

Response: Marketing expenses have been changing markedly over the past few years primarily because of the Open Access Tariff orders promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These changes have been complex and dramatic. Southeastern believes that changes like these may continue because of the volatility of the industry. However, Southeastern does not know of any specific changes which would affect the marketing expense.

22. *Comment:* Southeastern should return the losses to the customers that gave up the losses beginning in October 1, 1996.

Response: Southeastern agrees and plans to return the capacity to the customers in the Southern Company area during fiscal year 1999. The repayment study includes the return of the capacity effective the beginning of fiscal year 2000.

Environmental Impact

Southeastern has reviewed the possible environmental impacts of the rate adjustment under consideration and has concluded that, because the adjusted rates would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the proposed action is not a major federal action for which preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Availability of Information

The rates hereinafter confirmed and approved on an interim basis, together with supporting documents, will be submitted promptly to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for confirmation and approval on a final basis for a period beginning on October 1, 1998, and ending no later than September 30, 2003.

Order

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Energy, I hereby confirm and approve on an interim basis, effective October 1, 1998, attached Wholesale Power Rate Schedules SOCO-1, SOCO-2, SOCO-3, SOCO-4, ALA-1-I, MISS-1-I, Duke-1, Duke-2, Duke-3, Duke-4, Santee-1, Santee-2, Santee-3, Santee-4, SCE&G-1, SCE&G-2, SCE&G-3, SCE&G-4, and Pump-1. The Rate Schedules shall remain in effect on an interim basis through September 30, 2003, unless such period is extended or until the FERC confirms and approves them or substitute Rate Schedules on an final basis.

Dated: September 18, 1998.
Elizabeth A. Moler,
Deputy Secretary.
[FR Doc. 98-26463 Filed 10-2-98; 8:45 am]
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6172-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements Under EPA's Energy Star Homes Program

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 EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements under EPA's Energy Star Homes Program, EPA ICR No. 1879.01

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 December 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Commenters must send an original and two copies of their comments referencing EPA ICR No. 1879.01 Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements under EPA's Energy Star Homes Program to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division (Mail Code 6102), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (EPA, HQ), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Hand deliveries of comments should be made to Room M1500 at this address.

Comments may also be submitted electronically through the internet to: a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Comments in electronic format should also be identified by EPA ICR No. 1879.01 Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements under EPA's Energy Star Homes Program. All electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Public comments and supporting materials are available for viewing in the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, located at the address above. The Docket is open to

the public on all federal government work days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is recommended that the public make an appointment to review docket materials by calling (202) 260-7549. The Docket will accept phone and fax requests for material. Phone requests may be made using the phone number listed above, and fax requests may be submitted to (202) 260-4400. A reasonable fee is charged for the duplication of materials.

The official record for this action will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into paper form and place them in the official record, which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing.

EPA responses to comments, whether the comments are written or electronic, will be in a notice in the **Federal Register**. EPA will not immediately reply to commenters electronically other than seek clarification of electronic comments that may be garbled in transmission or during conversion to paper form, as discussed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information on specific aspects of this collection of information, contact Glenn Chinery, Atmospheric Pollution and Prevention Division (Mail Code 620J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460, Ph. (202) 564-9784 or chinery.glenn@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are general building contractors, operative builders, utilities, HERS (Home Energy Rating System) providers and new homebuyers.

Title: Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements under EPA's Energy Star Homes Program, EPA ICR No. 1879.01. OMB Control No. and expiration date are not applicable as this is a new ICR.

Abstract: EPA's Energy Star Homes Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory program initiated under the President's Global Climate Change Action Plan. The broad goal of the program is to demonstrate that energy efficient homes can help builders and related service providers meet key business objectives, improve home quality and homeowner comfort, lower energy demand, reduce air pollution and enhance the national economy. The program encourages residential home builders, developers, manufacturers, Home Energy Rating System (HERS) providers, utilities, service providers, government agencies and other organizations involved in the home building industry to promote energy efficiency in homes.

This Information Collection Request (ICR) covers recordkeeping and reporting activities for both participation in the Energy Star Homes Program as well as participation in a three-year impact evaluation of the Energy Star Homes Program. The results of the impact evaluation will be used to evaluate and improve the Energy Star Homes Program overall.

There are two ways to participate in the Energy Star Homes Program: either as a partner or as an ally. Builders and developers may become partners in the program, whereas, associations, financing companies, utilities, material manufacturers and rating companies may become allies of the program. Partners and allies can terminate their participation in the program at any time. Participation in the program begins with the completion and submittal to EPA of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines responsibilities of the Energy Star Homes partners and allies as well as EPA. Builders and developers that become partners in the program are required to build homes that are at least 30 percent more efficient than the National Model Energy Code (MEC) before they can use the Energy Star logo. Organizations that become allies of the program agree to promote the Energy Star program and consider opportunities to market the program.

The Energy Star Homes Program Impact Evaluation is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in meeting the program's stated objectives. The evaluation will cover Energy Star Homes built during 1997, 1998, and 1999. The evaluation consists of surveying Energy Star homebuyers, non-Energy Star homebuyers (hereafter referred to as "Control" homebuyers), Energy Star builder partners, energy suppliers, and HERS providers. By collecting information from these different constituents, EPA will be able to determine whether Energy Star homebuyers are satisfied with their purchase; builder partners are meeting their business objectives; and Energy Star homes are delivering the pollution prevention promised. EPA will ask respondents to receive and review the survey, complete the survey, and return the survey.

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.

EPA would like to solicit comments to:

- i. 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;
- ii. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- iii. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including 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: EPA will conduct a census of all Energy Star homes using information collected from HERS providers and expects to receive 1,000 responses the first year, 5,500 the second year and 14,000 the third year. The large increase in the number of responses by the end of the third year of the evaluation is due to the fact that EPA believes that there will be 20,500 Energy Star homes in the U.S. by the end of 1999. The agency will also conduct a census of Energy Star home builders. The agency expects to receive 600 responses the first year and 200 more in each of the subsequent years.

EPA will survey 686 Energy Star and control homebuyers each year. It expects to receive 343 responses each year from each group. The agency will also survey the energy suppliers of the homebuyers surveyed and expects to receive 686 responses each year.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.22 hours per respondent. There is no recordkeeping burden. It is expected that respondents will incur no capital costs. The aggregate bottom-line burden and cost for respondents is approximately 3198 hours per year with an annual cost of approximately \$171,072. The bottom line burden to the agency is approximately 7,700 hours per year, at a cost of approximately \$332,661 per year.

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.

Dated: September 24, 1998.

Glenn Chinery,

Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division.

[FR Doc. 98-26633 Filed 10-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PB-402404-OH-A; FRL-6030-7]

Lead-Based Paint Activities in Target Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities; Authorization of the Ohio Department of Health's Lead-Based Paint Activities Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; final approval of the Ohio Department of Health's lead-based paint activities program.

SUMMARY: On April 13, 1998, the State of Ohio submitted an application for EPA approval to administer and enforce training and certification requirements, training program accreditation requirements, and work practice standards for lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities under section 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Today's notice announces the approval of Ohio's application, and the authorization of the Ohio Department of Health's lead-based paint program to apply in the State of Ohio effective October 1, 1998, in lieu of the corresponding Federal program under section 402 of TSCA.

DATES: Lead-based paint activities program authorization was granted to the State of Ohio effective on October 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Turpin, Regional Lead Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region V, DT-8J, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Telephone: (312) 886-7836, e-mail address: turpin.david@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Pursuant to Title IV of TSCA, Lead Exposure Reduction, 15 U.S.C. 2681-2692, and regulations promulgated thereunder, States and Tribes that choose to apply for lead-based paint activities program authorization must submit a complete application to the appropriate Regional EPA office for review. Complete, final applications will be subject to a public comment period, and reviewed by EPA within