

*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]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## 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,

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 97-61. 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, 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: 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.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

**Paul Stolpman,**

*Director, Office of Air and Radiation.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5941-8]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Compliance Information Project, EPA ICR No. 1802.01

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Compliance Information Project (CIP), EPA ICR 1802.01. 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 February 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of Planning and Policy Analyses; U.S. EPA; 401 M Street, SW (2201A); Washington, DC 20460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Stoody, (202) 564-5118 / (202) 501-0701 (fax), Office of Planning and Policy Analysis, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected Entities:** State compliance and enforcement personnel, especially field inspectors.

**Title:** Compliance Information Project (CIP)(EPA ICR No. 1802.01).

**Abstract:** The Compliance Information Project (CIP) is a new approach under development by the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) to gather and analyze compliance information that is not already routinely collected by EPA and State environmental personnel in evaluating compliance for planning and targeting purposes. The Agency is conducting the CIP to address concerns that our present methods and processes for identifying and using compliance information do not capture, internalize or use all of the compliance information potentially available to the Agency or the States.

The purpose of the CIP is to identify external compliance information which is readily available to the Agency or the States, but uncaptured or unutilized by current systems or methods. Uncaptured and unutilized compliance information is outside, or external to, the present knowledge base. For the purposes of this Project, such unaccounted for compliance information may be referred to as an "information externality." An information externality becomes internalized when EPA or the States collect and use it. Two examples are unutilized studies, reports, or audits produced by States, private parties, or other government agencies, and observations by field personnel which, for one reason or another, escape our traditional methods for collecting and documenting information.

The CIP is designed to channel unidentified or unutilized compliance information to the personnel who design and implement our information, targeting, and planning systems. The Agency will use the CIP to internalize compliance information externalities by collecting and cataloging this information, identifying issues or possible conclusions, and passing the information on to the appropriate

government personnel for further analysis and use. Such compliance information may fill gaps in the Agency's or the States' databases, guide us to previously unidentified compliance problems, enhance our ability to describe our successes, or help us in other ways.

Through the CIP, EPA will collect information in the form of compliance reports, studies and published articles on compliance with Federal environmental statutes. The Agency will also conduct field personnel roundtable interviews in each of the ten EPA Regions, and invite a representative from each State to participate along with Regional personnel. The Agency will provide interview guides to each of the participants in advance of the roundtable. Participants unable to attend the roundtable may respond in writing. Participants attending the roundtable may prepare advance comments and forward them to the CIP staff. Non-Federal respondents may include State compliance and enforcement personnel, especially field inspectors. Responses to the information collection request are voluntary and not required to obtain or retain any benefit. The Agency will not ask for nor collect, as part of this project, references to specific persons, facilities, or cases. The Agency will use information received to make observations and draw inferences where appropriate. The Agency will not, however, conduct a statistical analysis of the results.

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. In any event, EPA is seeking the voluntary participation of State environmental enforcement personnel and has no intention of requiring a State response. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

EPA is soliciting 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.