

DTI requests an effective date of July 1, 2000, for the negotiated rate.

DTI states that copies of the filing have been served on all parties on the official service list, DTI's customers, and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**  
Secretary.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6733-1]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request; Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives (EPA ICR Number 309.10, OMB Control Number 2060-0150, expiration date: 6-30-00). 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 September 11, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Transportation and Regional Programs Division, Office of

Transportation and Air Quality, Office of Air and Radiation, Mail Code 6406J, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. A paper or electronic copy of the draft ICR may be obtained without charge by contacting the person listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

James W. Caldwell, (202) 564-9303, fax: (202) 565-2085, [caldwell.jim@epa.gov](mailto:caldwell.jim@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are those who (1) manufacture or import gasoline or diesel fuel for use in motor vehicles, or (2) manufacture or import an additive for gasoline or diesel fuel for use in motor vehicles.

**Title:** Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Requirements for Manufacturers (40 CFR 79), EPA ICR Number 309.10, OMB Control Number 2060-0150, expiration date: 6-30-00.

**Abstract:** In accordance with the regulations at 40 CFR 79, Subparts A, B, C, and D, Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives, manufacturers (including importers) of gasoline or diesel fuel for use in motor vehicles, and manufacturers (including importers) of additives for such gasoline or diesel fuel, are required to have these products registered by the EPA prior to their introduction into commerce.

Registration involves providing a chemical description of the fuel or additive, certain technical and marketing information, and any health-effects information in possession of the manufacturer. The development of health-effects data, as required by 40 CFR part 79, Subpart F, is covered by a separate information collection. Manufacturers are also required to submit periodic reports (annually for additives, quarterly and annually for fuels) on production volume and related information. The information is used to identify products whose evaporative or combustion emissions may pose an unreasonable risk to public health, thus meriting further investigation and potential regulation. The information is also used to ensure that gasoline additives comply with EPA requirements for protecting catalytic converters and other automotive emission controls. The data have been used to construct a comprehensive data base on fuel and additive composition. The Mine Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor restricts the use of diesel additives in underground coal mines to those registered by EPA. Most of the information is confidential.

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 at 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:** There are approximately 120 fuel manufacturers, 660 additive manufacturers, 600 registered fuels, and 5600 registered additives. For each additive that is not a relable of a registered additive, about 4000 additives, an annual report is required, at an estimated burden of one hour and cost of \$58. For each fuel, quarterly and annual reports are required, at an estimated burden of three hours and \$173 for each. EPA estimates that there will be 500 new additives registered each year, with a reporting burden of eight hours and \$500 each. EPA estimates that there will be 500 additive update letters each year, with a burden of one hour and \$54 each. EPA estimates that there will be 50 new gasoline and diesel fuels registered each year, with a burden of eight hours and \$500 each. EPA estimates that there will be 600 fuel update letters each year, with a burden of one hour and \$54 each. There are no capital and start-up costs. There are no operation and maintenance costs beyond copying and postage. The total annual estimated burden for industry is 18,500 hours and \$1 million. 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: June 22, 2000.

**Merrylin Zaw-Mon,**

*Director, Transportation and Regional Programs Division.*

[FR Doc. 00-17490 Filed 7-10-00; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6732-1]

### Notice of Availability and Request for Comment on Draft Plan of Action for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability and Request for Public Comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on behalf of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (Task Force), invites public comments on the draft Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (Action Plan) as required by section 604(b) of Public Law 105-383, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, Title VI, enacted on November 13, 1998. The Task Force is comprised of senior policymakers from eight Federal agencies, nine States, and two Tribal governments. The Action Plan is the result of several years of study and discussion by the members of the Task Force and many interested officials and citizens who participated in their deliberations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by September 11, 2000. All comments received during the formal comment period will be reviewed and delivered to the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force for their consideration prior to the development of the final Action Plan. Late comments will be considered as time allows. Submission of comments prior to the end of the comment period is highly encouraged.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to: Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico

Action Plan (4503F), c/o U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460. For information on electronic filing of comments, see "Additional Comment Information" in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Wilson, U.S. EPA, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD) (4503F), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20460, telephone (202) 260-7878; Internet: wilson.john@epa.gov. The draft Action Plan below, as well as related information, may be reached via the EPA website: at <<http://www.epa.gov/msbasin/>>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Additional Comment Information:* Comments may also be submitted electronically. Comments should be sent to the following Internet address: ms-river@epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII or WordPerfect file avoiding the use of special characters and any form on encryption.

The Task Force first met on December 4, 1997 and has had five meetings since that time in various locations within the Mississippi/Atchafalaya river basin. At its November 18, 1999 meeting in Chicago, IL, the Task Force expressed general support for a previous draft of this Action Plan, but requested staff development of additional information on quantitative goals for the reduction of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. At its June 15 and 16 meeting in St. Louis, MO, the Task Force had a spirited discussion about alternative goals and directed that several alternatives be published for public comment. Accordingly, the Task Force is particularly interested in comment on the following:

1. Which of the "Coastal Goals" should be in the final Action Plan, and if not any of these, please suggest alternatives? Are the "Within Basin" and "Quality of Life" Goals appropriate or how should they be modified?;
2. Are the Implementation Actions listed and the dates associated with them appropriate?;
3. Provide examples of any effective nutrient management State/Tribal program successes or challenges which can be highlighted in the final Action Plan; and
4. Are the listings of Federal programs in the section "Funding the National Effort" complete?

### Draft Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Purpose and Background

Background on the Issue  
Long-Term Goals  
Implementation Actions  
Key Roles and Responsibilities  
The Framework and Approach for Reducing Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico  
Adaptive Management: Action, Monitoring, and Research  
Funding the National Effort: Clean Rivers/  
Clean Gulf Budget Initiative  
Indicators of Success/Progress

### Purpose and Background

This Action Plan describes a national strategy to reduce the frequency, duration, size and degree of oxygen depletion of the hypoxic zone of the northern Gulf of Mexico (the Gulf). The Plan is the result of several years of study and discussion by the members of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (the Task Force) and many concerned officials and citizens who participated in their deliberations. This Plan is submitted in accordance with The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, Title VI of P.L. 105-383, section 604(b), enacted on November 13, 1998.

This Action Plan is informed by the findings of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) Integrated Assessment of Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico along with many comments submitted about it and the six topic reports on which it is based. In addition, the Task Force considered several other significant reports, including the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia: Land and Sea Interactions (Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, 1999), The Role of the Mississippi River in Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia (University of Alabama-Carey et al. 1999; for the Fertilizer Institute), and Clean Coastal Waters: Understanding and Reducing the Effects of Nutrient Pollution (Committee on the Causes and Management of Eutrophication, National Research Council, 2000). The Task Force members also drew on their many years of experience in agricultural and environmental policy in formulating this Action Plan. The Task Force also listened carefully to dozens of statements by members of the public during its six public meetings.

Improved coordination and, in most cases, expansion of the excellent private and government supported efforts to reduce losses of nutrients are central to the success of this strategy. Throughout the basin much work is underway to increase the efficiency of farming practices and restore wetlands and riparian buffers. In addition, industry and local governments are beginning to undertake additional efforts to reduce