

No-Change Respondents .....	20.88	*	139	=	2,902
Nonrespondents .....	12.13	*	110	=	1,334
Total Period Cost .....					35,683

Based on these estimates, the annual respondents' burden is projected as follows:

	Hours	Cost
Period One .....	790	\$33,947
Period Two .....	830	35,683
Total .....	1,620	69,630

EPA's experience to this point indicates that, in most cases, the paperwork burden associated with completing the questionnaire is essentially the same regardless of whether the respondent is using the paper or the electronic version. A general, indirect efficiency advantage for respondents using the electronic version is that the software application's data validation function (described above) is likely to reduce the need for callbacks from EPA concerning incomplete or nonstandard data. (This also will be true for the Web-based version of the questionnaire when it is deployed.) The most significant efficiencies associated with use of the electronic version would accrue to the relatively small percentage of respondents who provide information for numerous sites. An important benefit of the electronic version not related to the respondents' paperwork burden is that collected site data can be more efficiently added to the computer database.

Each year, the burden figures increase somewhat, as first-time respondents are added to the database. In subsequent years, first-time respondents will be divided among the other respondent types. This growth is offset slightly as sites are removed from the data collection cycle—most typically if the site activity is completed, but for other reasons as well.

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: February 29, 2000.

**Robert A. Olexsey,**

*Director, Land Remediation and Pollution Control Division.*

[FR Doc. 00-6394 Filed 3-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[FRL-6561-3]**

**Investigator-Initiated Grants: Requests for Applications**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of Requests for Applications.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides information on the availability of fiscal year 2000 investigator-initiated grants program announcements, in which the areas of research interest, eligibility and submission requirements, evaluation criteria, and implementation schedules are set forth. Grants will be competitively awarded following peer review.

**DATES:** Receipt dates vary depending on the specific research area within the solicitation and are listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (8703R), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington DC 20460, telephone (800) 490-9194. The complete announcement can be accessed on the Internet from the EPA home page: <http://www.epa.gov/ncerqa> under "announcements."

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In its Requests for Applications (RFA) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites research grant applications in the following areas of special interest to its mission: (1)

Assessing the Consequences of Interactions between Human Activities and a Changing Climate; (2) Development of National Aquatic Ecosystem Classifications and Reference Conditions; (3) Valuation of Children's Health Effects; (4) Recreational Water Quality: Indicators and Interstitial Zones; and (5) Exploratory Research to Anticipate Future Environmental Issues. Applications must be received as follows: April 26, 2000, for topic (1); April 17, 2000, for topic (2); June 6, 2000, for topics (3) and (4); and July 6, 2000, for topic (5).

The RFAs provide relevant background information, summarize EPA's interest in the topic areas, and describe the application and review process.

Contact persons for the "Assessing the Consequences of Interactions between Human Activities and a Changing Climate" RFA is Bernice L. Smith ([smith.bernicel@epa.gov](mailto:smith.bernicel@epa.gov)), telephone 202-564-6934. Contact person for the "Development of National Aquatic Ecosystem Classifications and Reference Conditions" RFA is Barbara Levinson ([levinson.barbara@epa.gov](mailto:levinson.barbara@epa.gov)), telephone 202-564-6911. Contact person for the "Valuation of Children's Health Effects" RFA is Matthew Clark ([clark.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:clark.matthew@epa.gov)), telephone 202-564-6842. Contact person for the "Recreational Water Quality: Indicators and Interstitial Zones" RFA is Cynthia Nolt-Helms ([nolt-helms.cynthia@epa.gov](mailto:nolt-helms.cynthia@epa.gov)), telephone 202-564-6763. Contact persons for the "Exploratory Research to Anticipate Future Environmental Issues" RFA are David Kleffman ([kleffman.david@epa.gov](mailto:kleffman.david@epa.gov)), telephone 202-564-6903, Roger Cortesi ([cortesi.roger@epa.gov](mailto:cortesi.roger@epa.gov)), telephone 202-564-6852, and Barbara Levinson ([levinson.barbara@epa.gov](mailto:levinson.barbara@epa.gov)), telephone 202-564-6911.

Dated: February 29, 2000.

Approved for publication.

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*Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 00-6396 Filed 3-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**