emergency plans. Section 303 requires LEPCs to complete their emergency plans by October 17, 1988. This activity has been also completed; this ICR only covers any updates for these emergency response plans. Section 304 (40 CFR 355.40) requires facilities to report to SERCs and LEPCs releases in excess of quantities established by EPA. Facilities are required to report releases above the reportable quantity (RQ) of any EHS. This ICR covers the notification and the written follow-up required under this section.

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 Federal Register document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on August 5, 1999 (64 FR 42687); one comment was received.

Burden Statement: The average reporting burden for emergency planning under 40 CFR 355.30 is 17.65 hours for new and newly regulated facilities and 12.5 hours for existing facilities.

For new and newly regulated facilities, this burden includes the time required to read and understand the

regulations, to determine reporting status, notify the SERC that the facility is subject to emergency planning, designate a facility representative and otherwise participate in initial planning activities. For certain existing facilities, this burden includes the time required to inform the LEPC of any changes at a facility that may affect emergency planning, and provide information to the LEPC for planning purposes. The average reporting burden for facilities reporting releases under 40 CFR 355.40 is estimated to average approximately 5 hours per release, including the time for determining if the release is a reportable quantity, notifying the LEPC and SERC, or the 911 operator, and developing and submitting a written follow-up notice. There are not recordkeeping requirements for facilities under EPCRA Sections 302-304.

The average burden for emergency planning activities under 40 CFR 300.215 is 21 hours per plan for LEPCs, 16 hours per plan for SERCs. Each SERC and LEPC is also estimated to incur an annual recordkeeping burden of 10 hours. The total burden to facilities over the three-year information collection period is estimated to be 269,200 hours, at a cost of \$7.8 million. The total burden for SERCs and LEPCs over the three-year information collection period is estimated to be 486,000 hours at a cost of \$11.6 million.

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:

Facilities where EHS's are present, LEPCs and SERCs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 99,170.

Frequency of Response: Section 302 respondents will comply with requirements once unless new information becomes available. Section 303 respondents will comply with requirements as requested by LEPCs; LEPCs may have to update their local emergency response plans as new

facilities or other information such as new chemicals present at or above a TPQ. Section 304 respondents will comply when there is a release of an EHS above the RQ.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 251,700 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Capital and Operating & Maintenance Cost Burden: \$64,000.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1395.04 and OMB Control No. 2050-0092 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460;

and
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: November 3, 1999.

Richard T. Westlund,

Acting Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 99-29182 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00281; FRL-6389-5]

Notice of Availability of FY 2000 Grant Funds for Technical Studies

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of funds availability.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting pre-application grant proposals for technical studies to minimize lead hazards to occupants from home improvement projects, repainting projects, renovation projects and remodeling projects. EPA anticipates that approximately \$700,000 will be available in Fiscal Year 2000, with individual grants/cooperative agreements awarded in the range of \$60,000 to \$100,000. Decisions on awarding of these grant funds will be made based on the evaluation of pre-application grant proposals. The primary purpose of this grant program is to fund technical studies to gain knowledge that will lead to the minimization of lead hazards to

occupants from home improvement projects, repainting projects, renovation projects, and remodeling projects. EPA will consider awarding these grant funds for technical studies of the topics listed in Unit V. of this notice. EPA will also consider awarding these grant funds for technical studies that are not specifically mentioned in this notice, but are relevant to the minimization of lead hazards to occupants from home improvement projects, repainting projects, renovation projects, and remodeling projects. In such instances, the applicant should describe how the proposed technical study addresses the primary purpose of this notice.

DATES: All pre-application grant proposals must be post-marked by January 12, 2000, and must be received by January 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit pre-application proposals to: John Schwemberger, Mail Code 7404, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Room E-813B, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Schwemberger, Technical Branch, National Program Chemicals Division (7404), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Rm. E-813B, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC, 20460, (202) 260-7195, fax: (202) 260-0001, e-mail: schwemberger.john@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Does this Notice Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to those persons or organizations that wish to obtain funding from the Federal government to conduct or complete a technical study related to lead hazards from renovation and remodeling (R&R)¹. Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT."

II. Scope and Purpose of this Grant Program

A. Findings from EPA Research on Renovation and Remodeling Activities

Over the past several years, EPA has engaged in a series of data collection efforts to investigate lead exposure

¹ In the rest of this notice, the terms "renovation and remodeling activities," "renovation and remodeling," and "R&R" will be used to refer to home improvement projects, repainting projects, renovation projects, and remodeling projects.

associated with R&R activities. These studies, collectively referred to as the R&R Study, have focused on lead exposure associated with a wide variety of work activities typically conducted during R&R.

Analysis of environmental data from the R&R Study indicates that substantial quantities of lead can be produced or released during R&R activities. The cleanup methods commonly employed by R&R workers (broom or "shopvac") are generally not effective in reducing the environmental lead to levels considered safe by EPA. In addition, examination of blood lead measurements of child occupants has demonstrated significant associations between some R&R activities and elevated blood lead levels.

The results of the EPA R&R Study have been published in a series of reports available free of charge from the National Lead Information Center by calling 1-800-424-LEAD. Request the reports "Lead Exposure Associated with Renovation and Remodeling Activities: Summary Report" (EPA Report 747-R-96-005); "Lead Exposure Associated with Renovation and Remodeling Activities: Environmental Field Sampling Study, Volume I: Technical Report" (EPA Report 747-R-96-007); "Lead Exposure Associated with Renovation and Remodeling Activities: Environmental Field Sampling Study, Volume II: Appendices" (EPA Report 747-R-96-008); and "Lead Exposure Associated with Renovation and Remodeling Activities: Worker Characterization and Blood Lead Study" (EPA Report 747-R-96-006).

B. Recent NHANES Study

Data from the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III) confirm the findings of earlier surveys that children who live in older housing are more vulnerable to lead poisoning, and have blood-lead levels that are elevated above the national average. Older residences tend to contain both lead-based paint and lead depositions from the fallout of vehicle exhaust that have accumulated over several decades. In addition, large or extensive R&R projects are often conducted in older houses. Since older houses contain more lead, conducting R&R activities in them can create an exposure hazard to the occupants.

C. Benefits of the Evaluation Program for Renovation and Remodeling

Every year thousands of residential R&R activities are conducted across the United States in homes which contain lead-based paint. In many of these cases, exposure to hazardous levels of lead