

the reporting year, and that the chemical was manufactured, processed, or otherwise used in an amount not exceeding 1 million pounds during the reporting year. Use of the Form A Certification Statement represents a substantial savings to respondents, both in burden hours and in labor costs.

The Form A Certification Statement provides communities with information that the chemical is being manufactured, processed or otherwise used at facilities. Additionally, the Form A Certification Statement provides compliance monitoring and enforcement programs and other interested parties with a means to track chemical management activities and verify overall compliance with the rule. Responses to this collection of information are mandatory (*see* 40 CFR part 372) and facilities subject to reporting must submit either a Form A Certification Statement or a Form R.

VII. What Are EPA's Burden and Cost Estimates for This ICR?

Under the PRA, "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. For this collection, it 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.

The annual public burden for this collection of information, which is approved under OMB Control No. 2070-0143, is estimated to average 13.7 hours for facilities submitting a Form A Certification Statement for a single listed chemical. By comparison, the average time required for calculations, form completion and record keeping/ mailing for Form R is estimated to average 19.5 hours per form. Thus, for a facility filing a Form A certification for a single chemical, the alternate threshold yields an average savings of 5.8 hours.

The ICR supporting statement provides a detailed explanation of the burden estimates that are summarized in this notice. The following is a summary of the estimates taken from the ICR supporting statement:

Estimated No. of Respondents: 5,200.
Frequency of Responses: Annual.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 169,106.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Costs: \$7.56 million.

VIII. Are There Changes in the Estimates From the Last Approval?

The estimated burden described above differs from what is currently in OMB's inventory for alternate threshold reporting: 5,121 responses (Form A Certification Statements) and 463,670 burden hours. The burden estimated in this supporting statement differs from OMB's inventory as a result of adjustments to estimates of number of responses (from 5,121 responses to 5,000 responses), changes to subsequent year unit reporting burden estimates (from 30.2 to 9.2 burden hours per chemical certified on a Form A Certification Statement), and an adjustment for use of TRI-ME for those forms completed using TRI-ME. These changes are described in greater detail in the supporting statement for this ICR, available in the public version of the official record.

IX. What Is the Next Step in the Process for This ICR?

EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12. EPA will issue another **Federal Register** notice pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(1)(iv) to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB. If you have any questions about this ICR or the approval process, please contact the person(s) listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Dated: June 25, 2003.

Kimberly T. Nelson,
Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Information.

[FR Doc. 03-16584 Filed 6-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OEI-2003-0025; FRL-7520-9]

Toxic Chemical Release Reporting; Request for Comment on Renewal Information and Proposed Changes to Part II of the Form R Collection

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (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) pursuant to procedures described in 5 CFR 1320.12: Toxic Chemical Release Reporting (EPA ICR No. 1363.13, OMB No. 2070-0093). This ICR involves a collection activity that is currently approved and scheduled to expire on October 31, 2003. EPA ICR No. 1363.12 was approved by OMB on March 10, 2003, with a shorter than usual clearance in order to provide the EPA an opportunity to examine in more detail the TRI burden estimates and opportunities for reducing burden and enhancing the practical utility of the data. A revised draft Form R is included in this ICR. The redesigned draft Form R collects all the same information as the prior form; however, it collects that information in a different format. EPA is proposing this draft Form R based on feedback received from stakeholders in an effort to collect information in a more logical, simplistic manner. Section V below and sections 1 (b) and 3 (b) of the ICR Supporting Statement discuss the proposed Form R changes in greater detail. Also, a copy of the proposed new Form R and a crosswalk between the proposed Form R and the previous version of the Form R are included as Attachment G of the ICR Supporting Statement. Before submitting this ICR to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval under the PRA, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the collection as described below.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number OEI-2003-0025 must be submitted on or before September 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit III. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information contact: The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Hotline at (800) 424-9346 or (703) 412-9810, TDD (800) 553-7672, <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline/>. For technical information about this ICR renewal contact: Judith Kendall, Toxics Release Inventory Program Division, OEI, Environmental Protection Agency (2844T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202-566-0750;