

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: December 17, 1998.

**Mary T. Smith,**

*Director, Indoor Environments Division, OAR.*

[FR Doc. 99-3530 Filed 2-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6233-9]

### Agency Information Collection

#### Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; The 1999 National Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees

**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 proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): The 1999 National Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees. 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 April 13, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Dan Waldeck, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, US EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR, including survey questionnaire, without charge by calling Dan Waldeck at 202-260-4520 or via e-mail at waldeck.daniel@epamail.epa.gov or Kate Narburgh at 202-260-8247, narburgh.kate@epamail.epa.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dan Waldeck, 202-260-4520 (phone), 202-401-3448 (facsimile), waldeck.daniel@epamail.epa.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are those which hold a leadership position on Local Emergency Planning Committees

(LEPCs). It is anticipated that the majority of respondents will be LEPC chairs.

**Title:** The 1999 National Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees. (OMB Control No. XXXX-XXXX; EPA ICR No. 1903.01.) This is a new collection.

**Abstract:** The Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPPO) proposes to conduct a nationwide survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The information will be used to assess the general progress, status, and activity level of LEPCs. This collection also addresses reporting requirements under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, which stipulates that agencies focus on evaluating their program activities in terms of outputs and outcomes. This ICR is necessary to evaluate whether CEPPO is successfully providing national leadership and assistance to local communities in preparing for and preventing chemical emergencies.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) introduced a fundamental change in the regulation of chemical facilities and the prevention of and preparedness for chemical accidents. This law seeks to improve emergency preparedness and reduce the risk of chemical accidents by providing information to citizens about chemical hazards in their community. EPCRA is premised on the concept that the more informed local citizens are the more involved they will become in prevention and preparedness activities. For this "informational regulation" to be effective, the public must receive accurate and reliable information that is easy to understand and practical to use.

EPCRA mandates the creation of LEPCs as a means for local government, law enforcement, health officials, and emergency responders to work with chemical facilities, the media, and community groups to develop formal plans for responding to chemical emergencies.

LEPC activities include:

- Receiving chemical hazards data from facilities in their community and providing this information to the local public.
- Developing local emergency response plans, which are annually reviewed, tested, and updated.
- Serving as point of contact for discussing and sharing information about hazardous substances, emergency planning, and health and environmental risk.

- Notifying the public of LEPC activities and other pertinent information.

In general, LEPCs provide local citizens an opportunity to participate actively in understanding chemical hazards, planning for emergency response, and reducing the risk of chemical emergencies. To be judged effective, LEPCs must be compliant with the requirements of EPCRA and actively carry out these responsibilities. LEPC's level of satisfaction with the information, guidance, and support they receive will heavily influence their ability to fulfill their duties. The 1999 National Survey of LEPCs will collect information to evaluate the status and activity level of these planning bodies and their satisfaction with CEPPO products and services.

This proposed information collection builds upon previous assessments conducted by CEPPO. In 1994, a nationwide survey of LEPCs revealed various strengths and weaknesses among LEPCs. Since that time, no systematic nationwide measurement of the progress of LEPCs has been conducted. Over the past five years, local emergency planning has evolved, most notably, in the amount of information that is now available to assist LEPCs in preparing for and preventing chemical emergencies. Moreover, in June 1999, this information will expand further with the addition of facility specific chemical hazards data and risk management plans made available under amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990 (section 112(r)—the Risk Management Program Rule for the prevention of chemical accidents).

The primary goals of this research are to: (1) track the progress of LEPCs by updating the 1994 baseline data on a series of key performance indicators; and (2) probe current LEPC practices and preferences regarding several important sets of issues—including: communications with local citizens, proactive accident prevention efforts, and the effectiveness of selected CEPPO products and services.

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 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:** CEPPPO estimates that there will be 3,300 respondents to this information collection and each respondent will spend 15 minutes completing and submitting either an on-line response form or a mail-in survey, for a total response burden of 825 hours.

There is no need for "developing, acquiring or utilizing technology systems for the purpose of collecting, validating or verifying information," "\* \* \* disclosing and providing information," "adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previous applicable instructions or requirements," "training personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information," "searching data sources," nor a need for respondents to keep records. Burden activities include only a few steps: reading instructions, reading survey questions, responding to survey questions, submitting completed questionnaire (electronically or US mail). CEPPPO estimates an average cost per respondent of \$6.59.

CEPPPO estimates that 3,300 respondents will voluntarily respond to the national survey at a total burden of 825 hours and a total cost of \$21,747.00.

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: February 9, 1999.

**Kathy Jones,**

*Associate Director, EPA/OSWER/CEPPO.*

[FR Doc. 99-3532 Filed 2-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5499-7]

### Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: : Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 OR (202) 564-7153. Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed February 1, 1999 Through February 5, 1999. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

*EIS No. 990037*, Final EIS, NOA, FL, Guana, Tolomato, Matanzas, Site Designation, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Management Plan, City of Jacksonville, St. Johns and Flagler Counties, FL, Due: March 15, 1999, Contact: Jeffrey R. Benoit (301) 713-3155.

*EIS No. 990038*, Final EIS, DOE, ID, Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project, Construction and Operation, Site Selection, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), Eastern Snake River Plain, ID, Due: March 15, 1999, Contact: John E. Medema (208) 526-1407.

*EIS No. 990039*, Final EIS, AFS, NH, Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Huts and Pinkham Notch Visitor Center (PNVC) Continued Operations, Special Use Permit and Possible COE Permit Issuance, White Mountain National Forest, Grafton and Coos Counties, NH, Due: March 15, 1999, Contact: Rebecca Oreskes (603) 466-2713.

Dated: February 8, 1999.

**B. Katherine Biggs,**

*Associate Director, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 99-3551 Filed 2-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5499-8]

### Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared January 11, 1999 Through January 15, 1999 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP),

under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 10, 1999 (62 FR 17856).

### Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-K08019-CA, Rating LO, Lucerne Valley to Big Bear Valley Transmission Line/Substation Project, Construction and Operation of Three Electrical Power Facilities: 115 kV Line between the Cottonwood Substation in Lurcerne Valley; Goldhill Substation and a new Bear Valley Substation, Special-Use-Permit and Right-of-Way Permit, San Bernardino County, CA.

Summary: EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring changes to the proposal.

ERP No. D-BLM-J03013-UT, Rating EO2, Ferron Natural Gas Project, Proposal to Construct, Maintain and Operate a Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline, Application for Permit to Drill (APD), Special-Use-Permit and Right-of-Way Grant, Carbon and Emery Counties, UT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental objections with the DEIS including the potential for significant visibility degradation in adjacent Class I airsheds including Capitol Reef and Canyonlands National Park.

ERP No. D-NOA-B91027-00, Rating EC2, Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) Fishery Management Plan, Implementation, Northwest Atlantic Ocean, Labrador to Florida.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns. The description of the spiny dogfish habitat and strategies to deal with the problem of "ghost" fishing from lost or abandoned gill net were inadequately addressed in the document. The document provide a suite of management alternatives to reduce fishing mortality and to ensure that overfishing does not occur.

### Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-L61220-OR, Christy Basin Planning Area, Implementation, Regeneration Timber Harvesting, Willamette National Forest, Oakridge Ranger District, Lane County, OR.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-AFS-L65207-OR, Young'n Timber Sales, Implementation,