

1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on May 29, 2001, (66 FR 29126). No comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 41 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: Owners/operators of natural gas plants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 98.

Frequency of Response: 120.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 4,059 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Capital and Operating and Maintenance Cost Burden: \$480.

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 addresses listed above. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1736.03 and OMB Control No. 2060-0328 in any correspondence.

Dated: September 24, 2001.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 01-24899 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7074-3]

Proposed Settlement Agreement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement agreement; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act, as amended,

42 U.S.C. 7413(g), notice is hereby given of a proposed settlement agreement in *American Portland Cement Alliance v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, No. 99-1322 (D.C. Cir.). This case concerns a challenge to the rule entitled National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories: Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry, published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 31898 on June 14, 1999. The proposed settlement provides that EPA will propose revisions to the rule that would amend some of the provisions which implement the emission standards, and that EPA will make certain interpretive clarifications regarding the rule's applicability.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, EPA will receive written comments relating to the settlement from persons who were not named as parties to the litigation in question. EPA or the Department of Justice may withhold or withdraw consent to the proposed settlement if the comments disclose facts or circumstances that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Copies of the settlement are available from Phyllis Cochran, (202) 564-5566. Written comments should be sent to Steven Silverman, Office of General Counsel (2366A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, and must be submitted on or before November 5, 2001.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

Alan W. Eckert,

Associate General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-24906 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7074-4]

Clean Air Act; Contractor Access to Confidential Business Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has contracted with The Bionetics Corporation to provide assistance in the enforcement of regulatory requirements under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act, from May 30, 2001, until May 31,

2006. The Bionetics Corporation has been authorized to have access to information submitted to EPA under these statutes that may be claimed and determined to be confidential business information.

DATES: This notice is effective October 4, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Ruske, Environmental Scientist, USEPA, Mail Code (2242A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Telephone: (202) 564-1033. Fax: (202) 564-1024. Internet mail address: ruske.ross@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has authorized access for The Bionetics Corporation ("Bionetics"), a contractor, to information submitted to the EPA under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Some of this information may be claimed and determined to be confidential business information ("CBI"). The EPA contract number is 68-W-01-035.

The Bionetics corporate address is: The Bionetics Corporation, 11833 Canon Boulevard, Suite #100, Newport News, VA 23606.

Under the contract, Bionetics provides enforcement support to the Air Enforcement Division, Office of Regulatory Enforcement, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in a number of activities primarily related to the Clean Air Act. The contractor may also be called upon to provide support to other EPA offices under the other statutes. The activities in which Bionetics provides enforcement support include, but are not limited to:

Inspections and audits of facilities that produce, import, store, transport, dispense or analyze motor vehicle fuel; and,

Inspections and audits of facilities that produce, distribute, sell or repair motor vehicles, motor vehicle engines, or non-road engines.

The type of information that may be disclosed includes, but are not limited to: Records related to the production, importation, distribution, sale, storage, testing and transportation of gasoline, gasoline blendstocks, diesel fuel, diesel fuel blendstocks, and detergent additives; and records related to the manufacture, importation, emission certification, emission testing, emission control warranty, repair, modification and fueling of motor vehicles, motor vehicle engines, non-road mobile source engines, and stationary source engines.

It is necessary for Bionetics to have access to these records in order to

prepare reports that EPA uses to evaluate whether regulated parties are in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements under the above listed statutes. Bionetics may be assisted in these activities by a subcontractor, Patterson & Associates of Houston, Texas, working under Bionetics subcontract No. 017-001.

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.301(h)(2), EPA has determined that disclosure of confidential business information to Bionetics and its subcontractor is necessary for these entities to carry out the work required by this contract. EPA is issuing this notice to inform all submitters of information to the EPA under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act, that EPA may allow access to CBI contained in such submittals to Bionetics and their subcontractor as necessary to carry out work under this contract. Disclosure of CBI under this contract may continue until May 31, 2006.

As required by 40 CFR 2.301(h)(2), the Bionetics contract includes provisions to assure the appropriate treatment of CBI disclosed to contractors and subcontractors. Similar requirements are contained under 40 CFR 2.302(h), 40 CFR 2.305(h), and 40 CFR 2.306(j), for the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act, respectively. The notice is intended to meet the requirements of these regulations as well.

Dated: September 28, 2001.

Bruce C. Buckheit,

Director, Air Enforcement Division.

[FR Doc. 01-24908 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OEI-10010; FRL 6723-3]

Office of Environmental Information; Draft Data Standard for Exchange of Environmental Permitting Information and Draft Data Standard for Exchange of Enforcement and Compliance Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of information availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice of availability is hereby given for a 45-day public comment period on two draft data standards: Permitting Data Standard,

and, Enforcement and Compliance Data Standard. These draft standards consist of a list of data elements, definitions for these elements, notes and explanatory preamble language. The draft standards were developed by the partnership efforts of States, Indian Tribes and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) participating in the Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC). The EDSC convened Action Teams consisting of representatives from EPA, States and Tribes to develop these core sets of data elements to facilitate the sharing of information regarding environmental permitting and enforcement and compliance activities. The EPA and the EDSC invite comment on these standards from States, EPA and Tribes and database managers in the public and private sectors and the general public with interest in development and use of environmental program permitting and enforcement and compliance data.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Electronic Access and Filing of Comments—You may view and download the draft data standards and related explanatory material at the EDSC Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/edsc/> in the area of the site marked “Announcements”. The draft data standards can also be viewed and downloaded at the EPA Environmental Data Registry (EDR) at <http://www.epa.gov/edr/> in the area of the site marked “Data Standards”. Or for those with password access, at the WISER portion of the State/EPA Website at: <http://www.sso.org/ecos/wiser/>

You may submit comments via electronic mail (e-mail) to William Sonntag (sonntag.william@epa.gov) as a WordPerfect or Word file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments may also be mailed to: OEI Docket; USEPA, 401 M. Street SW Washington, DC. 20460, Docket Number: OEI-10010:FRL 6723-3. If you require a paper copy be sent to you, you must contact the OEI Docket; USEPA, 401 M. Street, SW, Washington, DC. 20460, Docket Number: OEI-10010:FRL 6723-3.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information concerning today's Notice you may contact: William A. Sonntag, Office of Environmental Information, Office of Information Collection, MC-2822, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20460 (202 260-0633).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) Background

Data sharing has become an increasingly important aspect of sound environmental management. States, Tribes and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) together face the critical challenge of sharing information among themselves and with their respective stakeholders and public. Fundamental to the seamless exchange of data are data standards. Data standards help improve the ability of partners (internal and external) to exchange data efficiently and accurately and also assist secondary users of data to understand, interpret, and use data appropriately. Recognition of the need for EPA, States and Tribes to develop and agree upon data standards for environmental information sharing has lead to the creation of the Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC). Data standards are documented agreements on formats and definitions of data elements. Standards will be developed only when there is an environmental management business reason.

The EDSC's mission is to promote the efficient sharing of environmental information between EPA, States, Tribes and other parties through the development of data standards. The EDSC identified permitting, and enforcement and compliance as areas of information for which having standards will create value to all interested parties. An Action Team deliberation process bringing together State, EPA and Tribal parties began in August 2000 for these two standards areas. Draft standards were delivered to the EDSC for consideration in June 2001 and approved for initiation of this 45-day public comment period in September 2001.

After the comment period announced in this Notice, the EDSC and its Action Teams will review comments received and make appropriate modifications. The EDSC will then consider and approve of these data standards as appropriate. EDSC approval does not bind an individual agency to using a standard. It will be up to the individual agency to determine if, when, and how it might use a standard developed under the auspices of the EDSC. It will be the intent of EPA to adopt and implement the consistent use of EDSC-approved standards in its information systems and programs.

II. Enforcement & Compliance Draft Data Standard Background

The Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) chartered the