

St., Highway 17 North, Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

#### Evening Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 1999, 7 p.m., Best Western Claridge Inn, 70 North Stevens St., Highway 17 North, Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

To help focus discussions, we will distribute a Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EA to parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD1 also will be available at the scoping meetings.

#### Site Visit

The applicant and Commission staff will conduct a project site visit on Thursday, April 15, 1999. We will meet at the guard desk in the Rhinelander Paper Company lobby, 515 West Davenport Street, at 1 p.m. If you would like to attend, please call Bruce Olson, Rhinelander Paper Company, at 715-369-4244, no later than April 9, 1999.

#### Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EA; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission's proceeding on the project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to sign in before the meeting starts and to identify themselves clearly for the record.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EA.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-8272 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6318-9]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Information Collection Request Number 801.12: Requirements for Generators, Transporters, and Waste Management Facilities Under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Manifest System

**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 continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Requirements for Generators, Transporters, and Waste Management Facilities Under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Manifest system, ICR No. 801.12, OMB No. 2050-0039, expires 9/30/99.

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 June 4, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Commenters must send an original and two copies of their comments referencing docket number F-1999-RWMP-FFFFF to: RCRA Docket Information Center, Office of Solid Waste (5305G), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (EPA HQ), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Internet to: rcradocket@epamail.epa.gov. Comments in electronic format should also be identified by the RCRA docket number F-1999-RWMP-FFFFF. All electronic comments must be submitted as a ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Commenters should not submit electronically any confidential business information (CBI). An original and two copies of CBI must be submitted under a separate cover to: RCRA CBI Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Public comments and supporting materials are available for viewing in the RCRA Information Center (RIC), located at Crystal Gateway 1, First Floor, 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The RIC is open from

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. To review docket materials, it is recommended that the public make an appointment by calling 703-603-9230. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory docket at no charge. Additional copies cost \$.15/page. The index and some supporting materials are available electronically.

The ICR is available on the Internet. Follow these instructions to access the information electronically:

WWW: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/gener/manifest/>  
FTP: <ftp://ftp.epa.gov>  
Login: anonymous  
Password: your Internet address  
Files are located in /pub/epaoswer

The official record for this action will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into paper form and place them in the official record, which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. EPA responses to comments, whether the comments are written or electronic, will be in a notice in the "Federal Register." EPA will not immediately reply to commenters electronically other than to seek clarification of electronic comments that may be garbled in transmission or during conversion to paper form, as discussed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information, contact the RCRA Hotline 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 800-553-7672 (hearing impaired). In the Washington metropolitan area, call 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323. For more detailed information on specific aspects of this rulemaking, contact Bryan Groce, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, 703 308-8750, [groce.bryan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:groce.bryan@epamail.epa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are those who generate, transport, or manage hazardous waste including those who store, treat, recycle, or dispose of hazardous waste.

**Title:** Requirements for Generators, Transporters, and Waste Management Facilities Under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Manifest System, ICR No. 801, OMB No. 2050-0039, expiration date: 9/30/96.

**Abstract:** The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended, establishes a national program to assure that hazardous waste management practices are conducted in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. EPA's authority to

require compliance with the manifest system stems primarily from RCRA section 3002(a)(5). This section mandates a hazardous waste manifest "system" to assure that all hazardous waste generated is designated for and arrives at the appropriate treatment, storage, disposal facility. An essential part of this manifest system is the Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest (Form 8700-22A). The manifest is a tracking document that accompanies the waste from its generation site to its final disposition. The manifest lists the wastes that are being shipped and the final destination of the waste.

The manifest system is a self-enforcing mechanism that requires generators, transporters, and owner/operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities to participate in hazardous waste tracking. In addition the manifest provides information to transporters and waste management facility workers on the hazardous nature of the waste, identifies wastes so that they can be managed appropriately in the event of an accident, spill, or leak, and ensures that shipments of hazardous waste are managed properly and delivered to their designated facilities.

This system does not ordinarily involve intervention on the part of EPA unless hazardous wastes do not reach their point of disposition within a specified time frame. In most cases, RCRA-authorized States operate the manifest system, and requirements may vary among authorized States.

EPA believes manifest requirements and the resulting information collection mitigate potential hazards to human health and the environment by ensuring that hazardous waste is sent to and received by appropriate treatment, storage, and disposal facilities, by initiating appropriate response actions if a shipment does not reach its intended destination, and by providing necessary emergency response information in the event of an accident, spill, or leak during transportation.

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 is soliciting 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**

The projected burden and cost for complying with manifest requirements are approximately 2,899,907 burden hours per year with an annual cost of \$117,194,088.

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.

#### **Recordkeeping and Reporting Burden**

##### *Hazardous Waste Generators*

The total estimated annual recordkeeping and reporting burden for hazardous waste generators is 922,411 hours. The Agency estimates that there are 18,514 large quantity generators (LQGs), 82,873 small quantity generators (SQGs), and 1,983 treatment storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) acting as generators who are subject to the federal requirements for preparing a manifest. Hazardous waste generators prepare approximately 1,795,865 manifests annually for federally regulated hazardous waste.

The Agency believes that LQGs and SQGs take an average of 24 and 22.8 minutes respectively, to complete each manifest, and they are estimated to take 1.25 hours to read the manifest regulations once a year.

The estimated annual reporting burden related to manifesting for a SQG

or LQG ranges from 3 to 90 minutes per generator. The variation in burden hours will depend on the nature of the shipment. For example, if a hazardous waste generator receives assistance in completing the manifest and experiences no problems with the shipment, the burden is likely to be as low as 3 minutes per manifest. If however, a generator does not receive a copy of the manifest returned by the TSDF the burden can be as high as 90 minutes to account for the time required to complete and submit an exception report.

EPA also estimates that there are 1,983 TSDFs who ship wastes offsite and that a TSDF who ships wastes offsite takes an average of 25.8 minutes to prepare a manifest. Of these TSDFs approximately 75 percent are captive TSDFs (i.e., TSDFs who receive waste from onsite sources only, or from onsite and offsite sources that are owned by the same company) and 25 percent are commercial TSDFs (i.e., facilities that manage waste from any generator or facility, or from a limited group of generators or facilities for commercial purposes). EPA estimates that the average commercial TSDF acting as a generator completes 292 manifests annually while the average captive TSDF acting as a generator completes 36 manifests annually. Approximately 144,832 manifests are completed annually by all commercial TSDFs acting as generators, and 53,532 manifests are completed annually by all captive TSDFs acting as generators. This results in a total of 198,364 manifests generated by TSDFs acting as generators each year.

In addition to reporting burden, hazardous waste generators are expected to incur a recordkeeping burden of between 10 and 20 minutes for time spent retaining the manifest, obtaining the signature of the first transporter, and dealing with any exception reports onsite.

##### *Hazardous Waste Transporters*

The estimated annual recordkeeping and reporting burden for hazardous waste transporters who handle the manifest is 633,119 hours. The Agency estimates that there are 500 hazardous waste transporter companies subject to the manifest system and that on average, each company will take 1.25 hours to read the manifest regulations once a year. Approximately 91 percent (1,623,317) of manifests will accompany highway shipments, 6 percent (107,032) will accompany rail shipments, and 3 percent (53,516) will accompany water shipments. EPA estimates that there are approximately 1,783,865 manifests

completed annually for domestic shipments and that there are an additional 12,000 manifests that accompany exports of hazardous wastes from the U.S.

The estimated annual reporting burden per manifest for hazardous waste transporters ranges from 10 to 90 minutes. The variation in burden hours for transporters will depend on the nature of the shipment and whether a discharge has occurred. If a discharge of hazardous waste occurs, the transporter is required to notify the authorities and will incur a higher burden.

In addition to reporting burden, hazardous waste transporters are expected to incur a recordkeeping burden of between 10 and 20 minutes per manifest to account for time spent retaining the manifest onsite, obtaining the signature of the next handler of the shipment, and relaying to that handler the remaining copies of the manifest.

#### *Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities*

The estimated annual recordkeeping and reporting burden for designated TSDFs is 1,344,377 hours. Of the 2,584 TSDFs in the U.S., approximately 644 TSDFs receive hazardous waste shipments from offsite (e.g., they receive waste from any generator or facility, or from a limited group of generators or facilities for commercial purposes). The remaining TSDFs treat or store wastes from onsite sources only. EPA estimates that TSDFs who receive waste for treatment, storage, and disposal will take 1.25 hours to read the manifest regulations once a year.

These designated facilities are also expected to spend between 20 and 205 minutes fulfilling reporting requirements. For most TSDFs, reporting consists of completing and transmitting the manifest. Reporting of this type may require only 20 minutes per manifest. The Agency estimates that of the 1,795,685 manifests prepared by generators, 12,000 manifests are sent with shipments exported out of the U.S. and 178 manifests are lost in transport. These 12,178 manifests are not received or processed by designated TSDFs. The remaining 1,783,687 manifest are received by TSDFs. Of these, 7,135 (0.4%) manifests involve discrepancies. A TSDF who encounters a significant discrepancy may incur a burden as high as 205 minutes per manifest. This includes time for contacting the generator and completing the discrepancy reports.

In addition to reporting burden, designated TSDFs are expected to incur a recordkeeping burden of between five and 35 minutes per manifest to account

for time spent retaining the manifest onsite and if needed, a discrepancy and unmanifested waste report, and relaying a signed copy confirming delivery of the shipment to the generator.

#### **Costs**

EPA estimates that generators, transporters, and TSDFs incur annual costs of \$96,861,043. Of this total, \$96,803,642 (99.9%) is attributable to labor costs and to operation and maintenance costs. Labor costs are estimated to be \$96.16 per hour for legal staff, \$71.50 per hour for managerial staff, \$46.80 per hour for technical staff, and \$24.48 per hour for clerical staff.

Additionally, capital costs for the hazardous waste manifest requirements are approximately \$57,261. For this ICR, capital cost represents the cost of purchasing file cabinets to store paper copies of the manifest. The Agency anticipates that collectively the hazardous waste industry will need to keep copies of 7,872,069 manifests and reports annually and would need to purchase 492 standard size lateral file cabinets each year. In total, EPA estimates that the hazardous waste industry will need to pay an annual cost of \$28,630 for the 492 file cabinets over each of the 15 years of the useful life of the file cabinet.

Because the exhibits in the ICR summarized in this notice present the average annual cost to respondents under the manifest system over the three-year life of the ICR, EPA has averaged the annual cost of purchasing file cabinets over three years. By averaging the annual payments for each of the three years, EPA has determined the total average annual cost to the industry to be approximately \$57,261. Commenters should note that the above estimates reflect an overall increase in burden from the previous ICR. This increase is due primarily to adjustments to the number of manifests per shipment, to the amount of time required to read the regulations, and to the amount of time needed to prepare the manifest and process it during its transmission between various handlers.

The Agency is specifically interested in comments concerning the accuracy of the number of manifests estimated, the amount of time required to read the regulations and prepare the manifest, and elements of the manifest system that result in additional burden but are not included in the ICR.

Commenters should also be advised that EPA plans a more fundamental modification of the manifest system during the period of this ICR renewal. The Agency is interested in reducing the data elements and copy requirements of

the current form, and moving perhaps to a more automated means of tracking and reporting hazardous waste movement data. Therefore, EPA also solicits comments suggesting those elements of the manifest system that are most amenable to change, and the burden reduction or other benefits that could result from the suggested changes. EPA also requests comments on the concept of automating the manifest system, and suggestions and concerns from the public on the automated approaches which EPA should consider in developing a new approach to tracking hazardous waste shipments. Send comments regarding the ICR and suggestions for reducing the burden to the address noted above in the section entitled **ADDRESSES**.

Dated: March 24, 1999.

**Elizabeth Cotsworth,**

*Acting Director, Office of Solid Waste.*

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6319-6]

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Final Authorization for Hazardous Waste Management**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Action (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: Final Authorization for Hazardous Waste Management, OMB Control No. 2050-0041, expiration date March 31, 1999. 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 May 5, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the ICR, call Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260-2740, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr/icr.htm>, and refer to EPA ICR No.969.05.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Final Authorization for Hazardous Waste Management Programs (OMB Control No. 2050-0041, EPA ICR No. 969.05) expiring 3/31/99. This is a