



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OARM-2016-0762; FRL-11408-01-OMS]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; General Administrative Requirements for Assistance Programs

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR), “General Administrative Requirements for Assistance Programs” (EPA ICR Number 0938.23, OMB Control Number 2030-0020) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below. This is a proposed extension of the ICR, which is currently approved through 6/30/2024. This notice allows for 60 days for public comments.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].**

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OARM-2016-0762, to EPA online using www.regulations.gov (our preferred method), by email to docket_oms@epa.gov, or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanda Kemp, Office of Grants and Debarment, National Policy, Training and Compliance Division, 3903R, Environmental

Protection Agency, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 202-564-0209; fax number: 202-565-2470; email address: kemp.amanda@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a proposed extension of the ICR, which is currently approved through 6/30/2024. 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.

This notice allows 60 days for public comments. Supporting documents, which explain in detail the information that the EPA will be collecting, are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at www.regulations.gov or in person at the EPA Docket Center, WJC West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202-566-1744. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

Pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, EPA is soliciting comments and information to enable it to: (i) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (ii) evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate forms of information technology. 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. At that time, EPA will issue another *Federal Register* notice to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB.

Abstract: The information is collected from applicants and recipients of EPA assistance to monitor adherence to the programmatic and administrative requirements of the Agency's

financial assistance program. The information collected is used to make awards, pay recipients, and collect information on how Federal funds are being spent. EPA needs this information to meet its Federal stewardship responsibilities. This ICR renewal requests authorization for the collection of information under EPA's General Regulation for Assistance Programs, which establishes minimum management requirements for all recipients of EPA grants or cooperative agreements (assistance agreements). Recipients must respond to these information requests to obtain and/or retain a benefit (Federal funds). For awards made prior to December 26, 2014, 40 CFR Part 30, "Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations," establishes the management requirements for institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations, as well as procurement requirements for non-governmental recipients. For awards made prior to December 26, 2014, 40 CFR Part 31, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," includes the management requirements for States, local governments, and Indian Tribal governments. For awards made after December 26, 2014, 2 CFR 200 and EPA's implementation of 2 CFR 200 at 2 CFR 1500 "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" establishes the management requirements for all entity types. These regulations include only those provisions mandated by statute, required by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars, or added by EPA to ensure sound and effective financial assistance management. For all awards, 40 CFR Part 33 "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Procurement under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Financial Assistance Agreements" establishes DBE utilization requirements for all entity types. These regulations include only those provisions mandated by statute or added by EPA to ensure sound and effective financial assistance management with respect to DBE utilization. This ICR combines all of these requirements under OMB Control Number 2030-0020. The information required by these regulations will be used by EPA award officials to make assistance awards and assistance payments and to verify that the

recipient is using Federal funds appropriately.

Form Numbers: To be determined.

Respondents/affected entities: The primary recipients of EPA assistance agreements are State and local governments, Indian Tribes, educational institutions, and not-for-profit institutions.

Respondents' obligation to respond: Required to obtain an assistance agreement (40 CFR Part 30, 40 CFR Part 31, and 40 CFR Part 33 for awards made prior to December 26, 2014, and 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1500, and 40 CFR Part 33 for awards made after December 26, 2014).

Estimated number of respondents: 3,048 (total).

Frequency of response: On occasion, quarterly, and annually.

Total estimated burden: 94,606 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

Total estimated cost: \$6,054,791 (per year), which includes \$0 annualized capital or operation & maintenance costs.

Changes in the Estimates: Estimated total respondent burden is likely to increase compared with the ICR currently approved by OMB due to an increase in the number of the estimated respondent universe.

Rachel Lentz

Acting Director, National Policy, Training and Compliance Division

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