

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0103; FRL 10814-01-OAR]

Proposed Information Collection Request Renewal; Comment Request; Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebate Program; EPA ICR No. 2461.05, OMB Control No. 2060-0686 (Renewal)**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR) renewal, “Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebate Program” (EPA ICR No. 2461.05, OMB Control No. 260-0686 (Renewal)) 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. An Emergency ICR No. 2780.01 was approved by OMB in September 2023 that included additional data necessary to adequately review and administer the CSB Rebate Program. This ICR renewal consolidates all components of the CSB Rebate Program collection and renews the existing ICR No. 2461.04, which is currently approved through August 31, 2025. 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.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 2, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0103, online using www.regulations.gov (our preferred method), by email to a-and-r-docket@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:

Timothy Thomas, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, (6406A), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,

Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 734-214-4465; email address: thomas.tim.l@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Supporting documents that explain in detail the information that EPA will be collecting are available in the public docket for this ICR renewal. 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 automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. The ICR renewal package will be submitted to OMB for review and approval.

Abstract:

This supporting statement is for the Information Collection Request (ICR) renewal for the Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebate Program. The CSB Rebate Program currently collects information under an existing ICR; namely the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and Clean School Bus Rebate Program ICR No. 2060-0686. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently uses ICR No. 2060-0686 to collect information for the CSB Rebate Program to ensure its successful administration and management. An Emergency ICR No. 2780.01 was approved by OMB in September 2023 that included additional data necessary to adequately review and administer the CSB Rebate Program. This ICR renewal consolidates all components of the CSB Rebate Program collection.

School buses collectively travel over four billion miles each year. They provide safe transportation to and from

school for more than 25 million American children every day. While new buses meet the EPA’s tighter emission standards, most school buses on the road emit pollutants, including nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM), in diesel exhaust. These pollutants can contribute to poor air quality and negatively impact human health, especially for children, as well as for bus drivers, other school staff, and other community members. The CSB Rebate Program funds the replacement of existing school buses with cleaner buses, the operation of which result in better air quality throughout the communities in which they operate.

EPA uses approved procedures and forms to collect necessary information to operate the CSB Rebate Program and has been providing these rebates since 2022. For each rebate program, EPA utilizes three online forms for the three phases of the rebate lifecycle: (1) Application Form, for eligible entities to apply to a new rebate program, (2) Payment Request Form, for selectees to submit order documentation and receive funds, and (3) Close Out Form, for selectees to document completion of the rebate-eligible activity. In Fall 2023, EPA launched the 2023 CSB Rebate Application for applicants, and the 2022 CSB Rebate Close Out Form for existing 2022 program participants; EPA is currently preparing to launch the 2023 CSB Rebate Payment Request Form in early Spring of 2024. EPA will subsequently launch the 2023 CSB Rebate Close Out Form, as well as each rebate form for any future rebate programs (e.g., 2024 CSB Rebate Program). The data collected in these forms are needed to operate the rebate program as authorized by Congress under the CSB statute.

Respondents/affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those interested in applying for a rebate under EPA’s CSB Program and include but are not limited to the following NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) codes: 23 Construction; 482 Rail Transportation; 483 Water Transportation; 484 Truck Transportation; 485 Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation; 4854 School and Employee Bus Transportation; 61111 Elementary and Secondary Schools; 61131 Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools; 9211 Executive, Legislative, and Other Government Support; and 9221 Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities.

Respondent’s obligation to respond: Mandatory for CSB rebate recipients.

Estimated number of respondents: 2,400 applicants annually.

Frequency of response: Once per year.

Total estimated burden: 19,763 hours for applicants annually and 59,289 hours for applicants over the ICR period. Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b)

Changes in the estimates: There is an increase of 2,476 hours burden hours in the total estimated respondent burden compared with the ICR currently approved by OMB. This change is due to minor decreases to the respondent count for the Payment Request Form and Close Out Form, offset by increases to the respondents' time burden for all forms to more accurately reflect the time required for program participants to complete the forms given changes in program requirements and changes to the amount of time given to selectees to edit their forms.

Karl Simon,

Director, Transportation and Climate Division, Office of Air and Radiation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-11464-01-OA]

Request for Nominations of Candidates for the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Panel

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office requests public nominations of scientific experts for the CASAC NO_x Panel. This panel will provide advice through the chartered CASAC on the scientific and technical bases for the agency's review of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for nitrogen oxides.

DATES: Nominations should be submitted by November 24, 2023 per the instructions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Notice and Request for Nominations may contact Mr. Aaron Yeow, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), SAB Staff Office, by telephone at (202) 564-2050 or via email at yeow.aaron@epa.gov. General information concerning the CASAC can be found on the CASAC website: <https://casac.epa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The CASAC was established pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1977,

codified at 42 U.S.C. 7409(d)(2), to review air quality criteria and NAAQS and recommend to the EPA Administrator any new NAAQS and revisions of existing criteria and NAAQS as may be appropriate. The CASAC shall also: advise the EPA Administrator of areas in which additional knowledge is required to appraise the adequacy and basis of existing, new, or revised NAAQS; describe the research efforts necessary to provide the required information; advise the EPA Administrator on the relative contribution to air pollution concentrations of natural as well as anthropogenic activity; and advise the EPA Administrator of any adverse public health, welfare, social, economic, or energy effects which may result from various strategies for attainment and maintenance of such NAAQS. As amended, 5 U.S.C. app. section 109(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that EPA carry out a periodic review and revision, as appropriate, of the air quality criteria and the NAAQS for the six "criteria" air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides.

The CASAC is a Federal advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). As a Federal Advisory Committee, the CASAC conducts business in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. 10) and related regulations. The CASAC and the CASAC NO_x Panel will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

Request for Nominations: The SAB Staff Office is seeking nominations of nationally and internationally recognized scientists with demonstrated expertise and research in the field of air pollution related to criteria pollutants. For the CASAC NO_x Panel, experts are being sought in the following fields, especially with respect to NO_x: atmospheric science, human exposure, dosimetry, toxicology, epidemiology, medicine, public health, biostatistics, and risk assessment.

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations: Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals in the areas of expertise described above. Individuals may self-nominate. Nominations should be submitted in electronic format (preferred) using the online nomination form under "Public Input on Membership" on the CASAC web page at <https://casac.epa.gov>. To be considered, all nominations should include the information requested below. EPA values and welcomes diversity. All qualified candidates are

encouraged to apply regardless of sex, race, disability or ethnicity. Nominations should be submitted by November 24, 2023.

The following information should be provided on the nomination form: contact information for the person making the nomination; contact information for the nominee; and the disciplinary and specific areas of expertise of the nominee. Nominees will be contacted by the SABSO and will be asked to provide a recent *curriculum vitae* and a narrative biographical summary that includes current position, educational background, research activities, sources of research funding for the last two years, and recent service on other national advisory committees or national professional organizations. Persons having questions about the nomination process, or the public comment process described below, or who are unable to submit nominations through the CASAC website, should contact the DFO, as identified above. The names and biosketches of qualified nominees identified by respondents to this **Federal Register** notice, and additional experts identified by the SAB Staff Office, will be posted in a List of Candidates on the CASAC website at <https://casac.epa.gov>. Public comments on each List of Candidates will be accepted for 21 days from the date the list is posted. The public will be requested to provide relevant information or other documentation on nominees that the SAB Staff Office should consider in evaluating candidates.

For the EPA SAB Staff Office, a balanced review panel includes candidates who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the charge. In forming this expert panel, the SAB Staff Office will consider public comments on the List of Candidates, information provided by the candidates themselves, and background information independently gathered by the SAB Staff Office. Selection criteria to be used for panel membership include: (a) scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) availability and willingness to serve; (c) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (d) absence of an appearance of a lack of impartiality; (e) skills working in committees, subcommittees and advisory panels; and (f) for the panel as a whole, diversity of expertise and viewpoints.