

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4480

To streamline and integrate the requirements for pollution related reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2000

Ms. DEGETTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To streamline and integrate the requirements for pollution related reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Streamlined Pollution
5 Reporting and Technical Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall es-
8 tablish procedures for the streamlining and integration of
9 requirements under Federal law for routine and emer-

1 gency pollution related reporting to the Environmental
2 Protection Agency.

3 (b) PROCEDURES.—The procedures established
4 under subsection (a) shall, to the extent possible and con-
5 sistent with other Federal law—

6 (1) designate or establish an office to serve as
7 a single point of contact for all pollution related re-
8 porting to the Environmental Protection Agency, in-
9 cluding reporting by State, tribal, and local agencies
10 required to submit pollution related information to
11 the Environmental Protection Agency;

12 (2) permit pollution related reporting in paper
13 form or through electronic media, at the option of
14 the reporting person, for the first 5 years after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter re-
16 quire pollution related reporting through electronic
17 media;

18 (3) ensure the security of electronic reporting
19 procedures and associated databases;

20 (4) require the use of consistent and easily un-
21 derstood methods of description, units of measure-
22 ment, and terminology under all environmental laws
23 and regulations, developed in consultation with
24 State, tribal, and local governments, reporting per-
25 sons, including industry, scientists, engineers, envi-

1 ronmental groups, information technology experts,
2 and other relevant stakeholders;

3 (5) minimize duplicative reporting require-
4 ments; and

5 (6) include appropriate procedure variations for
6 different classes of reporting persons.

7 (c) **PRESERVATION OF REPORTING REQUIRE-**
8 **MENTS.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to elimi-
9 nate, or to authorize the Administrator to eliminate, any
10 reporting requirement under Federal law.

11 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH.**

12 The office designated or established under section
13 2(b)(1) shall—

14 (1) provide education, training, and technical
15 assistance, including through electronic means, to
16 persons who may be required to report pollution re-
17 lated information to the Environmental Protection
18 Agency;

19 (2) inform potential reporting persons of re-
20 lated reporting requirements administered by other
21 Federal agencies;

22 (3) provide information useful for identifying
23 potential pollution;

1 (4) provide scientifically sound, publicly avail-
2 able information on pollution prevention technologies
3 and practices;

4 (5) develop and disseminate software, to the
5 maximum extent practicable, to assist reporting per-
6 sons in assembling required data, preparing and
7 submitting reports, and receiving information pro-
8 vided under this section;

9 (6) develop a strategy to provide timely assist-
10 ance to small businesses;

11 (7) provide information on models and best
12 practices for life cycle analysis of manufacturing
13 processes and products, including technical assist-
14 ance on economics, environmental, new market, and
15 product development issues for businesses interested
16 in developing new processes that reduce the use of
17 resources, or in manufacturing products in a way
18 that maximized their potential to be converted into
19 new products when their primary use expires; and

20 (8) provide both technical and financial assist-
21 ance to State, tribal, and local governments to assist
22 them in developing reporting requirements consistent
23 with the procedures established under section 2.

1 **SEC. 4. OFFICE.**

2 (a) DIRECTOR.—The office designated or established
3 under section 2(b)(1) shall be headed by a Director, who
4 shall report to the Administrator and shall have the au-
5 thority to ensure the compliance and coordination of all
6 offices of the Environmental Protection Agency with the
7 program established under this Act. The Director shall be
8 an individual with experience and expertise in environ-
9 mental management, information technology, and organi-
10 zational management and leadership.

11 (b) AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.—The Administrator
12 may arrange for qualified public or private organizations
13 to perform functions described in section 3.

14 **SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.**

15 (a) INTEGRATION.—The Administrator shall encour-
16 age integration between the office designated or estab-
17 lished under section 2(b)(1) and State, tribal, and local
18 agencies on pollution related reporting procedures.

19 (b) OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—The Adminis-
20 trator may request from other Federal agencies informa-
21 tion on their pollution related reporting procedures. Such
22 other agencies shall promptly comply with the Administra-
23 tor's request.

24 **SEC. 6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

25 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator, in con-
26 sultation with the Director of the Office of Science and

1 Technology Policy, the Director of the National Science
2 Foundation, and the Secretary of Energy, shall establish
3 an advisory committee comprised of appropriate rep-
4 resentatives from industry, academia, government, and
5 any other organizations deemed appropriate.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the advisory com-
7 mittee shall be to advise the Congress on—

8 (1) the status of industrial ecology or life cycle
9 analysis for reducing pollution and increasing re-
10 source use efficiency;

11 (2) the elimination of barriers to, and the in-
12 crease in utilization of, industrial ecology or life
13 cycle analysis by the public and private sectors;

14 (3) the technical capacity and expertise in the
15 United States for conducting industrial ecology or
16 life cycle analyses; and

17 (4) the need for basic and applied research and
18 development to improve the capacity of industrial
19 ecology or life cycle analysis.

20 (c) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the advisory committee shall
22 transmit an interim report to the Congress. Not later than
23 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 advisory committee shall transmit a final report to the
25 Congress.

1 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

2 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, and not later than 4 years after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the
5 Comptroller General, in consultation with representatives
6 of all appropriate stakeholders, shall jointly prepare and
7 transmit to the Congress a report that—

8 (1) identifies provisions of law that prohibit or
9 hinder the implementation of this Act; and

10 (2) makes recommendations for improvements
11 to the program established by this Act.

12 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act—

14 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
15 ministrator of Environmental Protection Agency;
16 and

17 (2) the term “person” has the meaning given
18 that term in section 1 of title 1, United States Code,
19 and includes government agencies and organizations.

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