

including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official rulemaking record is located at the Virginia address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:
opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "OPP-00519." Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection,
Information collection requests.

Dated: February 19, 1998.

Susan H. Wayland,

*Acting Assistant Administrator for
Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*
[FR Doc. 98-5256 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5973-6]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Superfund Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System

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 EPA is planning to submit the following proposed and/or continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System, ICR #1488.04, OMB #2050-0005, expiration date 7/31/98. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of this ICR, please contact Mary Ann Rich, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, (703) 603-8825 or by email: rich.maryann@epamail.epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Mary Ann Rich at (703) 603-8825, please refer to ICR #1488.04.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Title: Superfund Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System, EPA ICR #1488.04. This ICR requests renewal of a currently approved collection (OMB #2050-0005).

Abstract: Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, 1980 and 1986) amends the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP) to include criteria prioritizing releases throughout the U.S. before undertaking remedial action at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is a model that is used to evaluate the relative threats to human health and the environment posed by actual or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. The HRS criteria take into account the population at risk, the hazard potential of the substances, as well as the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies, direct human contact, destruction of sensitive ecosystems, damage to natural resources affecting the human food chain, contamination of surface water used for recreation or potable water consumption, and contamination of ambient air.

Under this ICR the States will apply the HRS by identifying and classifying those releases that warrant further investigation. The HRS score is crucial since it is the primary mechanism used to determine whether a site is eligible to be included on the National Priorities List (NPL). Only sites on the NPL are eligible for Superfund-financed remedial actions.

HRS scores are derived from the sources described in this information collection, including field reconnaissance, taking samples at the site, and reviewing available reports and documents. States record the collected information on HRS documentation worksheets and include this in the supporting reference package. States then send the package to the EPA region for a completeness and accuracy review, and the Region then sends it to EPA Headquarters for a final quality

assurance review. If the site scores above the NPL designated cutoff value, and if it meets the other criteria for listing, it is then eligible to be proposed on the NPL.

Burden Statement: Depending on the number and type of activities performed, burden for the collection of site assessment information is estimated to range from 15 to 3,325 hours per site. The number of hours required to assess a particular site depends on how far a site progresses through the site assessment process. Sites where only a pre-CERCLIS screening action is performed will typically require approximately 15 hours, while sites that progress to NPL listing based on an integrated assessment approach may require up to 3,325 hours. The burden estimates include reporting activities and minimal recordkeeping activities. The States are reimbursed 100% of their costs, except for record maintenance. The ICR does not impose burden for HRS activities on local governments or private businesses.

Respondents: State agencies performing Superfund site evaluation activities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 States.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 226,000 hours.

Frequency of Collection: One time; section 116(b) requires an HRS evaluation within four years of the site's entry into the EPA CERCLIS database.

Dated: February 24, 1998.

Larry G. Reed,

Acting Director, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response.

[FR Doc. 98-5556 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5973-2]

Continuing Planning Process for the State of Delaware

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability for public review and comment of the continuing planning process (CPP) for the State of Delaware.

SUMMARY: The Clean Water Act (the Act) at section 303(e), and EPA's implementing regulation at 40 CFR 130.5, requires that each State shall establish and maintain a continuing planning process (CPP) consistent with the Act. Each State is responsible for managing its water quality program to

implement the processes specified in the CPP, and EPA is responsible for periodically reviewing the adequacy of the State's CPP. This document is being published in accordance with Paragraph 9 of the consent decree in the matter of American Littoral Society and Sierra Club v. EPA, Civil Docket No. 96-591. Consistent with the consent decree, EPA is publishing this notice of availability of the CPP to interested parties. By August 15, 1998, EPA will prepare a preliminary written summary of its review of the CPP and will make that summary available to interested parties for their review and comment. Copies of the CPP will be available beginning February 28, 1998 by contacting the person listed in the following **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Once available, copies of EPA's preliminary written summary may also be requested.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew T. Murawski, Office of Watersheds, at (215) 566-5748, or by email at murawski.matthew@epamail.epa.gov.

Robert J. Mitkus,

Deputy Director, Water Protection Division, EPA Region III.

[FR Doc. 98-5554 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5973-5]

Common Sense Initiative Council (CSIC)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

ACTION: Notification of Public Advisory CSI Printing Sector and Metal Finishing Sector Subcommittee Meetings; Open Meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Printing Sector and the Metal Finishing Sector Subcommittees of the Common Sense Initiative Council will meet on the dates and times described below. All meetings are open to the public. Seating at both meetings will be on a first-come basis and limited time will be provided for public comment. For further information concerning specific meetings, please contact the individuals listed with the two announcements below.

(1) Printing Sector Subcommittee—March 20, 1998

Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency will

hold an open meeting of the CSI Printing Sector Subcommittee on Friday, March 20, 1998, from approximately 8:30 a.m. EST until 12:00 p.m. EST. The meeting will be held at Resolve, located at 1255—23rd Street, NW, Suite 275 in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review the progress in implementing the New York City Education Project and to discuss the plans to implement pilot projects of the PrintSTEP program. A formal agenda will be available at the meeting.

For further information concerning meeting times and agenda of this Printing Sector Subcommittee meeting, please contact Gina Bushong, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at EPA by telephone on (202) 564-5081 in Washington, DC, by fax on (202) 564-0009, or by e-mail at bushong.gina@epamail.epa.gov.

(2) Metal Finishing Sector Subcommittee—March 12 and 13, 1998

Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency will hold an open meeting of the CSI Metal Finishing Sector Subcommittee on Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13, 1998, at the Fairfield Inn, Scottsdale Downtown, 5101 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85250. The telephone number is 602-945-4392. The Subcommittee will meet both days from approximately 9:00 a.m. MST to approximately 4:00 p.m. MST.

The Subcommittee meeting will focus on the Metal Finishing Sector's Strategic Goals Program, future roles of the Metal Finishing Subcommittee and other stakeholder oversight groups, and the activities of several workgroups and project teams (including the research and technology workgroup and the RCRA project team). A formal agenda will be available at the meeting.

For further information concerning meeting times and agenda of the Metal Finishing Sector Subcommittee meeting, please contact Bob Benson, DFO, at EPA by telephone on (202) 260-8668 in Washington, DC, by fax on (202) 260-8662, or by e-mail at benson.robert@epamail.epa.gov

Inspection of Subcommittee Documents

Documents relating to the above Sector Subcommittee announcements will be publicly available at the meeting. Thereafter, these documents, together with the official minutes for the meetings, will be available for public inspection in room 2821M of EPA Headquarters, Common Sense Initiative Staff, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, telephone number 202-260-7417. Common Sense Initiative

information can be accessed electronically on our web site at <http://www.epa.gov/commonsense>.

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Kathleen Bailey,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-5553 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5973-8]

Announcement of Stakeholder Meeting To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations in Regard To Implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholders meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a simultaneous, one day public meeting via videoconference call in eleven cities on March 12, 1998. The purposes of this meeting are to identify issues and solicit input from stakeholders and the public at large on environmental justice related considerations of several proposed drinking water regulations. This meeting is being held as part of the Agency's effort to comply with Executive Order 12898. President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, on February 11, 1994. The Executive Order increased Agency responsibilities such that, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, each Federal Agency must make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to Executive Order 12898, EPA would like to have a dialogue with stakeholders and the public on the various components of pending drinking water regulations, including treatment; costs; benefits; data quality; health effects; the regulatory process; and impacts to sensitive subpopulations, minority populations, and low-income populations. EPA is seeking input from national, state, Tribal, municipal, and individual stakeholders. This meeting is a