

you mail to the mailing address identified in this section. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. By Mail

Send your comments to: OSWER Docket, EPA Docket Center, Mailcode: 5305T, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID Number RCRA-1999-0031.

3. By Hand Delivery or Courier

Deliver your comments to: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, Attention Docket ID Number RCRA-1999-0031. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation as identified above.

4. By Facsimile.

Fax your comments to: (202) 566-0272, Attention Docket ID Number RCRA-1999-0031.

C. How Should I Submit Confidential Business Information (CBI) to the Agency?

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically through EPA's electronic public docket or by e-mail. Send or deliver information identified as CBI only to the following address: RCRA CBI Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. RCRA-1999-0031. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI on disk or CD-ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD-ROM the specific information that is CBI). Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD-ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket without prior

notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

D. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

II. Background

A. What Is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Burden Reduction Initiative?

The RCRA Burden Reduction Initiative is the Office of Solid Waste's effort to reduce recordkeeping and reporting burden, while maintaining the protections the Agency has in place to safeguard human health and the environment. This notice seeks additional comment on ideas to reduce burden imposed by the reporting and recordkeeping requirements under the RCRA Subtitle C hazardous waste regulations at 40 CFR, Chapter I (Environmental Protection Agency), Subchapter I ["Eye"] ("Solid Wastes"). For more information on this Initiative, as well as the definition of burden, how burden is estimated and the baseline burden estimates for the RCRA hazardous waste program, see the proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on January 17, 2002 (67 FR 2518).

B. What Are the Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements for Generators and Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs)?

1. What Are the Existing Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements?

The existing hazardous waste regulations require the submittal of 334 notifications, reports, certifications, demonstrations, and plans from generators and TSDFs to demonstrate compliance with the RCRA regulations. We also ask for this information as part of applications for extensions, permits, variances, and exemptions. In addition, the regulations require generators and facility owners and operators to keep certain records on-site.

2. Why Do We Collect This Information?

When we promulgated the hazardous waste regulations, we decided to collect as much information as we thought was necessary about facility operations. Without prior experience as a guide, our philosophy was that it was better to collect information in all cases, knowing that we could eliminate information requirements later if they turned out to not be useful.

We are using what we have learned during our 25-year operating history in RCRA to reevaluate this all-encompassing information collection approach, and we are moving towards collecting only the information that has actually proven useful to the RCRA hazardous waste program. This is consistent with the President's Management Agenda, which directs federal agencies to show that their programs actually accomplish their goals. Requiring facilities to collect and submit information that is seldom or never used is not only wasteful, but it diverts available environmental protection resources away from the RCRA goals of protecting human health and the environment to generating unnecessary paperwork.

C. How Have We Identified Burden Reduction?

The RCRA Burden Reduction Initiative has weighed the RCRA reporting and recordkeeping requirements versus the burden they impose to answer the question "Which recordkeeping and reporting requirements can be eliminated or modified without compromising protection of human health and the environment." We obtained input from program offices at EPA Headquarters and Regions, the States, the regulated community, and public interest groups in this process. To answer this question, we asked the following specific