Burden Statement

Total Industry Respondent Burden and Costs

The estimated industry respondent burden for total labor hours and costs associated with one-time/periodic activities are estimated to be 50,227 hours and $2,344,786, respectively. Total labor hours and costs associated with annual activities are estimated to be 48,924 hours and $2,256,547, respectively. Total industry respondent costs annualized over the 3-year time period are estimated to be $1,864,428 per year.

Total State and Local Agency Burden and Costs

The estimated State and local agency burden for total labor hours and costs associated with one-time/periodic activities are estimated to be 1,868 hours and $66,704, respectively. Total labor hours and costs associated with annual activities for that time period are estimated to be 10,458 hours and $373,376, respectively. Total costs annualized over the 3-year time period are estimated to be $166,400 per year.

Total EPA Burden and Costs

The estimated EPA burden for total labor hours and costs associated with one-time-only activities are estimated to be 9,038 hours and $322,657, respectively. Total labor hours and costs associated with annual activities are estimated to be 3,304 hours and $117,953, respectively. Total costs annualized over the 3-year time period are estimated to be $185,954 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: October 25, 2001.

Lydia Wegman,

Acting Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

[FR Doc. 01–27819 Filed 11–5–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7098–5]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; General Conformity of Federal Actions to State Implementation Plans

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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: General Conformity of Federal Actions to State Implementation Plans, ICR number 1637.05, and OMB Control Number 2060–0279, expiration date December 31, 2001. 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 December 6, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, referencing EPA ICR No. 1637.05 and OMB Control No. 2060–0279, to the following addresses: Susan Auby, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the ICR contact Susan Auby at EPA by phone at (202) 260–4901, by E-mail at *auby.susan@epamail.epa.gov* or download off the Internet at *http://www.epa.gov/icr* and refer to EPA ICR No. 1637.05. For technical questions about the ICR contact: Annie Nikbakht, Ozone Policy and Strategies Group, Air Quality Strategies and Standards Division, MD–15, Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541–5246.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: General Conformity of Federal Actions to State Implementation Plans, OMB Control Number 2060–0279, EPA ICR Number 1637.05, expiration date December 31, 2001. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract

Before any agency, department, or instrumentality of the Federal government engages in, supports in any way, provides financial assistance for, licenses, permits, approves any activity, that agency has the affirmative responsibility to ensure that such action conforms to the State implementation plan (SIP) for the attainment and maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). The EPA's implementing regulations require Federal entities to make a conformity determination for all actions which impact areas designated as nonattainment or maintenance for the NAAQS and which will result in total direct and indirect emissions in excess of de minimis levels. The Federal entities must collect information on the SIP requirements and the pollution sources to make the conformity determination. Depending on the type of action, the Federal entities either collect the information themselves, hire consultants to collect the information or require applicants/sponsors of the Federal action to provide the information.

The type and quantity of information required will depend on the circumstances surrounding the action. First, the entity must make an applicability determination. If the net total direct and indirect emissions do not exceed de minimis levels established in the regulations or if the action meets certain criteria for an exemption, a conformity determination is not required. Actions requiring conformity determinations vary from straightforward, requiring minimal information, to complex, requiring significant amounts of information. The Federal entity must determine the type and quantity of information on a case-by-case basis. State and local air pollution control agencies are usually requested to provide information to the Federal entities making a conformity determination and are provided opportunities to comment on the proposed determinations. The public is also provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed determinations.

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. Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*) requires that all Federal actions conform with the SIPs to attain and maintain the NAAQS. The

Federal Register document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on April 27, 2001 (66 FR 21136); Two comment letters were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15–20 hours per response. 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: Non-Federal-(Private Industry, State and Local Government).

Estimated Number of Respondents: Estimate 733 Total Actions/ Determinations.

Frequency of Response: Estimate Non-Federal perform approximately 733 straightforward & complex determinations per year (**Note:** only number of annual hours were given in comment letter, number and type of determinations not indicated; therefore, this number is subject to change if other detailed information becomes available).

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 10,246.

Estimated Total Annualized Capital, O&M Cost Burden: None.

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 addresses listed above. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1637.05 and OMB Control No. 2060–0279 in any correspondence.

Dated: October 29, 2001.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 01–27838 Filed 11–5–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7098–4]

Request for Applications for Essential Use Exemptions to the Production and Import Phaseout of Ozone Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol for the years 2003 and 2004

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Through this notice, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requesting applications for essential use allowances for calendar years 2003 and 2004. Essential-use allowances provide exemptions to the production and import phaseout of ozone-depleting substances and must be authorized by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Protocol). The U.S. government will use the applications received in response to this notice as the basis for its nomination of essential use allowances at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to be held in 2002.

DATES: Applications for essential use exemptions must be submitted to EPA no later than December 6, 2001 in order for the United States (U.S.) government to complete its review and to submit nominations to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Protocol Parties in a timely manner.

ADDRESSES: Send two copies of application materials to: Erin Birgfeld, Global Programs Division (6205J), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. For applications sent via courier service, use the direct mailing address at 501 3rd Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001. Send one copy of the non-confidential application materials to: Air Docket A–93–39, 401 M Street, SW. (6102), Room M1500, Washington, DC 20460.

Confidentiality: Applications that are sent to the Air Docket should not contain confidential or proprietary information. Such confidential information should be submitted under separate cover and be clearly identified as ''trade secret,'' ''proprietary,'' or ''company confidential.'' Information covered by a claim of business confidentiality will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth at 40 CFR part 2, subpart B (41 FR 36902). If no claim of confidentiality accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, the information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the company (40 CFR 2.203).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Birgfeld at the above address or at (202) 564–9079 telephone, (202) 565–2095 fax, or *birgfeld.erin@epa.gov*. General information may be obtained from the stratospheric protection website at *www.epa.gov/ozone*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

I. Background—The Essential Use Nomination Process
II. Information Required for Essential Use Applications for Production or Importation of Class I Substances in 2003 and 2004

I. Background—The Essential Use Nomination Process

As described in previous **Federal Register** (FR) notices,[1] the Parties to the Protocol agreed during the Fourth Meeting in Copenhagen in 1992 on the criteria to be used for allowing ''essential use'' exemptions from the phaseout of production and importation of controlled substances. Decision IV/25 of the Fourth Meeting of the Parties details the specific criteria and review process for granting essential use exemptions.

Paragraph 1(a) of Decision IV/25 states that '' * * * a use of a controlled substance should qualify as ''essential'' only if: (i) it is necessary for the health, safety or is critical for the functioning of society (encompassing cultural and intellectual aspects); and (ii) there are no available technically and economically feasible alternatives or substitutes that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health''. In addition, the Parties agreed ''that production and consumption, if any, of a controlled substance, for essential uses should be permitted only if: (i) all economically feasible steps have been taken to minimize the essential use and any associated emission of the controlled substance; and (ii) the controlled substance is not available in sufficient quantity and quality from the existing stocks of banked or recycled controlled substances * * *'' Decision XII/2 taken at the twelfth meeting of the Parties states that any CFC MDI product approved after December 31, 2000 is non-essential unless the product meets the criteria in Decision IV/25 paragraph 1(a).

The first step in obtaining essential use allowances is for the user to

[1] 58 *FR* 29410, May 20, 1993; 59 *FR* 52544, October 18, 1994; 60 *FR* 54349, October 23, 1995; 61 *FR* 51110, 0 30, 1996, 62 *FR* 51655, October 2, 1997; 63 *FR* 42629, August 10, 1998; 64 *FR* 50083, September 15, 1999; and 65 *FR* 65377, November 1, 2000.