

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6238-5]

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles**

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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles; EPA ICR Number 1887.01. 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 5, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR Number 1887.01.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles; EPA ICR Number 1887.01. This is a new collection.

*Abstract:* The National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) at EPA is funding four studies of personal exposure of high-risk subpopulations to particles and associated gases. The studies, which have been recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) under a directive from Congress, are considered necessary to support the proposed new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

Three of the studies are 3-year cooperative agreements with the following institutions: the Harvard School of Public Health, the New York University School of Medicine, and the University of Washington. The fourth study is an in-house study with contractual support. All four studies will employ the same questionnaire to supplement the collection of information on personal, indoor, and outdoor concentrations of the target

pollutants. Subjects will be selected by physicians from among their patients with respiratory or cardiovascular disease. Participation will be entirely voluntary.

The information will be used by scientists within ORD and external to the Agency to determine the relationship between personal exposure, indoor concentrations, and concentrations measured at a central monitoring site for one or more high-risk subpopulations, including particularly persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and persons with cardiovascular disease. The data will also be used by the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards in their review of the basis for the proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> regulation. The information will appear in the form of final EPA reports, journal articles, and will also be made publicly available in an electronic data base.

The cost of the four studies is expected to be \$6M over a period of three years. Approximately 312 respondents will be included over the three-year period. There are no costs to the respondents. An incentive payment will be offered to defray burden.

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 12/15/98 (63 FR 69073); no comments were received.

*Burden Statement:* The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20.1 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:* individuals that volunteer to participate in the study.

*Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 104.

*Frequency of Response:* varies/on occasion.

*Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:* 2,090 hours.

*Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden:* \$0.00.

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 the EPA ICR Number in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OP 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: February 26, 1999.

**Richard T. Westlund,**

*Acting Director, Regulatory Information Division.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6238-4]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; National Water Quality Inventory Reports**

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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment: National Water Quality Inventory Reports (Clean Water Act sections 305(b), 303(d), 314(a), and 106(e)); OMB Control No. 2040-0071, expires June 30, 1999. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before April 5, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1560.05.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* National Water Quality Inventory Reports (Clean Water Act sections 305(b), 303(d), 314(a), and 106(e)); OMB Control No. 2040-0071, EPA ICR No. 1560.05, expires June 30, 1999. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 92-500, 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*; most recently amended in 1987 by Public Law 100-4) requires each State to prepare and submit a biennial water quality report to the EPA Administrator. Regulations for water quality monitoring, planning, management and reporting are found in 40 CFR part 130. Each 305(b) report includes such information as a description of the quality of waters of the State; an analysis of the extent to which these waters provide for the protection and propagation of a balanced population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife, and allow recreational activities in and on the water; recommendations for additional action necessary to achieve such uses; an estimate of the environmental impact and economic and social costs as well as the economic and social benefits of such achievement; and a description of the nature and extent of nonpoint sources of pollutants and recommendations as to programs needed to control each category of such sources.

Under the CWA section 314(a)(2), States must incorporate information regarding Clean Lakes into the 305(b) reports. States are to include the following: an identification and classification according to trophic condition of all publicly owned lakes; a description of the methods to control sources of pollution and restore these lakes; methods to mitigate the harmful effects of high acidity; a list and description of publicly owned lakes for which uses are known to be impaired; and an assessment of the status and trends of water quality in lakes.

Section 303(d)(1) of the CWA requires States to identify and rank water-quality limited waters which will not meet State water quality standards after implementation of required controls, such as, technology-based point source controls.

Section 106(e) requires States to include information on monitoring

activities implemented to evaluate the quality of navigable waters and ground water in the 305(b) reports.

Reporting under sections 305(b) and 314 is thus required of the 50 States. Reporting activities under section 303(d) may be submitted as part of the 305(b) report or may be submitted under separate cover. Other respondents (Territories, River Basin Commissions) also prepare 305(b) reports to document the quality of their waters to EPA, Congress, and the public and, in some cases, to meet grant conditions.

The 305(b) reporting process is an essential component of the EPA water pollution control program. EPA's Office of Water uses the 305(b) reports as the principal information source for assessing nationwide water quality, progress made in maintaining and restoring water quality, and the extent of remaining water pollution problems. EPA prepares the National Water Quality Inventory Report to Congress and evaluates impacts of EPA's water pollution control programs with the information and data supplied in the 305(b) reports and the corresponding national database, the EPA Waterbody System. The Office of Water uses the Report to Congress to target persistent and emerging water quality problems with new initiatives and to improve or eliminate ineffective programs.

EPA uses the information submitted under section 314 to evaluate and to report on trends in the status of lake water quality reports issued by the section 314 Clean Lakes Program. The Agency also uses this information for a variety of other purposes including to assist in the management of lake projects funded under both sections 314 and 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Under section 303(d), EPA must review and approve or disapprove the State lists of water-quality limited waterbodies still requiring total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Section 303(d) of the CWA establishes the TMDL process to provide for more stringent water-quality based controls when required Federal, State or local controls are inadequate to achieve State water quality standards. TMDLs encourage a holistic view of water quality problems considering all contributions and instream water quality and provide a method to allocate those contributions to meet water quality standards.

EPA is currently developing proposed revisions to the TMDL program regulations and, as part of that effort, will determine whether it needs to prepare a new ICR based on the proposed regulatory revisions. While at this time, EPA believes that it is likely

that a new ICR will be needed, no final decision will be made and the Agency will continue to undertake the necessary analyses needed to make such a final decision.

During 1998, EPA worked with its partners on the development of Clean Water Action Plan Unified Watershed Assessments (UWA). EPA and its partners are looking into whether these assessments should be updated in the future. If the UWA are updated and are subject to ICR requirements, EPA will conduct a complete burden analysis.

The next 305(b) reports and 303(d) lists are due to EPA in April 2000. EPA has published guidelines on the types of information requested of respondents in their 305(b) reports. The current edition is Guidelines for the Preparation of the Comprehensive State Water Quality Assessments (305(b) Reports) and Electronic Updates: Report Contents, EPA841-B-97-002A, and Guidelines for the Preparation of the Comprehensive State Water Quality Assessments (305(b) Reports) and Electronic Updates: Supplement, EPA841-B-97-002B (For further information or a copy call: Susan Holdsworth at EPA, (202) 260-4743).

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 11/13/98 (63 FR 63470): one comment was received. The commenters recommend that EPA increase the estimate of the burden associated with State preparation of 305(b) reports. . . . because the States are not properly preparing the 305(b) reports. . . ."and that EPA increase its activities to improve the quality of State 305(b) reports. In response, EPA is addressing the concern that the level of detail and the comprehensiveness of 305(b) reports varies among states. These efforts include the use of financial incentives and the dissemination of guidance, training and technology. Preliminary results indicate these efforts are successfully improving the 305(b) reporting process. In addition, EPA did review its calculation of burden and identified an error in the calculation. When revising the estimate of burden to reflect 2-year rather than 5-year reporting cycle, EPA did not recalculate the burden associated with the ground water portion of the assessments. Correction of this error increased the estimate of burden hours.

**Burden Statement:** The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4164 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:** States, the District of Columbia, Territories, and River Basin Commissions.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 59.

**Frequency of Response:** Reports every 2 years as required by the CWA; annual electronic updates of water quality assessment data is encouraged in 1999 and 2001 and the burden of this activity is included in this renewal request.

**Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:** 245,676 hours.

**Estimated Total Annualized Cost:** \$0.00.

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. 1560.05 and OMB Control No. 2040-0071 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OP 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: March 1, 1999.

**Richard T. Westlund,**

Acting Director, Regulatory Information Division.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6238-3]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Enforcement Policy Regarding the Sale and Use of Aftermarket Catalytic Converters ICR

**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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Enforcement Policy Regarding the Sale and Use of Aftermarket Catalytic Converters; OMB No. 2060-0135; expires 03/31/99. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost; and where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before April 5, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by E-Mail at Farmer.Sandy@epamail.epa.gov or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1292.05.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Enforcement Policy Regarding the Sale and Use of Aftermarket Catalytic Converters, (OMB Control No. 2060-0135; EPA ICR No. 1292.05.) expiring 3/31/99. This is a request for an extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Section 203(a) of the Clean Air Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. 7522(a), prohibits removing or rendering inoperative automobile emission control devices or elements of design and prohibits the sale or installation of any device that bypasses or renders inoperative emission control elements of design. Prior to the issuance of the aftermarket catalytic converter enforcement policy (51 FR 28114-28119, 28133 (Aug. 5, 1986); 52 FR 42144 (Nov. 3, 1987)), the manufacture, sale or installation of aftermarket catalytic converters not equivalent to new original equipment (OE) converters violated § 203 of the Act. However, current EPA policy allows aftermarket converters to be manufactured and installed, under the conditions that the converters meet certain specified

standards; a converter may be installed on a vehicle only if it is the appropriate type and size for that vehicle. The record keeping and testing requirements of the policy are needed to ensure the quality and installation requirements are met.

New aftermarket catalytic converter manufacturers are required, once for each converter line manufactured, to identify physical specifications of the converter and to summarize pre-production testing of the prototype. The manufacturer must report semi-annually the number of each type of converter manufactured, and provide a summary of warranty card information (or copies of the actual cards, at the manufacturer's option). In addition, the manufacturers must keep warranty cards for 5 years, since that is the length of the warranty period.

A company that reconditions used converters must, one time only, identify itself and provide information regarding its converter testing equipment and procedures. All used converters must be individually bench-tested, and the company must report semi-annually the identity of its distributors and the number of reconditioned converters of each type that are sold to the distributor.

Installers of aftermarket converters have no reporting requirements but must keep copies of installation invoices and a record that demonstrates that the installation was justified. Removed converters must be tagged with identifying information and be kept for 15 days.

EPA allows the use of computerized records and pre-printed documents.

Parties who comply with these policies are allowed to manufacture, sell and install aftermarket catalytic converters which are not identical to original equipment (OE) converters.

While the program is voluntary in that converter manufacturers could instead manufacture or install certified OE-equivalent converters, for companies choosing to manufacture converters meeting the less stringent requirements of the policy, all responses are mandatory. EPA has authority to require this information under section 203 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 7522, section 114 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 7414 and section 208 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 7542. Confidentiality of information obtained from parties is protected under 40 CFR part 2.

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