

**DowAgrcSciences Response to EPA ICR No. 0161.11, Consultation Questions
September 16, 2008**

Attn: Docket ID No.: EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0255

(1) Publicly Available Data

(1) Is the data that the Agency seeks available from any public source, or already collected by another office at EPA or by another agency?

No, Dow AgroSciences' data is stored in a proprietary system that is restricted to a limited number of its employees.

(2) If yes, where can you find the data?

(2) Frequency of Collection

Can the Agency collect the information less frequently and still produce the same outcome?

The regulation states that the Purchaser Acknowledgement Statement must be signed and returned to the exporter prior to shipment of the product. Today the Agency does require that the exporter submit executed Purchaser Acknowledgement Statement within 7 working days of the exporter's receipt of the document. The Agency could allow the exporter to accumulate the forms for a 30-day period, and submit to the Agency by the 15th day of the month after the 30-day accumulation period (e.g., collect data from August 1 to August 31, and submit to the Agency by September 15).

(3) Clarity of Instructions

(1) The ICR is intended to require that respondents provide certain data so that the Agency can utilize them.

(1) Based on the instructions (regulations, PR Notices, etc.), is it clear what you are required to do and how to submit such data?

Yes, this information is typically clear.

(2) If not, what suggestions do you have to clarify the instructions?

(2) Do you understand that you are required to maintain records?

Yes, Dow AgroSciences is aware of the requirements to maintain these documents per 40 CFR § 169.2.

(3) Considering that there is no required submission format, is it difficult to submit information in ways that are clear, logical and easy to complete?

Dow AgroSciences had recently proposed a new format to the Agency, whereby we could include multiple products for one customer on the same form. The Agency accepted the new format. This has reduced the amount of paperwork

required for both the customer to sign, for Dow AgroSciences to retain on file, and for the Agency to process.

(4) Regarding the any [specific program] forms, do you use them?
Are they clear, logical, and easy to complete?

I am unsure what you are asking in this question.

(4) Electronic Reporting and Record keeping

The Government Paperwork Elimination Act requires agencies make available to the public electronic reporting alternatives to paper-based submissions by 2003, unless there is a strong reason for not doing so. One such reason is that, at the present time, the Agency is unable to ensure the security of CBI that might be transmitted over the Internet.

(1) What do you think about electronic alternatives to paper-based records and data submissions? Current electronic reporting alternatives include the use of “web forms”/XML based submissions via the Agency’s Internet site and magnetic media-based submissions, e.g., diskette, CD-ROM, etc. Would you be interested in pursuing electronic reporting?

Are you keeping your records electronically? If yes, in what format?

Dow AgroSciences would fully support the electronic submission of these documents to the Agency. We would like to see the ability to attach electronic copies of the documents to the web forms / XML based submissions in the agency’s Internet site and would value acknowledgement or confirmation that each submission has been received by the Agency. This would, in our minds, make the process much more efficient and help streamline the process on our end.

(2) Although the Agency does not offer an electronic reporting option because of CBI-related security concerns at this time

(1) Would you be more inclined to submit CBI on diskette than on paper?

No, it would be just as easy for us to submit on paper. To submit on diskette would require us to scan some of the files that are not received by e-mail internally and then copy to diskette.

(3) What benefits would electronic submission bring you in terms of burden reduction or greater efficiency in compiling the information?

Dow AgroSciences has a global initiative to reduce the paperwork it generates, and electronic filing and record retention would aid in this initiative. It is much easier to scan and retrieve electronic files than it is to search paper files for information. Electronic submissions would help in this regard.

(5) Burden and Costs

(1) Are the labor rates accurate?

This is close to the rates for Dow AgroSciences.

(2) The Agency assumes there is no capital cost associated with this activity. Is that correct?

Yes, this is correct.

(3) Bearing in mind that the burden and cost estimates include only burden hours and costs associated with the paperwork involved with this ICR, e.g., the ICR does not include estimated burden hours and costs for conducting studies, are the estimated burden hours and labor rates accurate? If you provide burden and cost estimates that are substantially different from EPA's, please provide an explanation of how you arrived at your estimates.

This is close to the rates for Dow AgroSciences..

(4) Are there other costs that should be accounted for that may have been missed?

Not that I am aware of today.