

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 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: Over the three years covered by this ICR, EPA estimates that a total of 175 Partners will join the SF₆ Partnership (100 in the first year, 50 in the second, and 25 in the third). Annualized over these three years, EPA estimates that an average of approximately 58 Partners ($175/3 = 58$) will join the SF₆ Partnership and submit an MOU and a Partner Representation Form each year. EPA expects 10 percent, or approximately 6, of these Partners will change representatives each year.

EPA estimates that 90 percent, or approximately 52, of the 58 Partners joining the SF₆ Partnership each year will select their own baseline year. As such, EPA expects to receive 52 Emissions Baseline Year Letters each year.

EPA expects to receive annual SF₆ Emissions Inventory Reporting Forms for all SF₆ emissions in a calendar year during the first quarter of the following year. As such, EPA expects to receive 0 forms in the first year, 100 forms in the second, and 150 in the third, or a total of 250 forms over the three years covered by this ICR. Annualized over these three years, EPA expects to receive an average of approximately 83 SF₆ Emissions Inventory Reporting Forms ($250/3 = 83$) each year. Further, EPA expects that Partners will maintain records of these 83 Inventory Reporting Forms and any supporting documentation each year.

EPA also estimates that all 58 Partners joining the SF₆ Partnership each year will develop a Policy and Procedures Document for the Proper Handling of SF₆ within that same year. However, these Partners will submit the Policy and Procedures Document with the first SF₆ Emissions Inventory Reporting Form in the first quarter of following year. As such, EPA expects to receive 0 documents in the first year, 100 in the second, and 50 in the third, or a total of 150 over the three years covered by this ICR. Annualized over these three years, EPA expects to receive an average of 50 Policy and Procedures Documents ($150/3 = 50$) each year. Further, EPA

expects approximately 10 percent, or 5, of these 50 Partners will change their policy or procedures and subsequently update and submit a revised Policy and Procedures Document each year. As such, EPA expects to receive 5 revised documents each year.

In addition, EPA assumes that all Partners joining in the SF₆ Partnership in the first and second years and 50 percent of those joining in the third year will develop and submit Emissions Reduction Goal Letters. As such, EPA expects to receive 100 letters in the first year, 50 in the second, and 12 in the third, or a total of 162 over the three years covered by this ICR. Annualized over these three years, EPA expects to receive an average of 54 Emissions Reduction Goal Letters ($162/3 = 54$) each year. EPA also expects that approximately 10 percent, or approximately 5, of these Partners will change their emissions reduction goal and subsequently submit an updated Emissions Reduction Goal Letter each year. As such, EPA expects to receive 5 updated letters each year.

EPA estimates the annual total respondent burden and costs for the information collection activities associated with the SF₆ Partnership are approximately 6,966 hours per year with an annual cost of approximately \$381,692.

EPA estimates that all Partners joining the SF₆ Partnership over the next three years will, on average, experience annual reporting burden of approximately 124 hours. This burden includes all of the time spent on reporting activities associated with the MOU, Partner Representation Form, Emissions Baseline Year Letter, SF₆ Emissions Inventory Reporting Form, and Emissions Reduction Goal Letter. This burden includes time for gathering data; filling out the MOU or forms; developing letters or documents; revising them, as appropriate; and submitting both original and updated versions to EPA.

EPA estimates that all Partners joining the SF₆ Partnership over the next three years will, on average, experience annual recordkeeping burden of approximately 0.3 hours. This burden covers time spent on keeping records associated with SF₆ Emissions Inventory Reporting Forms.

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: November 24, 1999.

Eric Dolin,

Climate Protection Division.

[FR Doc. 99-32178 Filed 12-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6507-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Health Effects of Particulate Matter and Co-Pollutant Exposures Near the El Paso/Juarez Border Crossings

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): Health Effects of Particulate Matter and Co-pollutant Exposures near the El Paso/Juarez Border Crossings; EPA ICR Number: 1940.01. 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 February 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Human Studies Division, Health Effects Research Laboratory, Environmental Protection Agency, MD-58, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting: Dr. Melissa Gonzales, US EPA (MD 58-A), Research Triangle Park, NC, 27711.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Public comments and inquiries should be submitted to: Dr. Melissa Gonzales, (919) 966-7549, FAX: (919) 966-7584, E-mail: gonzales.melissa@epamail.epa.gov; or by mailing a request to the address above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are school officials, parents and children in the El Paso Independent School District.

Title: Health Effects of Particulate Matter and Co-pollutant Exposures near the El Paso/Juarez Border Crossings (EPA ICR Number: 1940.01).

Abstract: 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. 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.

The proposed study will be conducted by the Epidemiology and Biomarkers Branch, Human Studies Division, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, US EPA. The purpose of this study is to examine the respiratory health effects in school-age children of mobile source air pollutants. Further knowledge regarding the respiratory health effects of airborne particulate matter is required to reduce scientific uncertainties in the development of an Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7403(d)). The National Academy of Science's Committee on Research Priorities for Airborne Particulate Matter has identified several issues of scientific uncertainty in health effects of airborne particulate matter exposures, including the role of particle size and the role of particulate matter constituents and co-pollutants. In this study of motor vehicle-related air pollution and children's health, the respiratory health effects of ultrafine particles (less than 0.3 microns in diameter), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}; less than 2.5 microns in diameter), and gaseous co-pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds will be examined.

The El Paso, Texas metropolitan area was selected because of a combination of environmental features. Heavily traveled interstate freeways run through the central part of the city and over 18 million vehicles annually cross three international ports of entry between the two cities. During the winter months, low-level temperature inversions routinely trap motor vehicle emissions close to ground level. These conditions lead to routine violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards during the winter months. This combination of

heavy traffic volume and wintertime meteorological conditions in a large metropolitan area provides an opportunity to investigate the health effects of mobile source pollutants in children.

The parents of all children enrolled in the fourth and fifth grades of the El Paso Independent School District will receive an eight-page respiratory health questionnaire in both English and Spanish along with a written request for permission for their children to participate in a pulmonary function examination at their school. Participation in the study is entirely voluntary. The respiratory health questionnaire conforms to the ATS/DLD standard respiratory symptom questionnaire and consists of questions specific to the child such as general demographic information, childhood respiratory illness and history of asthma, and current respiratory health conditions. There also are questions regarding household characteristics and family history of smoking, asthma, and respiratory illnesses. Each parent will be asked to complete the questionnaire, seal the completed form in the provided envelope, and send the envelope back to the teacher with the child.

Ambient air pollutants will be measured at twenty-two elementary schools in the El Paso metropolitan area. These twenty-two schools were selected to represent areas close to and far away from central El Paso and the international border crossings as well as those areas in between. Once explicit permission has been received from both the parent and the child, the children from the selected schools will attempt to perform a routine pulmonary function examination consisting of blowing three to eight times into a tube connected to a spirometer. The pulmonary function breathing test is no more stressful than blowing out the candles on a birthday cake. During the pulmonary function examination, a field technician will record each child's height and weight, and coach the child to perform the breathing test. A new, sterile, disposable mouthpiece will be used for each child. The pulmonary function examination will be conducted according to guidelines developed by the American Thoracic Society and will be conducted in the child's elementary school during normal school hours with an school nurse on site during the examinations.

The information collected in this study will be used by scientists within EPA's Office of Research and Development. The data will be used to:

(i) Provide a better understanding of the association between exposures to ultrafine particulate matter and co-

pollutants and pulmonary illness in children;

(ii) Assess the classification of children's exposure using data from the epidemiological study questionnaire, direct air pollutant measurements and exposure models for refining exposure classification methods for air pollution health studies;

(iii) Identify key exposure factors for school age children to particulate matter and co-pollutants;

(iv) Assess the prevalence of pulmonary illness, including reduced pulmonary function, in school children living in a metropolitan area along the US-Mexico border.

The information will appear in the form of EPA reports, journal articles, and will also be made publicly available. 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

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.

Type of respondent	Respondent activities	Estimated number of respondents	Burden hours	Frequency	Total burden hours	Total burden cost
Adult	Complete Questionnaire	9,100	0.40	1	3,640	^a \$53,581
Child	Pulmonary Function Exam	4,300	0.35	1	1,505	^b 7,751
Total	13,400	5,145	61,332

^a\$14.72/hour.
^b\$5.15/hour (minimum wage).

There are no direct respondent costs for this data collection. There is no annual recordkeeping burden for this ICR.

Dated: December 1, 1999.

Hillel S. Koren,

Director, Human Studies Division, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 99-32179 Filed 12-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6507-3]

Summary of the U.S. EPA Workshop on the Relationship Between Exposure Duration and Toxicity

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of a final report.

SUMMARY: The notice announces the availability of a final report, Summary of the U.S. EPA Workshop on the Relationship Between Exposure Duration and Toxicity (EPA/600/R-99/081, September 1999). This report was prepared by Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), within the Office of Research and Development (ORD). Current risk assessment procedures are typically based on overall daily exposure levels and tend to emphasize effects resulting from continuous exposure over a lifetime. Scientists now realize that exposures are more likely to be experienced as bursts or spikes, or intermittent exposures of varying levels. EPA's Risk Assessment forum is beginning to examine how dose-duration relationships are or can be incorporated into the risk assessment process for less-than-lifetime exposures. As part of this effort, the Forum and the Harvard School of Public Health, held a workshop on August 5-6, 1998, to

discuss the current understanding of dose-duration relationships, the approaches that can be used in their modeling, the inclusion of these relationships in risk assessment, and future directions in this area. The workshop provided a forum for open discussion and identifying areas of consensus, as well as areas of difference.

ADDRESSES: A limited number of paper copies will be available from the EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP), P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242; telephone: 1-800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190; facsimile: 513-489-8695 on or about December 17, 1999. Please provide your name and mailing address and the title and EPA number of the requested publication. The document is not available in electronic form.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Gary Kimmel, National Center for Environmental Assessment-Washington Office (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460; telephone: 202-564-3308; facsimile: 202-565-0078; email:kimmel.gary@epa.gov.

Dated: December 3, 1999.

William H. Farland,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 99-32181 Filed 12-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-51938; FRL-6395-7]

Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires any person who intends to manufacture (defined by statute to include import) a new chemical (i.e., a chemical not on the TSCA Inventory) to notify EPA and comply with the statutory provisions

pertaining to the manufacture of new chemicals. Under sections 5(d)(2) and 5(d)(3) of TSCA, EPA is required to publish a notice of receipt of a premanufacture notice (PMN) or an application for a test marketing exemption (TME), and to publish periodic status reports on the chemicals under review and the receipt of notices of commencement to manufacture those chemicals. This status report, which covers the period from October 25, 1999 to November 5, 1999, consists of the PMNs, pending or expired, and the notices of commencement to manufacture a new chemical that the Agency has received under TSCA section 5 during this time period.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPPTS-51938 and the specific PMN number in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Carra, Deputy Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7401), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone numbers: (202) 554-1404 and TDD: (202) 554-0551; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. As such, the Agency has not attempted to describe the specific entities that this action may apply to. Although others may be affected, this action applies directly to the submitter of the premanufacture notices addressed in the action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT."