

and the benefits of informed choices? How much do they care? Who are credible sources of information for the air quality and public health message? How far is the public willing to go in commitment of time and money to ensure air quality? What are possible incentives to encourage people to make environmentally responsible choices? Have we been successful in our efforts to encourage informed choices?

Prior to materials production, we will conduct focus groups to test draft public education concepts and materials with proposed audiences to ensure appropriateness and effectiveness. Our goal will be to ensure that products produced will meet the needs of the public for which they're intended.

Finally, we intend to gather information about existing mobile source-related public education efforts from state and local air and transportation management agencies, industry, public health and other partners in order to maximize public benefit and minimize possibilities for duplication of effort. This will allow us to utilize limited federal resources responsibly.

Information will be gathered through telephone and in-person surveys, focus groups, questionnaires and evaluation forms and targeted meetings. Information will be gathered on both the state and local levels to support community-based projects and the national level to support long-term national outreach efforts. Participation in information-gathering is strictly voluntary.

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 number for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9.

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;

- (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:** Respondents/Affected Entities: Those who have an interest in the reduction of air emissions from mobile sources

**Estimated number of Respondents:** 1700 per year.

**Frequency of Response:** One per year per respondent.

**Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:** 2310 hours.

**Estimated Burden per Respondent:** 1 hour 20 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden:** none to respondents; no additional cost to agency staff.

This estimate includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purpose 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: December 17, 1997.

**Robert Brenner,**

*Program Official.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5940-6]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that EPA is planning to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow the Agency to continue collecting data for the Natural Gas STAR Program. Information is required from participants ("Partners") in the Natural Gas STAR Program. Partners develop a Memorandum of Understanding, develop an implementation plan, and report to EPA annually on progress towards meeting the goals identified in the implementation plan. This ICR is a reinstatement of a previously approved information collection. Before

submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before March 2, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to the Docket Clerk (Docket No. 97-62), located in the USEPA, Office of Air & Radiation. One original and two copies of each comment should be submitted. Hand delivery of comments should be made to: Air Docket, USEPA, MC 6102, 401 M Street, SW., room M 1500, Washington, DC 20460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rhone Resch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division (6202J), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460, or call (202) 564-9793.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Information Collection Requests

EPA is seeking comment on the ICR for the Natural Gas STAR Program (EPA ICR 1736.02). This ICR requests approval for renewal of an existing collection.

**Affected Entities:** Entities affected by this action are natural gas production, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities.

**Abstract:** The Natural Gas STAR Program is an EPA-sponsored, voluntary program that encourages cost effective methods for reducing methane emissions from natural gas production, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities. Partners determine and implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce methane emissions, are cost effective for the industry, and can increase competitiveness and maintain or enhance natural gas delivery service. Participants develop a Memorandum of Understanding, develop an implementation plan, and report to EPA annually on progress towards meeting the goals identified in the implementation plan.

**Burden Statement:** The estimated average public burden per respondent for new Partners is 45 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing the collection of information.

**Respondents:** Natural gas production, storage, transmission, and distribution companies.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 140-67 new Partners and 74 existing Partners.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 6,300 hours.

*Frequency of Collection:* As needed.

## II. Requests for Comments

The Agency will begin an effort to examine the information requested and consider options for reducing their burden and increasing the usefulness of the information collected by these forms. The Agency would appreciate any information on the users of this information, how they use this information, how the information could be improved, and how the burden for these forms can be reduced. In addition, the Agency is also soliciting comments that:

(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.

## III. Public Docket

A record has been established for this action under docket number 97-62. A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from USEPA's Office of Air & Radiation. The public record is located at the Air Docket, USEPA, MC 6102, 401 M Street., SW., room M 1500, Washington, DC 20460.

Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to: Rhone Resch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division (6202J), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460, or call (202) 564-9793.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

**Paul Stolpman,**

*Director, Office of Air and Radiation.*

[FR Doc. 97-33961 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5940-5]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that EPA is planning to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow the Agency to continue collecting data for the AgSTAR Program. Information is required from participants ("Partners" and "Allies") in the AgSTAR Program. Partners, primarily livestock producers, complete a Memorandum of Understanding, develop an implementation plan, and report to EPA annually on progress towards meeting the goals identified in the implementation plan. Allies, primarily utilities and marketers of methane recovery technologies or related associations, complete a Memorandum of Understanding and obtain EPA approval to use EPA-developed materials or reproduction of materials bearing the AgSTAR logo. This ICR is a reinstatement of a previously approved information collection. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before March 2, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to the Docket Clerk (Docket No. 97-61), located in the USEPA, Office of Air & Radiation. One original and two copies of each comment should be submitted. Hand delivery of comments should be made to: Air Docket, USEPA, MC 6102, 401 M Street., SW., room M 1500, Washington, DC 20460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kurt Roos, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division (6202J), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460, or call (202) 564-9041.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Information Collection Requests

EPA is seeking comment on the ICR for the AgSTAR Program (EPA ICR 1735.02). This ICR requests approval for renewal of an existing collection.

**Affected Entities:** Entities affected by this action are livestock producers, utilities, vendors and universities.

**Abstract:** AgSTAR is an EPA-sponsored, voluntary program that encourages livestock producers to implement methane recovery technologies to increase livestock production profit margins and reduce emissions from manure methane, a greenhouse gas. AgSTAR further encourages utilities, regulatory agencies and universities to support and promote the use of methane recovery technologies. The AgSTAR program consists of two types of participants: "Partners" and "Allies." Partners, who are primarily livestock producers, complete a Memorandum of Understanding, develop an implementation plan, and report to EPA annually on progress towards meeting the goals identified in the implementation plan. Allies, primarily utilities and marketers of methane recovery technologies or related associations, complete a Memorandum of Understanding and obtain EPA approval to use EPA-developed materials or reproduction of materials bearing the AgSTAR logo.

**Burden Statement:** The estimated average public burden per respondent for new Partners and Allies is five hours per Partner response and nine hours per Ally, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing the collection of information.

**Respondents:** Livestock producers, utilities, vendors and universities.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 625.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 3,500 hours.

**Frequency of Collection:** As needed.

## II. Requests for Comments

The Agency will begin an effort to examine the information requested and consider options for reducing their burden and increasing the usefulness of the information collected by these forms. The Agency would appreciate any information on the users of this information, how they use this information, how the information could be improved, and how the burden for these forms can be reduced. In addition, the Agency is also soliciting comments that:

(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,