

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1.

- Reference Docket No. CP98-761-000; and
- *Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before November 9, 1998.*

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. *You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.*

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-27432 Filed 10-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6176-3]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request; Used Oil Management Standards Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

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 continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Used Oil Management Standards Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements, EPA ICR Number 1286, OMB Control Number 2050-0124, expires 3/31/1999. 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 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Commenters must send an original and two copies of their comments referencing docket number F-98-UOIP-FFFFF to: RCRA Docket Information Center, Office of Solid Waste (5305G), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (EPA, HQ), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Hand deliveries of comments should be made to the Arlington, VA, address below. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Internet to: rcra-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Comments in electronic format should also be identified by the docket number F-98-UOIP-FFFFF. All electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Commenters should not submit any confidential business information (CBI) electronically. An original and two copies of CBI must be submitted under separate cover to: RCRA CBI Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Public comments and supporting materials are available for viewing in the RCRA Information Center (RIC), located at Crystal Gateway I, First Floor, 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The RIC is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. To review docket materials, it is recommended that the public make an appointment by calling (703) 603-9230. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory docket at no charge. Additional copies cost \$0.15/page. This document and the supporting document that details the Used Oil ICR are also available electronically. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for information on accessing them.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

RCRA Hotline

For general information, contact the RCRA Hotline at (800) 424-9346 or TDD (800) 553-7672 (hearing impaired). In the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, call (703) 412-9810 or TDD (703) 412-3323.

Used Oil ICR Details

For more detailed information on specific aspects of the used oil information collect requests, contact Tom Rinehart by mail at Office of Solid Waste (5304W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, by phone at (703) 308-4309, or by Internet e-mail at rinehart.tom@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Internet Availability

Today's document and the supporting document that details the Used Oil ICR are available on the Internet. Follow these instructions to access this information electronically:

WWW URL: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/usedoil/index.htm>

FTP: ftp.epa.gov

Login: anonymous

Password: your Internet e-mail address

Path: /pub/epaoswer

Note: The official record for this action will be kept in paper form and maintained at the address in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Used Oil ICR Renewal

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which handle or manage used oil including used oil transporters, transfer facilities, processors, re-refiners, and off-specification burners.

Title: Used Oil Management Standards Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements (OMB Control No. 2050-0124; EPA ICR No. 1286) expiring 03/31/1999.

Abstract: EPA is seeking public comment on the Used Oil Management Standards Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements ICR (Used Oil ICR) prior to submitting it to OMB for renewal. The Used Oil Management Standards, which include information collection requests, were developed in accordance with section 3014 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA), which directs EPA to "promulgate regulations * * * as may be necessary to protect public health and the environment from the hazards associated with recycled oil" and, at the same time, to not discourage used oil recycling. In 1985 and 1992, EPA

established mandatory regulations that govern the management of used oil (see 40 CFR part 279). To document and ensure proper handling of used oil, these regulations establish notification, testing, tracking and recordkeeping requirements for used oil transporters, processors, re-refiners, marketers, and burners. They also set standards for the prevention and cleanup of releases to the environment during storage and transit, and for the safe closure of storage units and processing and re-refining facilities to mitigate future releases and damages. EPA believes these requirements minimize potential hazards to human health and the environment from the potential mismanagement of used oil by used oil handlers, while providing for the safe recycling of used oil. Information from these information collection requirements is used to ensure compliance with the Used Oil Management Standards.

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 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.

Burden Statement

The total information collection burden to the regulated community for complying with part 279 is approximately 363,485 hours per year, which represents an annual cost of \$9,123,907. Table 1 summarizes the total cost and burden for each category of used oil handlers. The ICR burden and cost for each category of used oil handler is detailed in the following sections and the ICR supporting document available free of cost from the RCRA Information Center.

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BURDEN AND COST FOR ALL RESPONDENTS REGULATED BY 40 CFR PART 279

All respondents Information collection activity	Hours and costs per respondent			Total hours and costs		
	Respondent hours/year	Labor cost/year	Material cost	Total entities	Total hours/year	Total cost/year
Used Oil Transporters and Transfer Facilities	884.20	\$20,542.89	\$24,827	383	161,729.08	\$5,093,575
Used Oil Processors/Re-refiners	529.92	11,865.96	0.00	249	131,949.56	2,416,412
Burners of Off-Specification Used Oil	16.49	503.45	0.00	100	1,473.33	50,345
Used Oil Marketers	159.69	3,629.08	0.00	441	68,332.95	1,563,500
EPA	1.40	37.40	0.00	2	2.80	75
Total	732	363,484.92	9,123,907

Generators, Collection Centers, and Aggregation Points

The Used Oil Management Standards of 40 CFR part 279 do not impose any information collection activity requirements that are covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act on used oil generators, collection centers, and aggregation points.

Transporters and Transfer Facilities

Transporter and transfer facility requirements for used oil are set forth in part 279, Subpart E. Under these requirements, used oil transporters and transfer facilities must determine the total halogen content of the used oil that they handle. They also must keep records of each used oil shipment accepted for transport and/or delivered to another used oil transporter, a processor/re-refining facility, a used oil burner, a fuel marketer, or other used oil recycling facility. These records must be maintained for at least three years. EPA believes these recordkeeping requirements are necessary to ensure that used oil is properly managed.

Documenting all parties who handled the used oil also discourages adulteration of used oil by any used oil handler.

EPA estimates that there are 383 independent used oil transporters and transfer facilities currently in operation. The total estimated information collection burden to each transporter and transfer facility is 884 hours per year, which represents an annual cost of approximately \$20,543. This results in a total annual burden for all transporters and transfer facilities of 161,729 hours, at a total cost of \$5,093,575.

The Agency assumes that used oil transporters will read the used oil management regulations as they pertain to used oil transportation and transfer facilities once each year. EPA estimates that the annual burden for a used oil transporter to read the regulations is four hours, at an annual cost of \$107. The annual burden to 383 transporters due to reading the regulations is 1,341 hours, at a cost of \$40,994.

EPA estimates that one-eighth of the 383 used oil transporters and transfer

facilities, or 48 did not previously test the halogen content of the used oil. This estimate is based on a National Oil Recyclers Association survey. The requirement does not impose an incremental burden or cost on most used oil transporters because such determinations were already a widely conducted industry practice in response to the used oil fuel specification established in 1985. A transporter typically makes halogen content determinations 4,633 times per year at a materials cost of \$5.36 per test. EPA estimates the total annual materials cost per transporter to be \$24,827, which totals \$1,191,696 for 48 transporters. The total annual burden hours per transporter is 463 hours, at a cost of \$11,839. This translates to an annual burden of 22,240 hours, at a cost of \$568,272 for the 48 transporters and transfer facilities. The combined cost (labor plus materials) is \$1,759,962.

Transporter and transfer facilities must keep records of used oil shipments delivered to processors or other customers. EPA estimates that an

average of 530 shipments are delivered each year by a transporter. The Agency believes that while many of the tracking requirements (e.g., name and address of recipient, quantity shipped, date) are part of customary business practice, some incremental burden results from the regulations. EPA estimates the incremental tracking requirement associated with these shipments results in an annual respondent burden of 42 hours per year, which represents an annual cost of \$848. The annual burden associated with these tracking requirements for all transporters and transfer facilities is 16,163 hours, at a cost of \$324,669.

Every transporter and transfer facility must also keep records of each shipment of used oil accepted at each facility. EPA estimates that an average of 4,000 shipments are accepted each year by each transporter. The incremental tracking requirement for such shipments results in an annual burden of 319 hours per year, at an annual cost of \$6,398. Therefore, the annual burden for all transporters and transfer facilities is 121,986 hours, at a total cost of \$2,450,331.

Transporters and transfer facilities must maintain the records of their halogen testing and tracking activities for up to three years. Maintaining these records imposes an annual burden of 57 hours, at a cost of \$1,351.00, for each transporter or transfer facility. The annual burden for all transporters and transfer facilities due to maintaining records is 21,703 hours, at a cost of \$517,619.

Processors and Re-Refiners

Processor and re-refiner requirements for used oil are set forth in 40 CFR Part 279, Subpart F. Owners/operators of used oil processing and re-refining facilities are required to undertake prevention and preparedness activities at their facilities. These requirements ensure that used oil processing and re-refining facilities are maintained to minimize the threat of a sudden or non-sudden release, fire, explosion or similar emergency and ensure that facilities are prepared to undertake appropriate actions if an emergency situation occurs.

Used oil processing and re-refining facilities that store or process used oil in aboveground or underground tanks must also determine at the time of closure whether all contaminated soils can be practicably removed or decontaminated as required. If the owner/operator cannot make the determination, the owner/operator must close the tank system and perform post-closure care. Based on existing

Superfund data and RCRA enforcement information available for the solid waste management units used for used oil storage or management, EPA believes that these closure requirements are critical to minimizing the potential creation of future Superfund sites.

Used oil processors and re-refiners are also required to develop a written used oil analysis plan and retain a copy of the plan at the facility. The plan must include information concerning methods, location and frequency for analysis of used oil. This requirement ensures that processors and re-refiners use adequate sampling and testing methodologies.

Used oil processors and re-refiners are required to keep a record for each used oil shipment that is accepted for processing or re-refining or delivered to another used oil processor and re-refiner, to a used oil burner, or a disposal facility. All records must be maintained for at least three years. EPA believes these recordkeeping requirements are necessary to ensure that used oil is properly managed. Documenting all parties who handled the used oil also discourages adulteration of used oil by any used oil handler.

Used oil processors and re-refiners are also required to submit a biennial report to EPA. EPA requires this information to identify industry trends.

EPA estimates that there are between 211 and 286 used oil processors/re-refiners currently in operation. For the purposes of these burden and cost estimates, EPA chose the midpoint of this range (249) as its estimate for the number of processors/re-refiners. The total estimated annual information collection burden for a processor/re-refiner is 530 hours, which represents an annual cost of \$11,866. This results in a total annual burden for all used oil processors/re-refiners of 131,950 hours, at a cost of \$2,416,412.

The Agency assumes that used oil processors/re-refiners will read the regulations once each year. EPA estimates the annual burden for a used oil processor/re-refiner to read the regulations is 14 hours, which represents an annual cost of \$414. The total annual burden imposed upon all processors/re-refiners related to reading the regulations is 3,362 hours, at a cost of \$103,055.

EPA believes that only new processors/re-refiners need to develop contingency and emergency plans, because existing processors/re-refiners should have already prepared such plans. With the trend toward consolidation, rather than expansion, among industry participants, EPA

expects no incremental burden from this requirement. However, all the estimated 249 processors and re-refiners will revise their contingency plan once annually. EPA estimates the annual burden for a processor/re-refiner to revise a contingency plan is seven hours, at a cost of \$188. The annual burden to the estimated 249 processor/re-refiners, related to the contingency plan requirement, is 1,619 hours, at a cost of \$46,930. Additionally, EPA estimates that 1 percent of used oil processors/re-refiners will experience an emergency each year. Therefore, a total of two processors/re-refiners would be subject to emergency procedural requirements and subsequent revisions of emergency plans. It is estimated that the emergency plan revision process and procedural requirements subject each processor/re-refiner to a burden of 22 hours, at an annual cost of \$619. EPA estimates that these requirements affect two facilities each year, so the annual burden for all processor/re-refiners is 45 hours at a cost of \$1,238.

Only new processors/re-refiners need to develop analysis plans, since existing processors/re-refiners should already have developed analysis plans. With the trend toward consolidation, rather than expansion, among industry participants, EPA expects no incremental burden from this requirement. However, all the estimated 249 processors/re-refiners are affected by the requirement to maintain written analysis plans. EPA estimates that the burden to each processor/re-refiner associated with this requirement is six hours, at a cost of \$154. The annual burden associated with this requirement to the estimated 249 processors/re-refiners is 1,413 hours, at a cost of \$38,254.

Processors/re-refiners must keep records of each shipment of used oil delivered to customers. EPA estimates that an average of 530 shipments are delivered by a processor/re-refiner each year. EPA believes that many of the tracking requirements (e.g., name and address of recipient, quantity shipped, date) are customary business practice. The regulations, however, do impose some incremental burden. EPA estimates the incremental burden associated with tracking these shipments results in an annual burden to a processor/re-refiner of 48 hours per year, which represents an annual cost of \$987. The annual burden for all processors/re-refiners due to this requirement is 11,828 hours at a cost of \$245,769.

Processors/re-refiners also keep records of each shipment of used oil accepted at each facility. EPA estimates that 4,000 shipments are accepted each

year at each facility. EPA estimates that the incremental tracking requirement associated with these shipments results in an annual burden each to processor/re-refiner of 359 hours, which represents an annual cost of \$7,449. The annual burden to the estimated 249 processors/re-refiners due to this requirement is 89,267 hours, at a cost of \$1,856,861.

Processors/re-refiners submit a biennial report that contains company specific information. EPA estimates that this requirement imposes an annual burden of five hours to each processor/re-refiner, with an annual cost of \$120 per facility. The annual burden associated with the biennial reporting requirement to the estimated 249 processor and re-refiners is 1,251 hours at a cost of \$29,980.

Processors/re-refiners must maintain records of the contingency and emergency procedures, analysis plan, and tracking activities for up to three years. EPA estimates that 80 percent of processors/re-refiners retain records as part of their current operating practices in response to the burning regulations promulgated in 1985. The total burden to the remaining 20 percent of the estimated 249 processors/re-refiners, or 50 processors/re-refiners, associated with these record retention requirements is 3,532 hours annually, at a cost of \$96,325.

Off-Specification Burners

On November 29, 1985, EPA promulgated notification, analysis and recordkeeping requirements for off-specification used oil burners. These standards are now codified under part 279, subpart G. Burners are required to keep a record for each used oil shipment that is accepted for burning. Before a burner can accept off-specification used oil fuel from a used oil marketer, he must provide to the used oil marketer a one-time written and signed notice certifying that the burner has notified EPA of his location, provided a general description of his used oil management activities, and that used oil will only be burned in an industrial furnace or boiler identified in 40 CFR 279.61. The certification must be maintained for three years from the date the burner last receives a shipment of off-specification used oil from that used oil marketer. EPA believes these recordkeeping requirements are necessary to ensure that used oil is properly managed. Documenting all parties who handled the used oil also discourages adulteration of used oil by any used oil handler. These requirements also ensure that off-specification used oil is burned only in approved units.

EPA estimates that there are approximately 100 used oil burners that burn off-specification used oil for energy recovery. The estimated information collection burden to each burner is 16.5 hours, at an annual cost of \$503. The total annual burden to the estimated 100 used oil burners is 1,473 hours, at a cost of \$50,345.

EPA accounts for the fact that used oil will read the regulations once annually. EPA estimates that the annual burden for a burner to read the regulations is 13 hours, at an annual cost of \$387. The annual burden for all burners to read the regulations is 1,300 hours, at a cost of \$38,675.

Used oil burners are required to keep records of each off-specification used oil shipment accepted at their facilities. EPA estimates that a used oil burner accepts an average of 18 shipments each year. EPA estimates the tracking requirements associated with accepting off-specification used oil shipments results in an annual burden of 1.7 hours per year for each burner, at an annual cost of \$49. The annual burden to the estimated 100 used oil burners due to this requirement is 173 hours, at a cost of \$4,886.

A used oil burner must notify each generator, transporter, and processor/re-refiner that ships off-specification used oil to its facility that it is approved for that purpose. EPA estimates that this requirement imposes an annual burden of six minutes per year to a used oil burner, at an annual cost of \$4. The total annual burden to the estimated 100 used oil burners due to this requirement is 10 hours, at a cost of \$388.

Burners must maintain the records of the tracking and notice activities for up to three years. EPA estimates that the requirement to maintain records imposes an annual burden of 1.7 hours to a used oil burner, at a cost of \$64. The total annual burden to the estimated 100 used oil burners due to the requirement to maintain records is 166 hours, at a cost of \$6,396.

Marketers

On November 29, 1985, EPA promulgated notification, analysis and recordkeeping requirements for marketers of used oil. These standards are now codified under 40 CFR part 279, subpart H. Marketers that demonstrate that used oil meets the specifications of 40 CFR 279.11 are required to keep copies of analyses or other information documenting that the used oil fuel meets the specifications. These copies must be kept for at least three years. Marketers who direct a shipment of off-specification used oil to a burner are required to keep a record of each used

oil shipment. Before a marketer sends a first shipment of off-specification used oil fuel to a burner, he must obtain from the burner a one-time written and signed notice certifying that the burner has notified EPA of his location and has provided a general description of his used oil management activities, and that the burner will burn the used oil only in an industrial furnace or boiler identified in 40 CFR 279.61. The certification must be maintained for three years from the date the marketer last sends a shipment of off-specification used oil to the burner. This provides assurances that the off-specification oil is burned in facilities with appropriate emission controls. EPA believes these recordkeeping requirements are necessary to ensure that used oil is properly managed. Documenting all parties who handled the used oil also discourages adulteration of used oil by any used oil handler.

EPA estimates that there are 192 used oil transporter-marketers and 249 processor-marketers for a total of 441 marketers. These estimates are based on the assumptions that half of the estimated 383 transporters are also marketers and that all of the estimated 249 processors/re-refiners are also marketers. EPA estimates the total annual burden for each used oil marketer to be 160 hours, at an annual cost of \$3,629. The total annual burden to the estimated 441 used oil marketers is 68,333 hours, at a cost of \$1,563,500.

Processors that are marketers must have an analysis plan outlining when, how, and by whom the used oil will be tested as to whether it meets the used oil fuel specification. This requirement imposes a burden of 155 hours per facility, with an annual cost of \$3,462. The annual burden for all 249 processor-marketers is 38,583 hours and \$861,945.

Every transporter that is a marketer also obtains copies of analyses documenting that the used oil fuel meets the specifications, or it must perform the analysis itself. EPA estimates that this determination requirement results in the same hourly and economic burden per transporter as the processors. The annual burden for the 192 transporter-marketers due to this requirement is 29,750 hours, at a cost of \$664,632.

Processor-marketers must obtain a notice verifying that the burner facility to which they deliver the off-specification used oil is approved for that purpose. EPA estimates that this requirement imposes an annual burden for each marketer of five hours per year, at an annual cost of \$84. The total

annual burden to the estimated 249 processor-marketers associated with the notices requirement is 1,180 hours, at a cost of \$20,848.

Transporter-marketers must also obtain a certification from the burner to which they deliver their off-specification used oil. EPA estimates that this requirement imposes the same burden on a transporter-marketer as on a processor-marketer. The total annual burden to the estimated 192 transporter-marketers associated with this requirement is 910 hours, at a cost of \$16,076.

States

Under 40 CFR part 279, a State may petition EPA to allow the use of used oil as a dust suppressant. The State must show that it has a program in place to prevent the use of used oil/hazardous waste mixtures or used oil exhibiting a characteristic other than ignitability as a dust suppressant. In addition, such programs must minimize the impacts of road oiling on the environment. Since the rules have been in place, no states have petitioned to use used oil as a dust suppressant. Therefore, EPA estimates that there is no burden imposed upon States.

No person is 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 displayed in 40 CFR part 9.

Dated: October 6, 1998.

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth,

Acting Director, Office of Solid Waste.

[FR Doc. 98-27525 Filed 10-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00251; FRL-6037-9]

Pollution Prevention Grants and Announcement of Financial Assistance Programs Eligible for Review; Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA expects to have approximately \$5 million available in fiscal year 1999 grant/cooperative agreement funds under the Pollution Prevention Incentives for States (PPIS) grant program. The grant dollars are targeted at state and tribal programs that address the reduction or elimination of pollution across all environmental media: Air, land, and water. Grants/cooperative agreements will be awarded

under the authority of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Your EPA Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator. The EPA Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator for each regional office is listed under Unit X. of this document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Electronic Availability

Electronic copies of this document are available on the EPA Home Page at "Federal Register—Environmental Document" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr>) and on the EPA P2 Home Page (<http://www.epa.gov/p2>).

II. Background

More than \$50 million has been awarded to over 100 state and tribal organizations under EPA's multimedia pollution prevention grant program, since its inception in 1989. During the past 10 years, PPIS funds have enabled state programs to implement a wide range of pollution prevention activities including nearly 8,000 pollution prevention assessments, 1,200 workshops, and the development of over 500 pollution prevention case studies. PPIS grants also provide economic benefits to small businesses by funding state technical assistance programs focused on helping the businesses develop more efficient production technologies and operate more cost effectively. The goal of the PPIS grant program is to assist businesses and industries in identifying better environmental strategies and solutions for complying with Federal and state environmental regulations. PPIS grants are designed to effect the compatibility of businesses environmental and economic decisionmaking, and improving competitiveness without increasing environmental impacts. Successes include decreases in facility emissions and discharges which lead to less stringent regulatory and permitting requirements, increases in production rates that correlate to decreasing environmental costs, elevated investments in new and better technologies, and savings that directly impact the overall profitability of a business. The majority of the PPIS grants fund state-based projects in the areas of technical assistance and training, education and outreach, regulatory integration, data collection and research, demonstration projects, and recognition programs.

In November 1990, the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (the Act) (Pub. L. 101-508) was enacted, establishing as national policy that pollution should be

prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible.

1. Section 6603 of the Act defines source reduction as any practice that:

i. Reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal.

ii. Reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

EPA further defines pollution prevention as the use of other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources, or protection of natural resources, or protection of natural resources by conservation.

2. Section 6605 of the Act authorizes EPA to make matching grants to states to promote the use of source reduction techniques by businesses. In evaluating grant applications, the Act directs EPA to consider whether the proposed state program will:

i. Make technical assistance available to businesses seeking information about source reduction opportunities, including funding for experts to provide onsite technical advice and to assist in the development of source reduction plans.

ii. Target assistance to businesses for which lack of information is an impediment to source reduction.

iii. Provide training in source reduction techniques.

III. Availability of FY 99 Funds

EPA expects to have approximately \$5 million in grant/cooperative agreement funds available for FY 1999 pollution prevention activities. The Agency has delegated grant making authority to the EPA regional offices. EPA regional offices are responsible for the solicitation of interest and the screening of proposals.

All applicants must address the national program criteria listed under Unit VI.2.ii. of this document. In addition, applicants may be required to meet supplemental EPA regional criteria. Interested applicants should contact their EPA Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator, listed under Unit X. of this document for more information.

IV. Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance

The number assigned to the PPIS program in the Catalogue of Federal