

subset of facilities in the Metal Finishing and Electroplating point source categories. Based on information and data collected during the Multi-Industry PFAS Study, EPA determined PFAS are used by some metal finishing and electroplating facilities to control hexavalent chromium emissions, a known human carcinogen and inhalation hazard. EPA determined facilities performing certain chromium operations (hereafter referred to as “chrome finishing facilities”), including chromium plating, chromium anodizing, chromic acid etching, and chromate conversion coating operations, are the predominant sources of PFAS discharges by the Metal Finishing and Electroplating point source categories.

Publicly available data on metal finishing and electroplating facilities, including whether they perform chromium finishing operations and potential use and discharge of PFAS, are limited. EPA reviewed information on metal finishing and electroplating facilities that potentially conduct one or more chromium finishing operations available in national EPA data sets, including the Chromium Electroplating and Anodizing National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) codified at 40 CFR part 63 subpart N, 2017 National Emissions Inventory (NEI), Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI), Environmental Compliance History Online (ECHO), and Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS), as well as data collected from several state environmental agencies. However, none of these data sources define a complete population of chromium finishing facilities in the United States nor do they provide detailed information on specific facility operations (including use of hexavalent chromium or PFAS), generation and management of wastewater, or wastewater characteristics—factors essential to EPA’s review and development of ELGs to address PFAS discharges. Therefore, a questionnaire and wastewater sampling program for the Metal Finishing and Electroplating point source categories are essential portions of the rulemaking process, necessary for EPA to determine if the current regulations remain appropriate and, if warranted, develop new regulations. If new regulations are deemed to be warranted, the questionnaire and sampling activities are essential for EPA to complete the detailed technical and economic analysis for the entire industry necessary for the rulemaking process. EPA has identified and compiled

mailing addresses for approximately 1,815 potential chromium finishing facilities in the United States. All active metal finishing and electroplating facilities that conduct or have conducted one or more of the specified chromium finishing operations will be required to complete the questionnaire. The objectives of the questionnaire will be to confirm the population of facilities that engage or have engaged in chromium finishing operations, as well as gather facility-specific information and data relevant to generation and discharge of PFAS-containing wastewater by the industry.

Confidential Business Information (CBI) may be collected. In accordance with 40 CFR, part 2, subpart B, section 2.203, the survey informs respondents of their right to claim information as confidential. Each survey provides instructions for claiming confidentiality and informs respondents of the terms and rules governing the protection of CBI under the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 2.203(B). Survey respondents are able to and are requested to mark any claimed confidential responses as CBI. EPA and its contractors will follow EAD’s existing procedures to protect data labeled as CBI.

Form Numbers: None.

Respondents/affected entities: All chrome finishing facilities in the U.S. facilities will receive the questionnaire (1,815 facilities) and no more than 20 facilities will be asked to conduct specific wastewater sampling.

Respondent’s obligation to respond: Mandatory (Clean Water Act section 308) (citing authority).

Estimated number of respondents: 1,815 (total).

Frequency of response: One-time data collection.

Total estimated respondent burden: 35,858 hours. Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

Total estimated respondent cost: \$1,696,682.83 one-time cost.

Changes in Estimates: This is a new data collection request and is a one-time temporary increase to the agency’s burden.

Deborah Nagle,

*Director, Office of Science and Technology,
Office of Water.*

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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

[Docket No. EEOC–2022–0004]

Notice of Availability and Request for Comment: EEOC’s Draft Strategic Plan 2022–2026

AGENCY: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC” or “Commission”) is announcing the availability of its Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022–26 for public comment.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 5, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All comments received must include the agency name and docket number EEOC–2022–0004. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. However, the EEOC reserves the right to refrain from posting libelous or otherwise inappropriate comments, including those that contain obscene, indecent, or profane language; that contain threats or defamatory statements; that contain hate speech directed at race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, disability, or genetic information; or that promote or endorse services or products.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelley Kahn, Acting Executive Officer, Executive Secretariat, 202–921–306, shelley.kahn@eeoc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background: The EEOC is seeking public comments on its Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022–2026 (Draft Strategic Plan). The Draft Strategic Plan establishes a framework for achieving the EEOC’s mission to “prevent and remedy unlawful discrimination and enforce civil rights in the workplace,” so that the nation might realize the Commission’s vision of “fair and inclusive workplaces with equal opportunity for all.” The Draft Strategic Plan includes the following strategic goals and objectives:

1. Combat and prevent employment discrimination through the strategic application of the EEOC’s law enforcement authorities;

2. Prevent employment discrimination and advance equal employment opportunities through education and outreach;

3. Strive for organizational excellence through our people, practices, and technology.

The Draft Strategic Plan also presents clear and realistic strategies for achieving each of the three strategic goals and identifies performance measures to track the EEOC's progress as it approaches FY 2026.

The Draft Strategic Plan serves as a draft of the Commission's intended Strategic Plan for 2022–2026. The Commission seeks comments on all aspects of this Draft Strategic Plan. The Draft Strategic Plan is available for viewing at <https://www.regulations.gov> under docket number EEOC–2022–0004, “Supporting and Related Material.” Please provide comments as directed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Cynthia Pierre,

Chief Operating Officer, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

[FR Doc. 2022–24972 Filed 11–15–22; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

[Docket No. OP–1788]

Guidelines for Evaluating Account and Services Requests

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) is issuing a request for comment on proposed amendments to its Guidelines for Evaluating Account and Services Requests (Account Access Guidelines or Guidelines) that would require the Federal Reserve Banks (Reserve Banks) to publish a periodic list of depository institutions with access to Reserve Bank accounts and/or financial services.

DATE: Comments must be received on or before January 17, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jason Hinkle, Deputy Associate Director (202–912–7805), Division of Reserve Bank Operations and Payment Systems, or Gavin Smith, Senior Counsel (202–452–3474), Legal Division, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. For users of TTY–TRS, please call 711 from any telephone, anywhere in the United States.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. OP–1788, by any of the following methods:

Agency website: <http://www.federalreserve.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/foia/proposedregs.aspx>.

Email: regs.comments@federalreserve.gov. Include the docket number in the subject line of the message.

FAX: (202) 452–3102.

Mail: Ann E. Misback, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551.

All public comments are available from the Board's website at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm> as submitted, and will not be modified to remove confidential, contact or any identifiable information. Public comments may also be viewed in-person in Room M–4365A, 2001 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20551, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. during Federal business weekdays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On August 15, 2022, the Board adopted final Account Access Guidelines that establish a transparent, risk-based, and consistent set of factors for Reserve Banks to use in reviewing requests from depository institutions to access Federal Reserve Bank accounts and/or financial services (accounts and services).^{1 2 3} The final Guidelines provide a process to evaluate requests for accounts and services (access requests) in order to support a safe, inclusive, and innovative payment system. The final Guidelines also include a tiered review framework to provide additional clarity on the level of due diligence and scrutiny that Reserve Banks will apply when reviewing access requests from different types of institutions.

The longstanding practice of both the Board and the Reserve Banks has been to not disclose account-related information to the general public on the basis that such information is considered confidential business information.⁴ However, the

development and publication of the Account Access Guidelines prompted the Board to consider the potential benefits of expanding the disclosure of the names of institutions that have access to accounts and services. For example, the Board received comments and inquiries from a range of stakeholders calling for greater public disclosure of account-related information.

As a result, the Board has decided to reevaluate the Federal Reserve's current disclosure practices and to propose an account disclosure process that would balance the relevant benefits and risks.

II. Discussion

The Board considered a range of benefits, risks, and other factors in developing the proposal. On the one hand, some information that Reserve Banks use to evaluate access requests clearly is confidential, such as trade secrets, private personal information, or confidential supervisory information submitted in connection with an access request. In addition, the Board acknowledges that institutions could face the risk of reputational harm if they are denied access to accounts and services, even if the denial is due to a Reserve Bank's evaluation of information that is publicly available (e.g., information about an institution's business model). The Board believes that, to the greatest extent possible, the Account Access Guidelines should not discourage institutions from requesting access to accounts and services by subjecting requestors to the potential disclosure of confidential information or risk of reputational harm.

At the same time, some institutions may not consider the fact that they have access to accounts and services to be confidential business information. Many institutions self-disclose such information, and certain types of institutions generally have access to accounts and services (e.g., federally-insured depository institutions). Moreover, Reserve Banks currently provide disclosure of the identity of account holders to financial institutions and other authorized users of the E-Payments Routing Directory. Subject to the directory's terms and conditions, authorized users can search for an institution by name, routing number, city, or state and to determine whether the institution uses the Fedwire® Funds Service (which requires a master

further discussion of this practice. The preamble notes that institutions may choose to self-disclose their access to accounts and services. 87 FR 51099–51102 (Aug. 19, 2022).

¹ 87 FR 51099 (Aug. 19, 2022).

² Information on the Federal Reserve Banks' financial services, including a list of such services, can be found at <https://www.frbsservices.org/>.

³ The Guidelines do not apply to accounts provided under fiscal agency authority or to accounts authorized pursuant to the Board's Regulation N (12 CFR 214), joint account requests, or account requests from designated financial market utilities, since existing rules or policies already set out the considerations involved in granting these types of accounts.

⁴ See the preamble to the **Federal Register** notice adopting the final Account Access Guidelines for