

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR AN
INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST (ICR)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Identification of the Information Collection – Title and Numbers

Title: Pesticide Registration Fees Program

EPA ICR No.: 2330.04

OMB Control No.: 2070-0179

Docket ID No.: EPA-HQ-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX

Short Characterization/Abstract

This Information Collection Request (ICR) covers the paperwork burden hours and costs associated with the information collection activities under the pesticide registration fee programs implemented through the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pesticide registrants are required by statute to pay an annual registration maintenance fee for all products registered under Section 3 and Section 24(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In addition, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) amended FIFRA in 2004 to create a registration service fee system for applications for specific pesticide registration, amended registration, and associated tolerance actions (Section 33). This ICR specifically covers the activities related to the collection of the annual registration maintenance fees, the registration service fees and the burden associated with the submission of requests for fees to be waived.

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

Under FIFRA, EPA must evaluate pesticides thoroughly, before they can be marketed and used in the United States, to ensure that they will not pose unreasonable adverse effects to human health and the environment. Pesticides that meet this test are granted a license or "registration" which permits their distribution, sale and use according to requirements set by EPA to protect human health and the environment.

Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees

Section 4(i)(5) of FIFRA (**Attachment A**) requires registration maintenance fees to be applied to all products registered under Section 3 and Section 24(c) of FIFRA. The fees are paid annually for each product registered and payable on January 15 of each year. The authority to collect fees under the 1988 amendments would have terminated on September 30, 1997. However, the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) amended FIFRA and extended the authority to collect these fees until September 30, 2001. Congress has issued several subsequent bills to extend EPA's authority to collect fees. PRIA 4 became effective on March 8, 2019 and extended the authority to collect maintenance fees through fiscal year 2023. Under PRIA 3 and continued under PRIA 4, there is a new provision that allows qualified small businesses (defined as having ≤ 5 products, $\leq \$10$ M in total, global sales and ≤ 500 employees) to seek a 25% maintenance fee reduction on their first product.

Pesticide Registration Service Fee and Waivers

Section 33 of FIFRA requires the collection of fees in order to enhance the review of covered pesticide products (see **Attachment B** for information on the current fee schedule). Fees collected under this program will help to reduce time frames for registration decisions; provide greater predictability and more accountability for those decisions; ensure that FQPA deadlines are met; and result in more predictable and augmented funding for the pesticide program. Section 33 also established provisions that allow these fees to be exempted entirely. The registration service fee system was reauthorized by until September 30, 2023. Under the sunset provisions, if PRIA 4 is not reauthorized, the Agency is authorized to collect reduced fees for two additional years – 40% reduced fees in 2024 and 70% reduced fees in 2025 below the level in effect on September 30, 2017.

Under PRIA 4, the Agency must determine that an exemption is in the public interest. In February 2013, the Agency issued the Policy document entitled “Factors for IR-4 Public Interest Finding” (**Attachment C**) which lists the criteria under which an application will be presumed to be in the public interest. Since this policy exempts most, if not all, IR-4 registration activities, the Agency does not anticipate any additional burden will be imposed on IR-4. Finally, the statute exempts agencies of the Federal Government or a State from fees.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees

In order to provide an efficient system to bill, collect, and account for registration maintenance fees, the Agency sends a filing form to all registrants of currently active products. The information is used by the Agency to ensure that the fees prescribed by FIFRA have been paid by each registrant. The information is also used to adjust OPP's computer files to reflect changes in the status of registrations resulting from registrant responses. In the case where the registrant requests a small business cap and/or a 25% reduction in the first product's fee, the required information is used to ensure that the registrant qualifies for the fee reduction and is used to assess and report to Congress the impacts of maintenance fees on small businesses as required in PRIA 4.

Pesticide Registration Service Fee and Waivers

EPA is the sole intended user of the information collected. This collection of information is critical for the proper performance of Agency functions because the information collected will allow EPA to properly review a request for a waiver or exemption of fees under the PRIA without delay. The actual usefulness of the information to the Agency is that the information collected will be used to determine if the applicant qualifies for a PRIA registration fee waiver or exemption. Statutorily, in instances where the applicant requests a fee waiver or exemption, the decision review time period does not begin until either the Agency grants the waiver or exemption or until the registrant has paid the appropriate registration service fee (or, in the case of a partial waiver or fee reduction, the balance of the appropriate registration service fee). Processing of the application, therefore, will be delayed until the Agency can render a decision on the fee waiver or fee reduction or exemption request. With the

submission of this data by the registrant, the Agency will be able to meet its statutory obligation to grant or deny a waiver request within 60 days and, usually, earlier than the maximum 60-day period.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

For the past 26 years, the Agency has employed the same method of collecting maintenance fees. This method involves using OPP master files of product information to identify the firms to which the billing information is to be sent. Computer generated listings of products are mailed to each firm along with the Maintenance Fee Filing Form. The registrant is instructed to circle the word PAY, CAN, XFR, ERR, next to each Registration Number to indicate if he wants to pay for the registration, cancel the registration, indicate if he believes that the registration was transferred, or if the registration is listed in error.

The list of registrations is pre-loaded into a tracking file, and only the PAY, CAN, XFR, ERR indicator is keyed manually for each product. Company name and address information is also pre-loaded reducing the data entry burden for the maintenance fee filing forms. The total number of products for each company is calculated by computer, and totals entered from the filing form are verified by computer to ensure that all items balance. In addition, data entry for all forms is quality checked visually.

Receipt of payment is entered by the Financial Management Division into COMPASS. This information is then extracted and posted to the maintenance fee tracking system to close out each record. Results are made available to OPP staff on request as soon as the information is entered into the tracking system.

EPA implemented electronic payment of maintenance fees via <http://www.pay.gov> in the FY08 collection cycle. Beginning on October 1, 2015, the Treasury Department has terminated our lockboxes where payments in the form of checks or money orders were sent and directed EPA to collect the fee electronically with few exceptions. As a result, in the 2019 maintenance fee cycle, 99% of maintenance fee payments are received electronically.

Pesticide Registration Service Fee Waivers

Fee payments are made via Pay.gov or the Credit Gateway (EFT) and payments are uploaded in to the Agency's financial management system, Compass. Payment information is extracted from Compass and loaded into OPP's tracking system (OPPIN). Payment is due at time of application. If additional payment is required, invoices are generated and sent both electronically and in paper. All payments and invoices are generated electronically and tracked in OPPIN. Incoming letters, fee waiver and exemption applications, mail receipts, petitions, and other types of correspondence from registrants will be retained in hard copy for a period of time and then imaged for long term electronic storage.

Procedures for evaluating fee waiver and exemption requests will not change. Information and material submitted to justify a fee waiver are screened for completeness by the receiving division. Economic

data are sent to OPP's Biological and Economic Analysis Division for analysis. The Agency will keep applicants informed of the status of the waiver application throughout the process by telephone and by mail.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

For pesticide product registration, the specific information required under this ICR (i.e., the number of registrations that a given registrant wishes to maintain and, thus, the fee amount that will be remitted to EPA) does not exist in data bases at EPA or any other agency. To determine the amount of maintenance fees accurately, the Agency and the registrant must have a joint understanding concerning the number of products currently registered. Prior to implementing the current process, the Agency considered an alternative approach which was to simply notify registrants that fees were due for each of their products according to a fee schedule. Under this alternative, the registrant would submit payment according to their best information concerning the number of registrations that they wanted to support. However, if a registrant submitted payment that did not correspond to the fee schedule, the Agency would be in a position of either unilaterally determining which registrations to cancel or contacting each registrant to determine that registrant's intentions. This option was considered to be inefficient, and not in the best interest of the Agency or the registrants.

For pesticide registration fee waivers, no other federal agency or EPA program is collecting fees for the processing of applications for pesticide registration or information for the waiver or exemption of such fees. As such, this information collection activity does not duplicate any other collection of information by the federal government.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The Agency's filing form for the submission of maintenance fees requires the minimum amount of information needed to provide adequate communication between pesticide product registrants and the Agency. The needs of small businesses were of primary concern in designing the filing form. The respondents are asked to provide only readily available information. To qualify business must: 1) provide the necessary data to demonstrate that the entity qualifies as a small business, 2) identify products that firms wish to continue to support. In 2012 the fee structure was changed to provide a 25% discount on the first product supported. Therefore, qualified small businesses with five or fewer products receive a benefit from the discount.

Small businesses may also request a waiver of the registration service fee. A waiver applicant must demonstrate that it meets the criteria as outlined in PRIA. The information that needs to be compiled in order to make this determination is information that companies routinely collect and maintain in the normal course of business.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Annual payment of maintenance fees for all pesticide products is mandated by FIFRA. Thus,

there can be no option other than to require a minimum submission of the filing form once a year. Less frequent information collection in this area would violate the statute.

For the payment of PRIA registration application fees, there is no set collection schedule, per se. Rather, the registration service fee is collected each time a registrant submits a registration application. The applicant must either pay a fee or request and be granted a waiver or exemption for each registration application submitted. Therefore, the frequency of collection depends entirely on the frequency with which applicants submit registration applications. EPA cannot grant a waiver or exemption when one has not been requested and documented. Therefore, less frequent collection is not an option.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- a) requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- b) requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- c) requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- d) requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years;
- e) in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;
- f) requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- g) that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- h) requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

This collection is in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.6.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

EPA did not receive any comments in response to the previously provided public review opportunity issued in the Federal Register on 12/3/2019 (84 FR 66183).

Following the publication of the first Federal Register Notice for this ICR, EPA contacted appropriate stakeholders and asked them for their assessment of the regulatory burden estimates expressed by the Agency in this ICR (**Attachment G**). The following stakeholders were contacted for consultation, and EPA did not receive any responses to the consultation:

- *Pyxis Regulatory Consulting*
- *Syngenta*
- *Bengal Products*

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

This question is not applicable to this Information Collection Request renewal.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If the collection requires a systems of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.

Product registration maintenance fee information submitted by pesticide registrants under this ICR is considered by OPP to contain no confidential business information (CBI). If, however, registrants submit data that contains CBI or relates to trade secrets or commercial or financial information, such information is protected from disclosure under section 10 of FIFRA.

The information requested to document fee waiver or exemption requests may contain CBI. However, data and/or information submitted to the Agency in conjunction with service fee waiver or exemption requests may be claimed as trade secret or commercial or financial information and will be protected from disclosure under FIFRA section 10 and the associated regulation as contained in 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. Information claimed as CBI is protected from public disclosure unless the Administrator determines that disclosure is in the public interest. OPP routinely handles CBI data, and personnel are familiar with security procedures in accordance with provisions of the FIFRA Confidential Business Security Manual to ensure confidentiality. If any information is submitted that applicants claim as confidential, the Agency will employ the established procedures for handling such material.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

No information of a sensitive or private nature is requested in conjunction with this collection activity. Further, this information collection activity complies with the provisions of the Privacy Act of

1974 and OMB circular A-108.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- a) Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- b) If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**
- c) Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included under ‘Annual Cost to Federal Government’.**

The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes assigned to the parties responding to this information collection are as follows:

<u>NAICS Code</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>
3250A1	Pesticide and other agricultural chemical manufacturing	individuals or entities engaged in activities related to the registration of a pesticide product
32518	Other Basic Inorganic Chemical Manufacturing	manufacturers of inorganic chemicals used as inert ingredients in pesticide products
32519	Other Basic Organic Chemical Manufacturing	manufacturers of organic chemicals used as inert ingredients in pesticide products.
9641	Regulation of Agricultural Marketing and Commodities	Includes government establishments responsible for agricultural pest and weed regulation.

Annually, the Agency provides registrants with a list of their products currently registered with the Agency. Registrants are provided the opportunity to review the list, determine its accuracy, and remit payment of the maintenance fee. The list of products has space identified for marking those products to be supported and those products that are to be canceled. The registrants are also instructed to identify any products on the list which they believe are transferred to another company, and to add to the list any products which the company believes are registered that are not on the Agency-provided list. Respondents complete and submit EPA Form 8570-30 (**Attachment D**) indicating the respondent's liability for the registration maintenance fee. Each affected firm is required to complete the filing form and submit their fee payment by January 15 of each year. The failure to pay the required fee for a product will result in cancellation of that product's registration.

Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees

Data Item A -- Registrant Identification	Registrant Name and Address are pre-printed. The registrant needs to complete this section only to indicate a name and/or address change.
Data Item B -- EPA Company Numbers	If a firm has been assigned more than one company number, the firm may combine its fee payments under a single number by writing in all of the company numbers for which the firm is paying.
Data Item C -- Maintenance Fee Calculation	The respondent must fill in the number of registrations for which he is paying the fee, number of registrations which he believes to be transferred, number of registrations to be canceled, number of registrations which he believes to be in error, total fee amount due, and check number.
Data Item D -- Authorized Company Representative or Agent	The respondent must print the name and title of the company representative or agent. The respondent must sign and date the form and provide the telephone number of the respondent.
Data Item E -- Small Business Waiver	A small business seeking the small business cap and/or a 25% waiver on their first product's maintenance fee must submit the necessary information to substantiate their claim.

Pesticide Registration Service Fee Waivers

A registration applicant who seeks a small business waiver must submit a waiver request with appropriate documentation demonstrating that he meets the criteria established in the PRIA, i.e., that the company has fewer than 500 employees and has no more than \$60 million in annual global gross revenue from pesticides, averaged over the most recent three maintenance fee billing cycles, including any such revenue from affiliates. For this purpose, the applicant may be required to submit documentation regarding numbers of employees and, on behalf of itself and its affiliates, gross revenue figures, and information on revenue from pesticides over a three-year period.

A registration applicant who seeks a minor use waiver or exemption must provide supporting documentation that anticipated revenues from the uses that are the subject of the application would be insufficient to justify imposition of the full registration fee.

A registration applicant seeking an IR-4 exemption must merely request the waiver on Form 8570-1 (Application for Pesticide Registration, approved under OMB Control #2070-0060) or in their application cover letter. The Agency will, in turn, determine whether the application is solely associated with a tolerance petition submitted by IR-4 and that the waiver is in the public interest.

Although there is no record keeping requirement, PRIA provides that an application shall be subject to a registration service fee if, at any time, EPA determines that (i) the documentation supporting the waiver request is not accurate or (ii) based on the documentation or any other information, the waiver or reduction should not have been granted. Therefore, it is anticipated that applicants will retain copies of their submissions as well as documents demonstrating that the applicant is eligible for the waiver or reduction.

Currently no EPA forms are associated with this information collection activity. The Agency will accept information that is submitted in any format that meets the requirements of the statute.

Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees

Activities in which a registrant must engage in order to comply with this collection include the following:

Read instructions	Read accompanying instructions to understand how to fill out form, annotate list of registrations, and calculate fee due.
Plan Activities	Plan the activities necessary to respond to the billing.
Review Information	Review the attached listing of registrations and compare to the firm's records.
Complete Paperwork	Annotate attached listing of registrations to indicate which products the respondent is paying and which products are to be canceled or transferred.
Document small business claim	Provide required information to substantiate small business cap and/or 25% first product fee reduction claim
File Information	Maintain a copy of the form in company files. Although this is not required, the Agency assumes that most companies will retain this information as a common business practice.

The paper version form is printed on plain paper. The respondent returns a copy together with the annotated list of products with their payment receipt to OPP via a designated Washington D.C. area mailbox. Information contained on the forms returned to OPP is used to check and ensure that the proper amount of fees have been submitted by each registrant. In the past there has been a need for follow-up with some registrants when the information provided indicates that there has been a misunderstanding of the requirements. For the most part these have been handled by email and telephone. There is telephone number and email address provided which registrants may use to ask questions and resolve problems regarding their maintenance fee payments. The information provided also serves as an update for pesticide product information files. Updates of the Agency’s files are an ongoing process.

Pesticide Registration Service Fee Waivers

Guidance on the content and submission of fee waiver requests is available on EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/pria-fees/pria-fee-waivers-small-businesses> (also, see **Attachment E**). If a registration applicant wishes to request a fee waiver or exemption, at a minimum, it must undertake the following activities:

- Generate and submit the necessary materials to support the request.
- Indicate that a waiver or exemption is requested and that the appropriate documentation supporting the request is enclosed or has been otherwise submitted to the Agency.

ESTIMATING THE BURDEN AND COST OF THE COLLECTION

Estimating Respondent Burden

Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees

Experience has shown that the average burden per respondent has remained at approximately 1 hour. The agency believes that the number of actual burden hours has remained steady due to the fact that registrants now have 32 years of experience. In 2018 there were 1,523 firms with registrations. A summary of firms and their number of registrations is provided below.

Table 1. Number of Registrations Held by Registrants (Summary)

Number of Products	Number of Registrants	Registrants Cumulative Total	Cumulative %
1 – 5	1,222	1,222	80%
6 – 10	122	1,344	88%
11 – 20	69	1,413	93%
21 – 50	61	1,474	97%
51 - 100	25	1,499	98%
> 100	24	1,523	100%

Based on consultations with several respondents, both in the past and for this ICR submission, we believe that the average time required to complete the maintenance fee filing form depends upon the number of registrations held by the registrant. Below is the breakdown of the burden associated with the maintenance fee filing based on registrant-supplied information.

Table 2. Respondent Burden, by Number of Registrations Held

Number of Products	Average Hours	Number of Registrants	Total Hours
1 – 5	1.0	1,222	1,222
6 – 10	0.75	122	92
11 – 20	1.0	69	69
21 – 50	2.0	61	122
51 – 100	3.0	25	75
> 100	5.0	24	120
Totals		1,523	1,700

PAPERWORK BURDEN: $1,700$ (total hours) / $1,523$ (number of respondents) = 1.12 hours per response (rounded to two decimals).

Pesticide Registration Service Fee Waivers

In calculating the potential respondent burden, the Agency estimated between 375 and 400 responses per year for requesting fee waivers or reductions or exemptions, based on the numbers of fee waiver or exemption applications during the maintenance fee cycle for FY2019.

As described above, the agency has the authority to collect maintenance fees and under certain situations allow waivers of specific fees. For example, under the PRIA waiver provisions, as amended. IR-4 waiver requests are not accounted for in this burden estimation. To be eligible for the IR-4 exemption under PRIA 4, the application must be solely associated with a tolerance petition submitted by the IR-4 program and the exemption must be in the public interest. To facilitate this request, the

applicant may simply include the statement "This application is being submitted with a tolerance petition submitted in connection with IR-4. I request EPA to exempt the registration service fee for this application under the IR-4 waiver provisions of FIFRA Section 33(b)(7)(E)" on Form 8570-1 (Application for Pesticide Registration). Burden hours associated with completing this form are already covered by the ICR entitled "Application for New or Amended Registration" approved under OMB Control Number 2070-0060. EPA is not requiring registrants to submit additional information. The Agency will determine whether the application is solely associated with a tolerance petition submitted by IR-4 and whether the exemption is in the public interest.

Minor use waiver or exemption requests are not considered in estimating respondent burden because since March 23, 2004, only thirteen requests have been received out of several thousand applications.

There are three types of small business waiver applications. The first type, Type A, is a first-time applicant requesting fee waiver or reduction. The second type, Type B, is an application requesting another fee waiver or reduction within the same maintenance fee billing cycle. The third type, Type C, is from an applicant who has applied for a fee waiver in a prior maintenance fee billing cycle but not in the current cycle. EPA assumes that the respondent burden and cost for the Type B application is the lowest because Type B applicants will only need to certify that there have been no changes to the information previously submitted or, in the alternative, only provide documentation with respect to those elements that have changed. Type C applications, on the other hand, will need to submit all the documentation supporting the waiver request, providing updated financial and employee information. EPA assumes, however, that the cost and burden on most Type C applicants will be less than first time applicants because applicants will already be familiar with the waiver requirements and, in many cases, should have a portion of the supporting financial and business affiliation documentation readily available. The cost and burden on the Type A applicants will be the same as those for the first-year applicants. Type A applicants have the most burden because EPA assumes that every new applicant seeking a waiver of the registration service fee will want to familiarize him/herself with the criteria from the outset. Thus this burden is considered a one-time burden that will occur the first time the applicant submits a registration application under the PRIA.

Based on the number of waiver requests EPA actually received during FY 2019, EPA estimates that less than 1,600 requests for registration actions will be received per year, of which 360 will request fee waivers or reductions. Of the 360 responses EPA estimates that 10% (36 out of 360) will be the first-time applicants (Type A), 60% (216 out of 360) will be the Type B applications, and 30% (108 out of 360) will be Type C applications each year. The burden per response, number of responses, and total burden for each of the three response types are presented in Tables 4, 5, 6, and 10.

Labor Costs

OPP uses labor cost estimates from the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics) with respect to wages, benefits and overhead for all labor categories for affected industries, state government, and EPA employees. This approach provides a transparent and consistent methodology using current publicly available data to provide more accurate estimates and allow easy replication of the estimates.

Methodology: The methodology uses data on each sector and labor type for an *Unloaded wage rate* (hourly wage rate) and calculates the *Loaded wage rate* (unloaded wage rate + benefits), and the

Fully loaded wage rate (loaded wage rate + overhead). Fully loaded wage rates are used to calculate the paperwork cost.

Unloaded Wage Rate: Wages are estimated for labor types (management, technical, and clerical) within applicable sectors. The Agency uses average wage data for the relevant sectors available in the National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrci.htm>

Sectors: The specific North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code and website for each sector is included in that sector's wage rate table. Within each sector, the wage data are provided by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). The SOC system is used by Federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data (see http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_stru.htm).

Loaded Wage Rate: Unless stated otherwise, all benefits represent 45.8% of unloaded wage rates, based on benefits for all civilian non-farm workers, from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.t01.htm>. However, if other sectors are listed for which 45.8% is not applicable; the applicable percentage will be stated.

Fully Loaded Wage Rate: We multiply the loaded wage rate by 50% (EPA guidelines 20-70%) to calculate overhead costs.

Attachment F contains worksheets providing the breakout of these costs. Costs are based on 2018 data.

To derive the labor rates for this ICR, Agency economists estimated the wages for the management, technical, and clerical labor categories using the methodology cited above. The respondent costs for this ICR submission for managerial, technical and clerical rates are estimated at \$143, \$75, and \$48 per hour, respectively. These labor rates are fully loaded and include benefits and overhead costs.

EPA expects that applicants will incur minor expenses that are not directly related to paperwork activities, such as the costs of producing photocopies and postage costs. EPA estimates that these costs will average about \$10 per applicant and has factored these costs into the estimated total cost figures. Annual respondent burden and costs could vary with such factors as business structure of waiver applicants and types of information submitted. Therefore, the actual respondent burden and costs to a respondent could be higher or lower than the estimated respondent burden and costs reflected in tables 4, 5, and 6.

Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees

The upper part of Table 3 describes the average burden and costs for completing one maintenance fee filing form. The average total hourly burden was derived from Table 2 and the allocation of the hours between collection activities and types of labor was derived from consultation with a selected group of respondents. The lower part of the table shows the estimates of the total annual burden and costs for all respondents.

January 24, 2022

Table 3. Average Respondent Paperwork Burden and Costs (Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees)

Collection Activities	Burden (Hours)			Total	
	Mgmt	Technical	Clerical	Hours	Costs
	\$143.29 per hour	\$74.95 per hour	\$47.78 per hour		
Read instructions	0	0.29	0	0.29	\$21.73
Plan activities	0.23	0	0	0.23	\$32.95
Review information	0.23	0	0	0.23	\$32.95
Complete Paperwork	0	0.23	0	0.23	\$17.24
File Information	0	0	0.12	0.12	\$5.73
Total	0.46	0.52	0.12	1.12	\$110.60
Annual Costs	Hours per response	x Responses per year	= Hours per year	x Wage per hour	= Costs per year
Management:	0.46	1,523	716	\$143.29	\$102,596
Technical:	0.52	1,523	807	\$74.95	\$60,485
Clerical:	0.12	1,523	183	\$47.78	\$8,743
Total	1.12	1,523	1,700		\$171,825

Sources: Appendix F, Table 2

Pesticide Registration Fee Waivers

The upper part of Tables 4, 5, and 6 describes the average burden and costs for completing one registration fee waiver filing form. Based on the number of waiver requests EPA received during FY2019, 360 are expected to request fee waivers or reductions. Of the 360 responses, EPA estimates that 10% (36 out of 360) will be the first-time applicants (Type A), 60% (216 out of 360) will be the Type B applications, and 30% (108 out of 360) will be Type C applications each year. The average total hourly burden was derived from this assumption and the allocation of the hours between collection activities and types of labor was derived from consultation with a selected group of respondents. The lower part of the tables shows the estimates of the total annual burden and costs for all respondents.

Table 4. Annual Respondent Burden and Cost Estimates (Type A)

Collection Activities Type A	Burden (Hours)			Total	
	Mgmt	Technical	Clerical	Hours	Costs
	\$143.29 per hour	\$74.95 per hour	\$47.78 per hour		
Read regulation and plan activities	7	0	0	7	\$1,003
Generate materials for waiver request for submission to EPA	0	24	0	24	\$1,799
Store/maintain/submit and produce information	0	0	6	6	\$287
Total	7	24	6	37	\$3,089
Annual Costs	Hours per response	x Responses per year	= Hours per year	x Wage per hour	= Costs per year
	7	36	252	\$143.29	\$36,109
Management:	7	36	252	\$143.29	\$36,109
Technical:	24	36	864	\$74.95	\$64,757
Clerical:	6	36	216	\$47.78	\$10,320
Total	37	36	1,332		\$111,186

Sources: Appendix F

NON-PAPERWORK COSTS:

\$10.00 (postage and paper copies) X 36 responses = \$360

TOTAL ANNUAL RESPONDENT COST (TYPE A):

\$111,186 (paperwork) + \$360 (non-paperwork) = \$111,546

Table 5. Annual Respondent Burden and Cost Estimates (Type B)

Collection Activities Type B	Burden (Hours)			Total	
	Mgmt	Technical	Clerical	Hours	Costs
	\$143.29 per hour	\$74.95 per hour	\$47.78 per hour		
Read regulation and plan activities	2	0	0	2	\$287
Generate materials for waiver request for submission to EPA	0	4	0	4	\$300
Store/maintain/submit and produce information	0	0	6	6	\$287
Total	2	4	6	12	\$873
Annual Costs	Hours per response	x Responses per year	= Hours per year	x Wage per hour	= Costs per year
Management:	2	216	432	\$143.29	\$61,901
Technical:	4	216	864	\$74.95	\$64,757
Clerical:	6	216	1,296	\$47.78	\$61,923
Total	12	216	2,592		\$188,581

Sources: Appendix F

NON-PAPERWORK COSTS:

\$10.00 (postage and paper copies) X 216 responses = \$2,160

TOTAL ANNUAL RESPONDENT COST (TYPE B):

\$188,581 (paperwork) + \$2,160 (non-paperwork) = \$190,741

Table 6. Annual Respondent Burden and Cost Estimates (Type C)

Collection Activities Type C	Burden (Hours)			Total	
	Mgmt	Technical	Clerical	Hours	Costs
	\$143.29 per hour	\$74.95 per hour	\$47.78 per hour		
Read regulation and plan activities	2	0	0	2	\$287
Generate materials for waiver request for submission to EPA	0	19	0	19	\$1,424
Store/maintain/submit and produce information	0	0	6	6	\$287
Total	2	19	6	27	\$1,997
Annual Costs	Hours per response	x Response s per year	= Hours per year	x Wage per hour	= Costs per year
Management:	2	108	216	\$143.29	\$30,951
Technical:	19	108	2,052	\$74.95	\$153,797
Clerical:	6	108	648	\$47.78	\$30,961
Total	27	108	2,916		\$215,709

Sources: Appendix F

NON-PAPERWORK COSTS:

\$10.00 (postage and paper copies) X 108 responses = \$1,080

TOTAL ANNUAL RESPONDENT COST (TYPE C):

\$215,709 (paperwork) + \$1,080 (non-paperwork) = \$216,789

In total, the total respondent burden for all pesticide registration fees program (i.e. this ICR), as shown in Table 7, is approximately 8,540 hours and \$687,301.

Table 7. Combined Respondent Burden for the Pesticide Registration Fees Program

PROGRAMS	TOTAL ESTIMATES			
	Burden Hours	Labor Costs	Non-Labor Costs	Total Costs
Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fee	1,700	\$171,825	\$0	\$171,825
Pesticide Registration Fee Waivers	6,840	\$511,876	\$3,600	\$515,476
Total	8,540	\$683,701	\$3,600	\$687,301

Sources: Tables 9 and 10

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected on the burden worksheet).

- a) The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**
- b) If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collections services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**
- c) Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

There are no operational or maintenance costs associated with this collection.

14. Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies may also aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

Agency labor rates are estimated for the relevant technical and clerical staff based on the National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) using the methodology described in 6(b) above. Management, technical and clerical rates are estimated at \$132, \$87 and \$49 per hour, respectively (Table 7). Labor rates are fully loaded and include benefits and overhead costs.

Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees

The cost to the Federal Government for the activities covered by this ICR is estimated to be \$90,470. This estimate has two components. The first is the annual costs of generating listings and conducting mass mailings as well as pre-loading tracking data. The Agency estimates that these activities cost \$1,828 (see Table 7, rows 2 and 3). The second component is the per submission costs

totaling \$88,642 (see Table 7, rows 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). The Agency expends no management time in processing maintenance fee submissions.

Table 8. Agency Burden per Filing Form and Total Cost (Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fees)

Collection Activities	Burden (Hours)		Total per Activity		Annual Number of Actions	Total all Activities	
	Technical	Clerical	Burden Hours	Cost		Burden Hours	Cost
	\$87.24 per hour	\$48.83 per hour					
Generate Listings/Mass Mailing	8	16	24	\$1,479	1	24	\$1,479
Pre-load Tracking Data	4		4	\$349	1	4	\$349
Receive/Review Submissions		0.2	0.2	\$10	1,523	304.6	\$14,874
Enter Data into Tracking Sys.		0.2	0.2	\$10	1,523	304.6	\$14,874
Reconcile Discrepancies	0.5		0.5	\$44	100	50	\$4,362
Respond to Questions	0.5		0.5	\$44	300	150	\$13,086
Verify Payment	0.2		0.2	\$17	1,523	304.6	\$26,573
File Documents		0.2	0.2	\$10	1,523	304.6	\$14,874
Total	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,446.4	\$90,470

Sources: Appendix F, Table 2

Pesticide Registration Fee Waivers

The Agency’s burden associated with pesticide registration fee waivers consists of reviewing, evaluating, and notifying applicants of the Agency’s decision to grant or deny fee waiver requests; entering data into tracking systems; verifying fee payment; and storing/maintaining this information. Based on the number of waiver requests EPA received during FY2019, 360 are expected to request fee waivers or reductions. Table 8 describes EPA’s burden for performing these activities.

Table 9. Annual Agency Burden & Cost Estimates (Pesticide Registration Fee Waivers)

Collection Activities	Burden (Hours)			Total	
	Mgmt	Technical	Clerical	Hours	Costs
	\$132.14 per hour	\$87.24 per hour	\$48.83 per hour		
Review submitted waiver request and notify requestor of decision	1	20	2	23	\$1,975
Enter data into tracking systems	0	0	0.5	0.5	\$24
Verify payment	0	0	0.5	0.5	\$24
Store/maintain/submit information	0	0	1	1	\$49
Total	1	20	4	25	\$2,072
Annual Costs	Hours per response	x Responses per year	= Hours per year	x Wage per hour	= Costs per year
Management:	1	360	360	\$132.14	\$47,570
Technical:	20	360	7,200	\$87.24	\$628,128
Clerical:	4	360	1,440	\$48.83	\$70,315
Total	25	360	9,000		\$746,014

Sources: Appendix F

The total Agency burden for the same registration fees program is 10,446 hours and \$836,484 as shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Combined Agency Burden for the Pesticide Registration Fees Program

PROGRAMS	TOTAL ESTIMATES	
	Burden Hours	Total Costs
Pesticide Product Registration Maintenance Fee	1,446	\$90,470
Pesticide Registration Fee Waivers	9,000	\$746,014
Total	10,446	\$836,484

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported on the burden worksheet (in hour or cost burden.)

The total annual burden for respondents associated with pesticide product registration maintenance fee has increased slightly from 1,471 to 1,523. This modest addition is associated with an

increase in respondents and in refinements of the burden calculations.

The total estimated annual respondent burden for the pesticide registration service fee waivers information collection has not changed from 6,840 hours in the existing ICR. In this approval request, the annual number and distribution of responses among the three types are based on actual responses received.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The payment of maintenance fees for all pesticide products is mandated in FIFRA to occur annually. Thus, there can be no option other than to require a minimum submission of the filing form once a year. Less frequent information collection in this area would violate the statute.

The registration service fee is collected each time a registrant submits a registration application. The applicant must either pay a fee or request and be granted a waiver or exemption for each registration application submitted if the application is within the scope of one of the 2012 fee categories.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

This question not applicable to this ICR.

18. Explain each exception to the topics of the certification statement identified in “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.”

EPA does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE SUPPORTING STATEMENT

All of the attachments listed below can be either found in the docket for this ICR, or a link to the source is provided (unless otherwise noted); accessible electronically through <http://www.Regulations.gov>. On the main page, select **Advanced Search** from the menu bar at the top and select **Docket Search**. Enter the Docket ID Number, **EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0563** in the **Docket ID** field. Click on the **Submit button**. From the results page, you will be able to link to the docket view or directly open select documents found in the docket.

Attachment A The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Section 4(i)(5) is available as part of the docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0563.

Attachment B: Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act (PRIA 4) fees. Available electronically at <https://www.epa.gov/pria-fees/fy-2022-2023-fee-schedule-registration-applications>

Attachment C: Guidance on IR-4 Exemptions. Available electronically at

<https://www.epa.gov/pria-fees/guidance-ir-4-exemptions>

- Attachment D:** EPA Form 8570-30 - Pesticide Registration Maintenance Fee Filing Form is available as part of the docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0563. See web site at: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-11/documents/2020-maintfee-2020-form-8570-30.pdf> and <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-11/documents/2020-maintfee-instructions.pdf>
- Attachment E:** Guidance on How to Request Small Business Fee Waivers. Available electronically at <https://www.epa.gov/pria-fees/pria-fee-waivers-small-businesses>.
- Attachment F:** Worksheet for Estimating OPP ICR Wage Rates for Industry, and EPA Labor is available as a docket attachment EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0563.
- Attachment G:** Stakeholder Consultation Summary