SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Valuing Inland Water Quality Improvements (EPA ICR number 1914.01). 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 April 10, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the ICR contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260–2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epa.gov, or download off the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/icr and refer to EPA ICR No. 1914.01. For technical questions about the ICR contact Dr. Alan Carlin, Office of Policy and Reinvention, Mail Code 2172, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460, e-mail carlin.alan@epa.gov, phone 202–260–5499, FAX 202–260–7875.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Valuing Inland Water Quality Improvements (EPA ICR number 1914.01). This is a new collection.

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to develop economic benefit values for water quality improvements for lakes, rivers, and streams. These estimates are of substantial academic interest since past studies have been based on a water quality ladder, which is believed not to be as scientifically valid a construct for assessing water quality. The estimates may also be useful to the Agency in complying with the requirements of Executive Order 12866 requiring cost-benefit analysis of major Federal regulations. This project will explore how valuations are affected by use of the current EPA approach of specifying different dimensions of water quality such as swimming, fishing, and broader aquatic ecological effects. The findings will be pertinent to economists studying water quality changes, particularly with respect to the task of assessing benefit values for water quality policies. We expect to use data collected with the survey in determining the value of water quality improvements to households in the United States. We plan to recruit subjects randomly across the United States through telephone recruiting. Subjects will be asked to complete a computer survey from a disk, which will be mailed to them. Subjects without convenient access to a personal computer will be referred to a national commercial facility with computer access nearest their home for the purpose of completing the survey. Subjects will return the survey disk by mail when completed. Participation in the survey is voluntary. Respondents will have to expend time, effort, and in many cases travel expense to participate in the study. Avoiding bias in the sample towards individuals and groups who can more easily take the survey is an important concern. As a result, we will compensate subjects for their time (and travel if necessary) to avoid the selection bias that might otherwise result. This survey is innovative both in terms of the survey methodology and the substantive economic focus. On both of these dimensions the survey is breaking new ground. To maximize the research value of the survey, we will proceed iteratively. The version of the survey available now will undergo at least two pre-tests after OMB approves the ICR. These pretests will be designed to identify programming complications arising from the nature of the survey, as well as survey questions that can be refined to promote greater clarity and convergence in the iterative choice process used. The final structure of the survey will depend on how people respond to the draft questions. For example, on any initial pairwise choice question, the researchers seek to present an initial tradeoff where half of the subjects choose each alternative, in order to maximize convergence on tradeoff rates in the least possible number of iterative questions. After the pre-tests are completed, recruiting will proceed as described above.

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** document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d) soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on November 12, 1999 (64 FR 61632); two comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting burden for this collection of information will average between 50 minutes and 110 minutes per respondent. 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: Individuals/households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,800.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 3,150 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Capital and Operating & Maintenance Cost Burden: $0.

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. 1914.01 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Information, Collection Strategies Division (2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, 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: March 1, 2000.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 00–5801 Filed 3–9–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6549–9]

Transfer of Confidential Business Information to Contractors

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of transfer of data and request for comments.

SUMMARY: EPA will transfer to its contractor, Dynamac Corporation and its subcontractor: Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) Confidential Business Information (CBI) that has been or will be submitted to EPA under section 3007 of the Resource

Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Under RCRA, EPA is involved in activities to support, expand and implement solid and hazardous waste regulations.

DATES: Transfer of confidential data submitted to EPA will occur no sooner than March 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Regina Magbie, Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460. Comments should be identified as ''Transfer of Confidential Data.''

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina Magbie, Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460, 703–308–7909.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Transfer of Confidential Business Information

Under EPA Contract 68–W–98–231 Dynamac Corporation, and its subcontractor, will assist the Office of Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste Identification Division, by providing technical support in completing hazardous waste listing determinations, defining hazardous waste characteristics, developing the hazardous waste identification rule, and developing rules and reports pertaining to the definition of solid waste, medical waste, used oil, waste generation and transportation, and universal waste, such as batteries and fluorescent light bulbs. EPA has determined that Dynamac Corporation and its subcontractor, will need access to RCRA CBI submitted to the Office of Solid Waste to complete this work. Dynamac Corporation and its subcontractor, needs access to several EPA sources including the Petroleum Refinery Data Base, the Toxics Release Inventory, the EPA National Survey of Hazardous Waste Generators, and the Industries Studies Data Base.

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.305(h), EPA has determined that Dynamac Corporation, and its subcontractor, require access to CBI submitted to EPA under the authority of RCRA to perform work satisfactorily under the above-noted contract. EPA is submitting this notice to inform all submitters of CBI of EPA's intent to transfer CBI to this firm on a need-to-know basis. Upon completing its review of materials submitted, Dynamac Corporation, and its subcontractor, will return all CBI to EPA.

EPA will authorize Dynamac Corporation, and its subcontractor, for access to CBI under the conditions and terms in EPA's ''Contractor Requirements for the Control and Security of RCRA Confidential Business Information Security Manual.'' Prior to transferring CBI to Dynamac Corporation, and its subcontractor, EPA will review and approve its security plans and Dynamac Corporation, and its subcontractor, will sign non-disclosure agreements.

Dated: February 18, 2000.

Elizabeth Cotsworth,

Director, Office of Solid Waste.

[FR Doc. 00–5802 Filed 3–8–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6549–1]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, notice is hereby given that several committees of the USEPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times noted below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. *Important Notice:* Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

1. Air Toxics Monitoring Subcommittee

The Air Toxics Monitoring Subcommittee, an ad hoc subcommittee of the Science Advisory Board's Executive Committee, will meet March 29–30, 2000 in conference room 6013, USEPA, Ariel Rios Building North, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The meeting will begin by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29 and adjourn no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30.

Purpose of the Meeting—The Subcommittee will review the draft Air Toxics Monitoring Strategy Concept Paper and the draft ''Protocol for Model to Monitor Comparisons for National Air Toxics Screening Assessment''. The Air Toxics Monitoring Concept Paper outlines the approach proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its State and Local Agency partners to develop a national ambient monitoring network for hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). The concept paper describes monitoring and data assessment activities to be performed over the next several years which will facilitate the design of a long-term monitoring program.

The role of this evolving monitoring network is, initially, to provide data on a subset of HAPs to characterize ambient concentrations in representative monitoring areas to support and evaluate dispersion and exposure models. The ''Protocol for Model to Monitor Comparisons for National Air Toxics Screening Assessment'' provides a proposed collection of data analysis procedures which utilize ambient air monitoring data to evaluate air quality model estimates. Later, the network can be used to establish ambient trends, and evaluate the effectiveness of HAP control strategies. Eventually, the network will support other efforts such as initiatives to focus on multi-media and cumulative risks, various air toxics assessments, and education/outreach.

Charge to the Subcommittee—The preliminary charge questions for this review are:

(a) Since the air toxics monitoring program will be an integral part of the National Air Toxics Assessment activities and will augment the pre-existing State and local toxics monitoring efforts, does the Subcommittee believe that the near-term (1–2 year) focuses (characterizing neighborhood scale HAPs concentrations and providing a reality check on dispersion modeling elements of the strategy) are appropriate initial steps.

(b) Is a basic 24-hour sample, taken at a frequency sufficient to fulfill the objectives of the program, adequate to provide this model reality check and supply data for the characterization of ambient HAPs concentrations?

(c) Is the neighborhood sampling scale an appropriate choice for this program?

(d) Given the enormity of the task of monitoring for all HAPs, we propose to concentrate on monitoring for the 33 HAPs identified in the Urban Air Toxics Strategy (64 FR 38705). We anticipate monitoring for all (approximately 30) HAPs with practical measurement methods at some sites in the proposed network, and monitor for a smaller subset at the majority of new sites. We would appreciate the advice of the Subcommittee regarding the soundness of this strategy.

(e) Are the available Toxic Organic (TO-) methods suitable for the operation of a routine monitoring network