

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Confidentiality Rules. ICR #1665.02 OMB #2020-0003, expires 1/31/97. 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 March 6, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CALL: Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260-2740, and refer to EPA ICR No. #1665.02.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Confidentiality Rules (OMB Control No. 2020-0003) expiring 1/31/97. This is a request for an extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: EPA administers a variety of statutes pertaining to the protection of the environment, (e.g., the Toxic Substances Control Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Clean Water Act, and Federal Water Pollution Control Act), each with differing data collection requirements and differing requirements for disclosure of information to the public. The Agency collects chemical, process, waste stream, financial, and other data from tens of thousands of facilities in many, if not most, sectors of American business. Companies frequently consider this information vital to their competitive position, and claim the information as confidential business information (CBI).

In the course of its daily business, the Agency often has a need to communicate this information in rulemaking, to its contractors, in response to requests pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, in litigation, etc.

To manage this volume of confidential information while protecting both the confidentiality of competitively valuable information and the rights of FOIA requestors, EPA instituted in 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B a set of procedures for handling and disclosing CBI. These procedures derive their authority from FOIA, the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905), and the confidentiality provisions of the environmental statutes that EPA administers.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for

this collection of information is estimated to average 9.4 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: Businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1008 claims; 1125 confidentiality agreements.

Frequency of Response: app. 300 claims/yr; 1 confidentiality agreement/yr.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 9475 hours/yr for claims; .1 hr/ confidentiality agreement.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$475,007.

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 following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1665.02 and OMB Control No. 2020-0003 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division, 401 M Street, SW (2137), Washington, DC 20460 and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: January 29, 1997.

Joseph Retzer,
Director, Regulatory Information Division,
Office of Regulatory Management and
Information (OPPE).

[FR Doc. 97-2655 Filed 2-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5683-7]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals; OMB Control No. 2030-0007; expiration date 3/31/97. 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 March 6, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CALL: Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260-2740, and refer to EPA ICR No. 1038.09.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals (OMB Control No. 2030-0007; EPA ICR No. 1038.09) expiring 3/31/97. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Firms which are interested in providing supplies or services to EPA will furnish information on previous contracts performed, technical information, and cost or pricing information or data. They will submit this information when the Agency announces a need for supplies or services which they are capable of providing. EPA will use this information to determine which firm's offer is most suited to the Agency's requirements.

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. The Federal Register Notice required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 10/24/96 (61 FR 55147). No comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 8 hours per bid and 290 hours per proposal. 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; to 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; to adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; to train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Respondents/Affected Entities:

Contractors seeking business with EPA.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,731.

Frequency of Response: One response per bid or proposal.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 399,342 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$20,770,435.

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 following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1038.09 and OMB Control No 2030-0007 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460 and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: January 29, 1997.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 97-2656 Filed 2-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5684-5]

Acid Rain Program: Notice of Written Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of written exemptions.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing, as a direct final action, written exemptions from the Acid Rain permitting and monitoring requirements to 2 utility

units in accordance with the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR part 72). Because the Agency does not anticipate receiving adverse comments, these exemptions are being issued as direct final actions.

DATES: The exemptions issued in this direct final action will be final on March 17, 1997, or 40 days after publication of a similar notice in a local newspaper, whichever is later, unless significant, adverse comments are received by March 6, 1997 or 30 days after publication of a similar notice in a local newspaper, whichever is later. If significant, adverse comments are timely received on an exemption in this direct final action, the exemption will be withdrawn through a notice in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Administrative Records.

The administrative record for the exemptions, except information protected as confidential, may be viewed during normal operating hours at EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Comments: Send comments to David Kee, Director, Air and Radiation Division, EPA Region 5, (address above). Submit comments in duplicate and identify the commenter's name, address, telephone number, and the commenter's interest in the matter and affiliation, if any, to the owners and operators of the unit covered by the exemption.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Cecilia Mijares, (312) 886-0968.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All public comment received on the exemptions in this direct final action in which significant, adverse comments are timely received will be addressed in a subsequent issuance or denial of exemption based on the relevant draft exemption in the notice of draft written exemptions that is published elsewhere in today's Federal Register and that is identical to this direct final action.

Under the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR 72.7), utilities may petition EPA for an exemption from permitting and monitoring requirements for any new utility unit that serves one or more generators with total nameplate capacity of 25 MW or less and burns only fuels with a sulfur content of 0.05 percent or less by weight. On the earlier of the date a unit exempted under 40 CFR 72.7 burns any fuel with a sulfur content in excess of 0.05 percent by weight or 24 months prior to the date the exempted unit first serves one or more generators with total nameplate capacity in excess of 25 MW, the unit shall no longer be exempted under 40 CFR 72.7 and shall be subject to all

permitting and monitoring requirements of the Acid Rain Program.

EPA is issuing written exemptions to the following new units, effective from January 1, 1997 through December 31, 2001:

Oberlin Municipal Light and Power System unit 4 in Ohio, owned and operated by the City of Oberlin.

Village of Prospect unit Prospect 1 in Ohio, owned and operated by Prospect Municipal Electric Department.

Dated: January 27, 1997.

Brian J. McLean,

Director, Acid Rain Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 97-2705 Filed 2-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5684-4]

Acid Rain Program: Notice of Draft Written Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of Draft Written Exemptions.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing draft written exemptions from Acid Rain permitting and monitoring requirements to 2 new utility units. Under the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR 72.7), utilities may petition EPA for an exemption from permitting and monitoring requirements for any new utility unit that serves one or more generators with a total nameplate capacity of 25 MW or less and burns only fuels with a sulfur content of 0.05 percent or less by weight. Because the Agency does not anticipate receiving adverse comments, the exemptions are being issued as direct final actions in the notice of written exemptions published elsewhere in today's Federal Register.

DATES: Comments on the exemptions proposed by this action must be received on or before March 6, 1997 or 30 days after publication of a similar notice in a local newspaper, whichever is later.

ADDRESSES: Administrative Records.

The administrative record for the exemptions, except information protected as confidential, may be viewed during normal operating hours at EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Comments. Send comments to: David Kee, Director, Air and Radiation Division, EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.