

associated with them, (2) determine whether employees have acquired the necessary expertise to perform their jobs, and (3) determine whether LQGs have developed adequate procedures to respond to unplanned sudden or non-sudden releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents to air, soil, or surface water. This information is also needed to help EPA determine whether tank systems are operated in a manner that is fully protective of human health and the environment and to ensure that releases to the environment are managed quickly and efficiently.

Additionally, this information contributes to EPA's goal of preventing contamination of the environment from hazardous waste accumulation practices, including contamination from equipment leaks and process vents. Export information is needed to ensure that (1) foreign governments consent to U.S. exported wastes, (2) exported waste is actually managed at facilities listed in the original notifications, and (3) documents are available for compliance audits and enforcement actions. In general, these requirements contribute to EPA's goal of preventing contamination of the environment. 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 9/3/97 (62 FR 46491); no comments were received.

Burden Statement: The average annual public reporting burden per response for LQGs under this collection of information is estimated to range from 21 minutes to 32 hours, and the average annual public reporting burden per response for SQGs is estimated to range from 21 minutes to 7 hours. The average annual recordkeeping burden per response for LQGs under this collection of information is estimated to range from 27 minutes to 1 hour, and the average annual recordkeeping burden per response for SQGs is estimated to range from 18 minutes to 45 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.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Hazardous Waste Generators, Hazardous Waste Transporters who commingle waste with different Department of Transportation descriptions; and Importers or Exporters of Hazardous Waste.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 244,932.

Frequency of Response: On Occasion.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 282,696 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$1,867,304.

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. 0820.07 and OMB Control No. 2050-0035—in any correspondence:

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. (or E-Mail Farmer.Sandy@epamail.epa.gov) 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: December 16, 1997.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 97-33326 Filed 12-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5938-2]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Application for Preauthorization of a CERCLA Response Action

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C.

3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval:

Application for Preauthorization of a CERCLA Response; OMB Control No. 2050-0106; expiring on January 31, 1998. 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 January 21, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the ICR call Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260-2740, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr/icr.htm>. Refer to EPA ICR No. 1304.05.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Application for Preauthorization of a CERCLA Response (OMB Control No. 2050-0106; EPA ICR No. 1304.05) expiring 1/31/98. This is a renewal of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: This statement supports the request for renewal of the information collection requirements contained in EPA's final rule "Response Claims Procedures for the Hazardous Substance Superfund" (40 CFR part 307), hereinafter referred to as the RCP. The RCP was promulgated on January 21, 1993, and the ICR for this rule needs to be renewed. The information collection requirements under the RCP will provide the information necessary to fulfill the statutory requirements of section 112 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

Under section 111(a)(2) of CERCLA, claimants are authorized to be reimbursed from the Hazardous Substance Superfund (the Fund) for necessary response costs incurred as a result of carrying out the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP, 40 CFR Part 300). In addition, section 122(b)(1) of CERCLA provides the President (EPA, by delegation under Executive Order (E.O.) 12580) with the discretionary authority to enter into agreements with potentially responsible parties (PRPs), whereby the PRPs will perform a preauthorized phase of a response action in return for reimbursement of an agreed-on portion of response costs from the Fund (i.e., a "mixed-funding" agreement).

Section 112(b)(1) of CERCLA authorizes EPA (as delegated by E.O. 12580) to prescribe the appropriate

forms and procedures for filing response claims against the Fund, including a provision requiring the claimant to make a sworn verification of the claim to the best of his/her knowledge. EPA has promulgated the RCP pursuant to the section 112 authority.

Under the RCP and pursuant to sections 111(a)(2) and 122(b)(1) of CERCLA, individuals, private entities, and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) (including States and political subdivisions) are eligible to submit claims against the Fund for reimbursement of response costs. As specified by section 111(a)(2) of CERCLA and section 300.700(d) of the NCP, all proposed response actions must be approved in advance by EPA through the preauthorization process in order for a subsequent claim to be awarded. Applicants may obtain preauthorization from EPA for proposed response actions by completing and submitting the "Application for Preauthorization of a CERCLA Response Action" (EPA Form 2075-3). EPA will review and evaluate such applications and will respond in writing to applicants within approximately 45 days of receipt of a completed application. After completing this review, EPA will develop a Preauthorization Decision Document (PDD). The PDD will establish a record of the Agency's preauthorization decision and will contain the terms and conditions that must be satisfied for the applicant to be reimbursed from the Fund.

After an applicant has obtained preauthorization from EPA and has completed the preauthorized response action (or a preauthorized phase of a response action), he/she may submit a claim for reimbursement of the resultant response costs. In order to file a claim, the claimant must complete and submit to EPA the "Claim for CERCLA Response Action" (EPA Form 2075-41). EPA will review and evaluate the information contained on the completed claim form and will make a determination on whether to award or deny the claim, in whole or in part.

The application for preauthorization and the claim form may be obtained from any of the EPA Regional Offices, and shall be submitted to the appropriate EPA Regional Office for review. The EPA Regional Office will review and evaluate the application for preauthorization and the claim form in coordination with the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and other offices, as necessary. Both forms will be evaluated

according to the criteria set forth in the RCP. The information contained on the application and the claim form will be retained in the EPA Regional Office for three years after the completion of a project and will be available (if not deemed confidential), upon request, to the public through the public docket in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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 8/4/97 (62 FR 41962); no comments were received.

Burden Statement: EPA estimates that five preauthorization requests will be submitted annually with an average of 258 work hours per request. It is estimated that 12 claim applications will be submitted annually with an average of 42 work hours per claim. Once claims are awarded, claimants will have to maintain records for 10 years. Record maintenance will be performed by 10 claimants annually at an average of 15 hours per activity. The total annual costs will be \$107,650.

The total burden hours for completing the preauthorization application, the claim form, and maintaining necessary records is an average of 317 hours. Total annual average burden for all respondents is 1,968 hours.

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.

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.1304.05 and OMB Control No.2050-0106 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460 (or email Farmer.Sandy@epamail.epa.gov).

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: December 16, 1997.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 97-33327 Filed 12-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Notice of Agency Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b), notice is hereby given that at 10:10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 1997, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation met in closed session to consider matters relating to the Corporation's personnel and supervisory activities.

In calling the meeting, the Board determined, on motion of Director Joseph H. Neely (Appointive), seconded by Director Ellen S. Seidman (Director, Office of Thrift Supervision), concurred in by Director Eugene A. Ludwig (Comptroller of the Currency), and Acting Chairman Andrew C. Hove, Jr., that Corporation business required its consideration of the matters on less than seven days' notice to the public; that no earlier notice of the meeting was practicable; that the public interest did not require consideration of the matters in a meeting open to public observation; and that the matters could be considered in a closed meeting by authority of subsections (c)(2), (c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), and (c)(9)(A)(ii) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b (c)(2), (c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), and (c)(9)(A)(ii)).

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the FDIC Building located at 550 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

James D. LaPierre,

Deputy Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-33419 Filed 12-18-97; 1034 am]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-M