

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**Sunshine Act Meeting**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 30, 1997.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, C Street entrance between 20th and 21st Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mr. Joseph R. Coyne, Assistant to the Board; (202) 452-3204. You may call (202) 452-3207, beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before this meeting, for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting.

Dated: July 23, 1997.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 97-19765 Filed 7-23-97; 11:08 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension**

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC or Commission) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed extension of OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act for "collection of information" requirements contained in the Alternative Fuel Rule, 16 CFR Part 309.

DATES: Submit written comments on the collection of information on or before September 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Elaine W. Crockett, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Room 598, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20580. All comments should be identified as responding to this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. As required by section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, the FTC is providing this opportunity for public comment before requesting that OMB extend the existing paperwork clearance for the Alternative Fuel Rule.

The FTC invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the FTC's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the FTC's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

Alternative Fuel Rule, 16 CFR Part 309—(OMB Control Number 3084-0094)—Extension

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 ("EPA 92") established a comprehensive national energy policy to increase U.S. energy security gradually and steadily in cost-effective and environmentally beneficial ways. EPA 92 directed the Commission to establish uniform labeling requirements for alternative fuels, i.e., non-liquid alternative fuels, and alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs). (A separate FTC Rule, the Fuel Rating Rule, 16 CFR Part 306, implements a statutory requirement that refiners, producers and importers of liquid automotive fuels must determine the fuel rating of the automotive fuels that they distribute, which include liquid alternative fuels. Both Rules contain requirements relating to fuel rating determinations, certifications, posting, and recordkeeping.)

On May 9, 1995, the Commission issued the Alternative Fuel Rule, which requires disclosure of specific information on labels posted on fuel dispensers for non-liquid alternative fuels, and on labels on AFVs. To ensure the accuracy of the labeling disclosures, the Rule also requires that sellers

maintain records substantiating the product-specific disclosures that they include on these labels. The labeling requirements provide consumers with reliable and comparable information about the fuel ratings of similar types of fuel and alternative fueled vehicles. The primary purpose of the recordkeeping requirements is to preserve evidence of compliance with the Rule.

Burden statement: The Rule primarily establishes determination, certification, labeling, and recordkeeping requirements. When the Rule was issued in 1995, the FTC found that the non-liquid alternative vehicle fuel industry consisted of approximately 1,600 members, of which approximately 1,300 import, produce, refine, distribute or retail compressed natural gas to the public for use in alternative vehicles. The FTC estimated that approximately 50 industry members manufacture or distribute electric vehicle fuel dispensing systems and that no more than 250 companies retail electricity to the public through electric vehicle fuel dispensing systems. In addition, the FTC found that approximately 58 companies manufacture alternative fueled vehicles. These companies also are subject to labeling and recordkeeping requirements. Staff at Department of Energy inform us that current numbers are approximately the same as they were in 1995.

All of the requirements relating to the processes involved in fuel rating determination, certification, labeling, and recordkeeping also remain the same. No provisions in the Alternative Fuel Rule have been amended or changed in any manner. We have, however, reduced the 1995 total burden estimate of 22,500 hours because, as stated in the original application for PRA clearance, it is now and always has been common practice for industry members to determine and monitor fuel ratings in the normal course of their business activities. This is because industry members must know and determine the fuel ratings of their products in order to monitor quality and determine how to market them. The 1995 burden estimates were based on the recognition that the Rule would initially create a burden of implementing a system that standardizes the various processes involved. Burden, as defined by OMB, means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. 5 CFR 1320.2(b)(1). Accordingly, in 1995, we estimated the burden hours as follows:

Fuel Rating Determination: 2 hours × 350 industry members = 700 burden hours.

Fuel Rating Certification: 24 hours × 350 industry members = 8,400 burden hours.

Labeling: 1 hour × 1,400 industry members = 1,400 burden hours.

Recordkeeping associated with fuel rating determination and certification: 6 minutes × 1,600 industry members = 160 burden hours.

AFV labeling: producing: 2.5 hours × 40 models = 100 burden hours; posting: 2 minutes × 350,000 AFVs = 11,667 burden hours; recordkeeping: 30 minutes × 58 industry members = 29 burden hours.

Total 1995 burden hours: 22,500 (rounded).

As indicated above, "burden" for OMB purposes is defined to exclude effort that would be expended regardless of any regulatory requirement. 5 CFR 1320.2(b)(2). One-time letters of certification or the use of permanent marks or labels on electric vehicle fuel dispensing systems may be used once and thereafter remain in effect for several years. Also, the specifications for labels were designed to produce a label that would withstand the elements for several years. Nonetheless, there is still some burden associated with producing, distributing, posting, and maintaining new labels. There also will be some burden associated with new or revised certification of fuel ratings. Accordingly, we have revised the burden hour estimates as follows:

(Fuel Rating Determination numbers are no longer applicable because these numbers are no longer associated with start-up costs and are determined during the ordinary course of business).

Fuel Rating Certification: 1 hour × 350 industry members = 350 burden hours.

Labeling: 1 hour × 280 industry members = 280 burden hours. (This calculation assumes that only 20% of 1,400 industry members will be affected because it is unnecessary to replace labels each year.)

Recordkeeping associated with fuel rating determination and certification: 6 minutes × 1,600 industry members = 160 burden hours.

AFV labeling: producing: 2.5 hours × 5 new models per year = 12.5 burden hours; posting: 2 minutes × 20,000 new AFVs per year = 667 burden hours. (The number of new AFVs per year was determined after discussions with staff at the Department of Energy.); recordkeeping: 30 minutes × 58 industry members = 29 burden hours.

Total 1997 burden hours: approximately 1,500 (rounded).

To re-emphasize, the FTC has not amended, nor is it in the process of amending, the Alternative Fuel Rule. The burden hours associated with the Rule have been recalculated because, as originally anticipated when the Rule was promulgated in 1995, many of the information collection requirements and the originally-estimated hours were associated with one-time start up tasks of implementing standards systems and processes. In addition, the FTC has reduced the estimated burden hours because the industry complies with these requirements in the ordinary course of business, and the definition of "burden" excludes effort that would be expended regardless of any regulatory requirement. 5 CFR 1320.2(b)(2). Therefore, the cost to the industry associated with complying with the requirements of this Rule is expected to be minimal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elaine W. Crockett (202) 326-2453; FAX (202)-326-2447; E-mail: ecrockett@ftc.gov

Jay C. Shaffer,

Acting General Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

AHCPR Opportunity for Cooperative Research and Development Agreements and Other Public-Private Partnerships

AGENCY: Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) is seeking specific expressions of interest and general public comments regarding the Agency's intention to develop additional public-private partnerships for research to enhance quality and access in the nation's health care system.

DATES: To receive immediate consideration, proposals or public comments must be received by September 23, 1997. However, proposals may be submitted at any time.

ADDRESSES: Proposals or comments may be sent directly to: Larry T. Patton, Director, Office of Policy Analysis, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, 2101 E. Jefferson Street, Rockville, Md 20852. (Email:

1patton@ahcpr.gov). Portions of proposals containing proprietary information may be labeled as confidential, if necessary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Cohen, J.D., at 301-594-1321, ext. 1016.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AHCPR is planning to enter into "Cooperative Research and Development Agreements" (CRADAs) and other public-private partnerships pursuant to the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986, as amended, and Executive Order 12591 of October 10, 1987, for collaboration on research projects as described below.

Background

AHCPR is the Federal agency charged with supporting research to enhance the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health care services and access to those services. AHCPR supports the development of scientific knowledge and disseminates information to strengthen consumer and clinical decisionmaking, and to improve the organization of public and private systems of health care delivery. AHCPR also has the lead for the special initiative of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on improving the quality of care throughout the nation's health systems.

AHCPR's strategic goals in research encompass projects designed to:

- Help consumers make more informed choices.
- Determine what works best in clinical practice.
- Measure and improve quality of care.
- Monitor and evaluate health care delivery.
- Improve the cost-effective use of health care resources.
- Assist health care policymakers.
- Build and sustain the health services research infrastructure.

AHCPR historically has used public-private partnerships to strengthen its dissemination activities, including the publication of clinical practice guidelines and co-sponsorship of conferences designed to expedite the translation of research findings into everyday health care practice. More recently, AHCPR has expanded its partnership roles with collaborations to support health services research projects through a variety of models, including the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA).

AHCPR's interest in expanding its public-private partnerships is precipitated by three primary factors. First, demand for the products of health