be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–33173 Filed 12–14–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6201–7]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed and/or continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Title: Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles.

EPA ICR Number: 1887.1

Before submitting this ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may obtain a copy of this ICR without charge by contacting Ms. Shari Pricer, US EPA (MD–78A), Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Shari Pricer, 919–541–2198. Fax: 919–541–1111. E-mail: pricer.shari@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For technical information on the proposed study, contact the Project Officer, Dr. Lance Wallace, 703–648–4287. FAX: 703–648–4290. E-mail: wallace.lance@epamail.epa.gov.

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are patients who may be asked to take part in the study by participating physicians.

Title: Personal Exposure of High-Risk Subpopulations to Particles (EPA ICR No. 1887.1).

Abstract: The National Exposure Research Laboratory of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) at EPA is funding four studies of personal exposure of high-risk subpopulations to particles and associated gases. These studies have been recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

Three of the studies are three year cooperative agreements with the following institutions: the Harvard School of Public Health, the New York University School of Medicine, and the University of Washington. The fourth study is an EPA conducted study with contractual support. All four studies will employ the same questionnaire to supplement the collection of information on personal, indoor, and outdoor concentrations of the target pollutants. Subjects will be drawn from high-risk subpopulations with respiratory or cardiovascular disease. Participation will be entirely voluntary.

The information will be used by scientists within ORD and external to the Agency to evaluate the relationships between personal exposure, indoor concentrations, and concentrations measured at a central monitoring site for one or more high-risk subpopulations, including particularly persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and persons with cardiovascular disease. The data will also be used by the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards in their review of the basis for the proposed $PM_{2.5}$ regulation. The information will appear in the form of final EPA reports, journal articles, and will also be made publicly available in an electronic data base.

The cost of the four studies is expected to be $6M over a period of three years. Approximately 240 respondents will be included. The cost to the respondent will be negligible. An incentive payment will be offered to defray burden.

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. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments 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 automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The average time to review instructions and answer the questionnaire is estimated to be 26 minutes. The questionnaire is administered once each day for periods of 7, 14, 24, or 56 visits per year, depending on the individual study. The total time spent answering the questionnaire is estimated to be 1,217.2 hours for 104 respondents per year, or about 12 hours per year per respondent on average.

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.

T.A. Clark,

Acting Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory (MD–75).

[FR Doc. 98–33220 Filed 12–14–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6202–7]

Notice of Proposed Purchaser Agreement Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as Amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (''CERCLA''), 42 U.S.C. 9601–9675,