For the chlorinated aliphatics industry that is the subject of this information collection, the main data to be collected will be clarifications to updated survey information, and possibly site visits if necessary.

The information collected will be used primarily to determine if wastes from the chlorinated aliphatics industry should be listed as hazardous. In addition, this information also will be used to support other RCRA activities including developing engineering analyses; conducting regulatory impact analyses, economic analyses, and risk assessments; and developing land disposal restrictions treatment standards and waste minimization programs.

EPA anticipates that some data provided by respondents will be claimed as confidential business information (CBI). Respondents may make a business confidentiality claim by marking the appropriate data as CBI. Respondents may not withhold information from the Agency because they believe it is confidential. Information so designated will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

Data will be collected from the chlorinated aliphatics industry that generate wastes that may be listed as hazardous. 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 6/18/98 (63 *FR* 33370); no comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 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: Owners or operators of chlorinated aliphatics firms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 548 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: $6,526.

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. 1866.01 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OP Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460 (or E-Mail Farmer.Sandy@epamail.epa.gov); 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: October 23, 1998.

Richard T. Westlund,

Acting Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 98–29014 Filed 10–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6181–4]

Ambient Air Monitoring Reference and Equivalent Methods: Designation of a New Reference Method and Receipt of Three New Applications for Reference Method Determinations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of designation and receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated, in accordance with 40 CFR part 53, a new reference method for measuring concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ in ambient air. Notice is also given that EPA has received three new applications for $PM_{2.5}$ reference method determinations under 40 CFR part 53.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank F. McElroy, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD–46), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711. Phone: (919) 541–2622, email: mcelroy.frank@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with regulations at 40 CFR part 53, the EPA examines various methods for monitoring the concentrations of certain pollutants in the ambient air. Methods that are determined to meet specific requirements for adequacy are designated as either reference or equivalent methods, thereby permitting their use under 40 CFR part 58 by States and other agencies in determining attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. EPA hereby announces the designation of a new reference method for measuring $PM_{2.5}$ in ambient air. This designation is made under the provisions of 40 CFR part 53, as amended on July 18, 1997 (62 FR 38764).

The new reference method for $PM_{2.5}$ is a manual monitoring method based on a particular commercially available $PM_{2.5}$ sampler. The newly designated method is identified as follows:

RFPS–1098–123, ''Thermo Environmental Instruments, Incorporated Model 605 ''CAPS'' Computer Assisted Particle Sampler,'' configured as a $PM_{2.5}$ reference method and operated with software version 1.02A, for 24-hour continuous sample periods, in accordance with the Model 605 Instruction Manual and with the requirements and sample collection filters specified in 40 CFR part 50, Appendix L.

An application for a reference method determination for the method based on the Thermo Environmental Instruments Model 605 sampler was received by the EPA on October 8, 1997, and a notice of the receipt of this application (then identified as Model 605/FH95–E) was published in the **Federal Register** on February 10, 1998. The method is available commercially from the applicant, Thermo Environmental Instruments, Incorporated, 8 West Forge Parkway, Franklin, Massachusetts 02038.

Test samplers representative of this method have been tested by the applicant in accordance with the test procedures specified in 40 CFR part 53 (as amended on July 18, 1997). After reviewing the results of those tests and other information submitted by the applicant, EPA has determined, in accordance with part 53, that this method should be designated as a reference method. The information submitted by the applicant will be kept on file at EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711 and will be

available for inspection to the extent consistent with 40 CFR part 2 (EPA's regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act).

As a designated reference method, this method is acceptable for use by states and other air monitoring agencies under the requirements of 40 CFR part 58, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance. For such purposes, the method must be used in strict accordance with the operation or instruction manual associated with the method, the specifications and limitations (e.g., sample period or measurement range) specified in the applicable designation method description (see identification of the method above). Use of the method should also be in general accordance with the guidance and recommendations of applicable sections of the Quality Assurance Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems, Volume II (EPA/600/R–94/038b). Vendor modifications of a designated reference or equivalent method used for purposes of part 58 are permitted only with prior approval of the EPA, as provided in part 53. Provisions concerning modification of such methods by users are specified under Section 2.8 of Appendix C to 40 CFR part 58 (Modifications of Methods by Users).

In general, a method designation applies to any sampler or analyzer which is identical to the sampler or analyzer described in the designation application. In some cases, similar samplers or analyzers manufactured prior to the designation may be upgraded (e.g., by minor modification or by substitution of a new operation or instruction manual) so as to be identical to the designated method and thus achieve designated status at a modest cost. The manufacturer should be consulted to determine the feasibility of such upgrading.

Part 53 requires that sellers of designated reference or equivalent method analyzers or samplers comply with certain conditions. These conditions are given in 40 CFR 53.9 and are summarized below:

(a) A copy of the approved operation or instruction manual must accompany the sampler or analyzer when it is delivered to the ultimate purchaser.

(b) The sampler or analyzer must not generate any unreasonable hazard to operators or to the environment.

(c) The sampler or analyzer must function within the limits of the applicable performance specifications given in parts 50 and 53 for at least one year after delivery when maintained and operated in accordance with the operation or instruction manual.

(d) Any sampler or analyzer offered for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method must bear a label or sticker indicating that it has been designated as part of a reference or equivalent method in accordance with part 53 and showing its designated method identification number.

(e) If such an analyzer has two or more selectable ranges, the label or sticker must be placed in close proximity to the range selector and indicate which range or ranges have been included in the reference or equivalent method designation.

(f) An applicant who offers samplers or analyzers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to maintain a list of ultimate purchasers of such samplers or analyzers and to notify them within 30 days if a reference or equivalent method designation applicable to the method has been canceled or if adjustment of the sampler or analyzer is necessary under 40 CFR 53.11(b) to avoid a cancellation.

(g) An applicant who modifies a sampler or analyzer previously designated as part of a reference or equivalent method is not permitted to sell the sampler or analyzer (as modified) as part of a reference or equivalent method (although it may be sold without such representation), nor to attach a label or sticker to the sampler or analyzer (as modified) under the provisions described above, until the applicant has received notice under 40 CFR 53.14(c) that the original designation or a new designation applies to the method as modified, or until the applicant has applied for and received notice under 40 CFR 53.8(b) of a new reference or equivalent method determination for the sampler or analyzer as modified.

(h) An applicant who offers $PM_{2.5}$ samplers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to maintain the manufacturing facility in which the sampler is manufactured as an ISO 9001-registered facility.

(i) An applicant who offers $PM_{2.5}$ samplers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to submit annually a properly completed Product Manufacturing Checklist, as specified in part 53.

Aside from occasional breakdowns or malfunctions, consistent or repeated noncompliance with any of these conditions should be reported to: Director, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD–77), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

Designation of this reference method is intended to assist the States in establishing and operating their air quality surveillance systems under 40 CFR part 58. Questions concerning the commercial availability or technical aspects of this method should be directed to the applicant.

Receipt of New Reference Method Applications

EPA is also hereby announcing that it has received three new applications for reference method determinations under 40 CFR part 53. Publication of a notice of receipt of such applications is required by § 53.5.

On July 6, 1998, EPA received an application from Andersen Instruments, Incorporated, 500 Technology Court, Smyrna, Georgia 30082, for a reference method determination for a $PM_{2.5}$ method based on that Company's Model $RAAS_{2.5}$–200 Audit Single Channel $PM_{2.5}$ Sampler. Another application was received on July 27, 1998, from URG Corporation, 116 South Merritt Mill Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 for a reference method determination for a $PM_{2.5}$ method based on that Company's Models MASS100 Single Channel and MASS300 Multi Channel Sequential $PM_{2.5}$ Samplers. An application was received on August 10, 1998, from Rupprecht & Patashnick Company, Incorporated, 25 Corporate Circle, Albany, New York 12203 for a reference method determination for a $PM_{2.5}$ method based on that Company's Partisol® Model 2000 Audit Sampler.

If, after appropriate technical study, the Administrator determines that any or all of these methods should be designated as reference methods under 40 CFR part 53, notice thereof will be published in a subsequent issue of the **Federal Register**.

Correction

In a reference and equivalent method designation notice published in the **Federal Register** on August 3, 1998 (63 FR 41253), the description of one of methods designated contained an error in one of the measurement ranges. The correct description is as follows:

RFNA–0798–121, ''DKK Corporation Model GLN–114E Nitrogen Oxides Analyzer,'' operated within a temperature range of 20 to 30 degrees C on any of the following measurement ranges: 0–0.050, 0–0.100, 0–0.200, 0–0.500, and 0–1.000 ppm.

The Model GLN–114E analyzer is available from the applicant, DKK Corporation, 4–13–14, Kichijoji

Katamachi, Musashino-shi, Tokyo, 180, Japan.

Henry L. Longest II,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 98–29015 Filed 10–28–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP–00557; FRL–6041–5]

Framework for Addressing Key Science Issues Presented by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) as Developed Through the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The notice announces a schedule and framework for EPA issuance of a series of science policies to implement provisions in the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). The notice and comment approach described in this notice was created following discussion with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), a subcommittee of the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT), a committee established pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Comments on individual interim science policy documents will be invited through separate notices in the **Federal Register** as outlined in the framework. While refining its approach to FQPA science policies, EPA will use the policies described in the interim documents when making decisions on pesticide actions.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to: Rm. 119, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit VII. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. The public docket is available for public inspection in Rm. 119 at the Virginia address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Kempter, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Rm. 713D, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA; (703) 305–5448; kempter.carlton@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following documents are available from the EPA Home page at the Federal Register - Environmental Documents entry for this document under ''Laws and Regulations'' (http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/):

1. This document.
2. A table entitled ''Framework for Refining FQPA Science Policy.''
3. A timeline entitled ''Schedule for Release of Guidance on Science Policy Issues.''

Copies of the above-mentioned table and timeline may also be obtained from the OPP docket at the location listed under ADDRESSES or by contacting Jeff Kempter at the telephone number listed above.

I. Background

A. Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)

On August 3, 1996, the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) was signed into law. Effective upon signature, FQPA significantly amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Among other changes, FQPA established a stringent health-based standard (''a reasonable certainty of no harm'') for pesticide residues in foods to assure protection from unacceptable pesticide exposure; provided heightened health protections for infants and children from pesticide risks; required expedited review of new, safer pesticides; created incentives for the development and maintenance of effective crop protection tools for farmers; required reassessment of existing tolerances over a 10–year period; and required periodic re-evaluation of pesticide registrations and tolerances to ensure that data supporting pesticide registrations will remain up-to-date in the future.

B. Food Safety Advisory Committee (FSAC)

When FQPA took effect, EPA was immediately faced with having to implement new standards and requirements. The Agency established the FSAC as a subcommittee of the NACEPT to assist in soliciting input from stakeholders and to provide input to EPA on some of the broad policy choices facing the Agency and on strategic direction for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). With the guidance and input of the FSAC, the Agency issued several key documents concerning how it would implement FQPA: (1) On January 31, 1997, Pesticide Registration Notice 97-1 entitled ''Agency Actions Under the Requirements of the Food Quality Protection Act'' provided an interim decision logic for making regulatory decisions; (2) the ''1996 Implementation Plan,'' made available in March 1997, described EPA's overall plan for implementing the requirements of FQPA; and (3) on August 4, 1997, a **Federal Register** notice entitled ''Raw and Processed Food Schedule for Pesticide Tolerance Reassessment'' announced a specific plan for conducting reassessments of tolerances in effect as of the passage of FQPA.

The Agency has used the interim approaches developed through discussions with FSAC to make regulatory decisions that met FQPA's standard and that could be revisited if additional information became available or as the science evolved. As EPA's approach to implementing the scientific provisions of FQPA has evolved, the Agency has sought independent review and public participation, often through presentation of many of the science policy issues to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), a group of independent, outside experts who provide peer review and scientific advice to OPP.

C. Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC)

Although the Agency has sought independent review and public participation on a wide variety of issues, the Agency has decided that the implementation process would benefit from a more thorough process of notice and comment on major science policy issues. As directed by Vice President Albert Gore, EPA has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a new subcommittee of