

throughout the U.S. before undertaking remedial action at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is a model that is used to evaluate the relative threats to human health and the environment posed by actual or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. The HRS criteria take into account the population at risk, the hazard potential of the substances, as well as the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies, direct human contact, destruction of sensitive ecosystems, damage to natural resources affecting the human food chain, contamination of surface water used for recreation or potable water consumption, and contamination of ambient air.

Under this ICR, the States will apply the HRS by identifying and classifying those releases that warrant further investigation. The information collected under this ICR is required to help determine whether a site is eligible to be included on the National Priorities List (NPL). Only sites on the NPL are eligible for Superfund-financed remedial actions. 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 April 26, 2001; no comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to range from 44 to 1,870 hours per site depending on how far a site progresses through the site assessment process. Sites needing Pre-CERCLIS Screening and no other Superfund site assessment work will require an average of 44 hours per site, while sites progressing through all of the major phases of the site assessment process will require an average of 1,870 hours per site. 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, Indian Tribes, and U.S. Territories performing Superfund site evaluation activities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 230,533 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Capital, O&M Cost Burden: \$0.

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 addresses listed above. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1488.05 and OMB Control No. 2050-0095 in any correspondence.

Dated: September 24, 2001.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 01-24898 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7071-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program

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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: "Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program," OMB Control Number 1736.03, and expiration date September 30, 2004. 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 November 5, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, referencing EPA ICR No. 1736.03 and OMB Control No. 2060-0328, to the following addresses: Susan Auby, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the ICR contact Susan Auby at EPA by phone at (202) 260-4901, by e-Mail at auby.susan@epamail.epa.gov, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1736.03. For technical questions about the ICR contact Paul M. Gunning at 202-564-9736 or gunning.paul@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program." (OMB Control No. 2060-0328; EPA ICR No. 1736.03) expiring September 30, 2001. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Natural Gas STAR is an EPA-sponsored, voluntary program that encourages natural gas companies to adopt cost effective methods for reducing methane emissions. Natural Gas STAR Partners agree to implement cost effective Best Management Practices (BMPs), which will both save participants money and improve the protection of the environment. EPA needs to collect information to establish program participation and to obtain general information on new Natural Gas STAR Partners. EPA also uses the information collection to evaluate a Partner's progress and performance, assess overall program results, and to develop technical materials to facilitate implementation. Participation in the Natural Gas STAR program is voluntary.

Natural Gas STAR Partners may designate information submitted under this ICR as confidential business information. EPA will treat all such information as confidential business information and will not make the company or agency-specific information collected under this ICR available to the general public. 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** notice required under 5 CFR

1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on May 29, 2001, (66 FR 29126). No comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 41 hours per facility. 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: Owners/operators of natural gas plants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 98.

Frequency of Response: 120.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 4,059 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Capital and Operating and Maintenance Cost Burden: \$480.

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 addresses listed above. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1736.03 and OMB Control No. 2060-0328 in any correspondence.

Dated: September 24, 2001.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 01-24899 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7074-3]

Proposed Settlement Agreement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement agreement; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act, as amended,

42 U.S.C. 7413(g), notice is hereby given of a proposed settlement agreement in *American Portland Cement Alliance v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, No. 99-1322 (D.C. Cir.). This case concerns a challenge to the rule entitled National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories: Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry, published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 31898 on June 14, 1999. The proposed settlement provides that EPA will propose revisions to the rule that would amend some of the provisions which implement the emission standards, and that EPA will make certain interpretive clarifications regarding the rule's applicability.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, EPA will receive written comments relating to the settlement from persons who were not named as parties to the litigation in question. EPA or the Department of Justice may withhold or withdraw consent to the proposed settlement if the comments disclose facts or circumstances that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Copies of the settlement are available from Phyllis Cochran, (202) 564-5566. Written comments should be sent to Steven Silverman, Office of General Counsel (2366A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, and must be submitted on or before November 5, 2001.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

Alan W. Eckert,

Associate General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-24906 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7074-4]

Clean Air Act; Contractor Access to Confidential Business Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has contracted with The Bionetics Corporation to provide assistance in the enforcement of regulatory requirements under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act, from May 30, 2001, until May 31,

2006. The Bionetics Corporation has been authorized to have access to information submitted to EPA under these statutes that may be claimed and determined to be confidential business information.

DATES: This notice is effective October 4, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Ruske, Environmental Scientist, USEPA, Mail Code (2242A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Telephone: (202) 564-1033. Fax: (202) 564-1024. Internet mail address: ruske.ross@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has authorized access for The Bionetics Corporation ("Bionetics"), a contractor, to information submitted to the EPA under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Some of this information may be claimed and determined to be confidential business information ("CBI"). The EPA contract number is 68-W-01-035.

The Bionetics corporate address is: The Bionetics Corporation, 11833 Canon Boulevard, Suite #100, Newport News, VA 23606.

Under the contract, Bionetics provides enforcement support to the Air Enforcement Division, Office of Regulatory Enforcement, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in a number of activities primarily related to the Clean Air Act. The contractor may also be called upon to provide support to other EPA offices under the other statutes. The activities in which Bionetics provides enforcement support include, but are not limited to:

Inspections and audits of facilities that produce, import, store, transport, dispense or analyze motor vehicle fuel; and,

Inspections and audits of facilities that produce, distribute, sell or repair motor vehicles, motor vehicle engines, or non-road engines.

The type of information that may be disclosed includes, but are not limited to: Records related to the production, importation, distribution, sale, storage, testing and transportation of gasoline, gasoline blendstocks, diesel fuel, diesel fuel blendstocks, and detergent additives; and records related to the manufacture, importation, emission certification, emission testing, emission control warranty, repair, modification and fueling of motor vehicles, motor vehicle engines, non-road mobile source engines, and stationary source engines.

It is necessary for Bionetics to have access to these records in order to