

basis with RI/FS starts for identifying and reporting ARARs.

The burden is calculated using a weighted average hourly rate of \$29.57 multiplied times the number of hours to undertake a given activity. For purposes of this ICR, wage rates for state government personnel are estimated to be comparable to those for Federal government personnel. Labor rates for government workers reflect the median GS level salaries for managerial, technical and clerical positions. These rates include direct salary and fringe benefits (calculated at 60 percent of direct salary). The hourly rates, as of November 1997, are:

Management (GS 13, Step 1): \$42.01/hour

Technical (GS 11, Step 1): \$29.48/hour

Clerical: \$17.92/hour

Based on these assumptions, the weighted hourly wage rate for state and Federal personnel is \$29.57

$[(0.1) \times (42.01) + (0.8) \times (29.48) + (0.1) \times (17.92)]$.

At a state-led site, states incur a burden for the following activities:

- Development of the RI/FS—5,200 hours/yr/site, \$153,764.
- Development of the Proposed Plan—160 hours/yr/site, \$4,731.
- Preparation of the ROD—360 hours/yr/site, \$10,645.
- Development of the CIP—150 hours/yr/site, \$4,435.
- Providing information to the public—153 hours/yr/site, \$4,524.

At all sites, states incur a unit burden of three hours per site per year, or a cost of \$88.71, for providing information on state ARARs.

Estimated Unit Burdens to Community Members

During their participation in the Superfund process, community members may perform any or all of the following activities (as with burden estimates for state activities, an hourly rate of \$29.57 is used to estimate the value of community members' time):

- Participate in interviews—20 hours/yr/site, \$591.
- Attend informal and formal meetings, open houses, and public information availability sessions—240 hours/yr/site, \$7,096.
- Participate in community groups—160 hours/yr/site with such groups, \$4,731.
- Respond to surveys—47 hours/yr/site, \$1,389.
- Participate in focus groups—72 hours/yr/site with such groups, \$2,129.

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.

Please send comments to the address appearing in the ADDRESSES segment of this document.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

Elaine F. Davies,

Deputy Director, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response.

[FR Doc. 97-31405 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5930-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request; Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives—Health-effects Research Requirements

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: Health-effects Research Requirements for Manufacturers (EPA ICR Number 1696.02, OMB Control Number 2060-0297, expiration date: 1-31-98). 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 January 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Fuels and Energy Division, Office of Mobile Sources, Office of Air and Radiation, Mail Code 6406J, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460. A paper or electronic copy of the 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@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which manufacture or import gasoline or diesel fuel, or manufacture or import an additive for gasoline or diesel fuel.

Title: Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Health-effects Research Requirements for Manufacturers
OMB Control Number 2060-0297
EPA ICR Number 1696.02
Expiring: 1-31-98

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 and diesel fuel, and manufacturers (including importers) if additives for gasoline or diesel fuel, are required to have their products registered by EPA prior to their introduction into commerce.

Registration involves providing a chemical description of the fuel or additive, and certain technical, marketing, and health-effects information. The development of health-effects data, as required by 40 CFR 79, subpart F, is the subject of this ICR. The information collection requirements for subparts A through D, and the supplemental notification requirement of Subpart F (indicating how the manufacturer will satisfy the research requirements) are covered by a separate ICR (EPA ICR Number 309.09, OMB Control Number 2060-1050). The health-effects information will be used to determine if there are any products whose evaporative or combustion emissions pose an unreasonable risk to public health, thus meriting further investigation and potential regulation. This information is required for specific groups of fuels and additives as defined in the regulations. For example, all gasolines and gasoline additives which consist of only carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulphur, and which involve a gasoline oxygen

content of less than 1.5 weight percent, fall into a "baseline" group. Oxygenates, such as ethanol and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), when used in gasoline at oxygen levels of at least 1.5 weight percent, define separate "nonbaseline" groups. Additives which contain elements other than carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulphur fall into separate "atypical" groups. There are similar grouping requirements for diesel fuels and additives.

Manufacturers may perform the research independently or may join with other manufacturers to share in the costs for each applicable group. Several research consortiums (groups of manufacturers) have been formed. The largest consortium, organized by the American Petroleum Institute (API), represents most of the manufacturers of baseline and nonbaseline gasolines, diesel fuels, and additives. The research is structured into three tiers of requirements for each group. Tier 1 requires a health-effects literature search and emissions characterization. Voluminous Tier 1 data were submitted by API and others in 1997. Tier 2 requires short-term inhalation exposures of laboratory animals to emissions to screen for adverse health effects. Alternative Tier 2 testing can be required in lieu of the standard Tier 2 if EPA concludes that such testing would be more appropriate. The EPA has reached that conclusion with respect to gasoline and gasoline-oxygenate blends, and the API consortium has been notified. However, the alternative requirements have not been finalized, and thus are not part of this ICR. A similar situation exists with the Ethyl Corporation and its manganese additive MMT. This ICR will be amended once those requirements are finalized. The API submitted Tier 2 data for diesel in 1997. Tier 3 provides for follow-up research, if necessary. No Tier 3 requirements have been established, and it is unlikely that any will be during the next three years. Thus, Tier 3 is not addressed in this ICR. 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: There are approximately 100 fuel manufacturers, 1300 additive manufacturers, 800 registered fuels, and 6000 registered additives. Due to the costs, it is likely that only limited additional Tier 1 research will be done. Future fuels and additives will almost exclusively be those that can group with existing Tier 1 data, and likely will come from manufacturers that have already paid for the Tier 1 research. It is estimated that new Tier 1 research will cost \$500,000 per product, and that there will be only one Tier 1 submission over the next three years. Standard Tier 2 activity also will be very limited. The EPA has concluded that existing data cover Tier 2 for baseline diesel. Alternative Tier 2 requirements for baseline gasoline, the six major nonbaseline gasoline oxygenates, and the atypical gasoline additive MMT, are not covered by this ICR. It is estimated that new Tier 2 research will cost \$500,000 per product, and that there will only be one Tier 2 submission over the next three years. 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, 1997.

Charles N. Freed,

Director, Fuels and Energy Division.

[FR Doc. 97-31407 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5928-3]

Sole Source Aquifer Designation of the Guemes Island Aquifer System; Skagit County, Washington

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of final determination.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that pursuant to section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and in response to a petition from the Guemes Island Property Owners Association, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 Administrator has determined that the Guemes Island aquifer system, in Skagit County, Washington, is a sole or principal source of drinking water, and that if contaminated, would create a significant hazard to public health. As result of this action, all Federal financially-assisted projects proposed over the designated aquifer system will be subject to EPA review to ensure that they do not create a significant hazard to public health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This determination shall be effective for purposes of judicial review at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time on December 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The information upon which this determination is based is available to the public and may be inspected during normal business hours at the EPA Region 10 Library, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, 98101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott E. Downey, Environmental Protection Specialist, Ground Water Protection Unit, OW-137, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, 98101, 206-553-0682.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300h-3(e), Public Law 93-523, states:

If the Administrator determines, on his own initiative or upon petition, that an area has an aquifer which is the sole or principal drinking water source for the area and which, if contaminated, would create a significant hazard to public health, he shall publish notice of that determination in the **Federal Register**. After the publication of any such notice, no commitment for Federal financial assistance (through a grant, contract, loan guarantee, or otherwise) may be entered into for any project which the Administrator determines may contaminate such aquifer through a recharge zone so as to create a significant hazard to public health, but a