Loconia, NH 03246, or calling (603) 528–8721/TTY (603) 528–8722.

In addition, there will be two Open Houses held that will allow for the opportunity for the public to collect additional information on the project and comment on the DEIS. These forums will be held March 12, 1997 and March 19, 1997 at the Waterville Valley Conference Center, Waterville Valley, NH and at the Pease Public Library, Plymouth, NH, respectively. The Open Houses will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For those individuals who require sign language interpretation for these open houses please contact the Forest Service office in Laconia, NH through their TTY phone number—(603) 528–8721. Please call within three days of the meeting to allow us time to contact an interpreter for the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Jerry Perez, Project Coordinator for WV DEIS, Green Mountain National Forest, Rochester, VT 05767.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please direct questions about the proposed action and DEIS to Jerry Perez, Eastern Region Winter Sports Team Environmental Coordinator, Green Mountain National Forest, Rochester, VT 05767, (phone/TTY 802–767–4261).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS describes four alternatives to the proposed action. The alternatives were developed to respond to issues, concerns and opportunities identified during the analysis. Alternative 2 has been identified as the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.* v. *NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978).* Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc.* v. *Harris,* 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. (Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.)

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the agency in preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

The FEIS is scheduled to be completed and available to the public approximately 6 months following the close of the review period for the DEIS. The responsible Forest Service official will document the decision and the reasons supporting it in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.

The Forest Service official responsible for approving the proposed action is Forest Supervisor Donna Hepp, 719 Main St., Laconia, NH 03245.

Dated: February 18, 1997.

Donna L. Hepp,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97–4455 Filed 2–21–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under Secretary for Technology; National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee; Notice of Open Meeting

The National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee has scheduled a meeting for March 7, 1997.

The Committee was established to assist the Department in executing its responsibilities under 15 U.S.C. 3711. Under this provision, the Secretary is responsible for recommending to the President prospective recipients of the National Medal of Technology. The Committee's recommendations are made after reviewing all nominations received in response to a public solicitation and based on criteria made available to the public through nomination application forms. From time to time the Committee convenes to evaluate the criteria and nomination process to ensure continued relevance to the current environment for technological innovation. The Committee is chartered to have twelve members.

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. on March 7, 1997. The meeting will be held in Room 1411 at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Agenda

1. Review existing criteria, categories, and procedures for nominating candidates for the National Medal of Technology.
2. Make recommendations for revisions to the nomination criteria, categories and procedures for the National Medal of Technology to be forwarded to the Under Secretary of Technology.

Public Participation

The meeting will be open to public participation and the last thirty minutes will be set aside for oral comments or questions. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the public may submit written comments concerning the committee's affairs at any time before and after the meeting. A copy of the minutes will be available for public inspection and copying in the National Medal of Technology Program Office by April 4, 1997. Inquires should be addressed to the Director of the National Medal of Technology as indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katie Wolf, Director, National Medal of Technology, U.S. Department of Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Herbert C. Hoover, Building, Room 4823, Washington, DC 20230, phone: 202/482–5572, email:kwolf@doc.gov.

Dated: February 14, 1997.

Graham R. Mitchell,

Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy.

[FR Doc. 97–4395 Filed 2–21–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–18–M

Bureau of the Census

Quarterly Financial Report

ACTION: Proposed collection: comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to

take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ronald Lee, Bureau of the Census, Room 301–11 Iverson Mall, Washington, DC 20233, Telephone (301) 763–5435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Bureau of the Census plans to revise three of four data collection forms it uses in its Quarterly Financial Report (QFR) Program. QFR Forms QFR–101(MG)-long form, QFR–102(TR)-long form, and QFR–101A(MG)-short form are being revised. Form QFR–103(NB)-Nature of Business Report will not be revised. The purpose of these revisions is to bring the data collection forms up-to-date from an accounting and financial statement presentation viewpoint and to provide more meaningful data to users. These forms have not been substantially revised since their introduction in 1973.

The QFR Program has published up-to-date aggregate statistics on the financial results and position of U.S. corporations since 1947. It is a principal economic indicator that also provides financial data essential to the calculation of key Government measures of national economic performance. The importance of this data collection is reflected by the granting of specific authority to conduct the program in Title 13 of the United States Code, Section 91, which requires that financial statistics of business operations be collected and published quarterly. Public Law 103–105 extended the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the QFR Program under Section 91 through September 30, 1998.

The purpose of the QFR Program is to provide timely, accurate data on business financial conditions for use by Government and private-sector organizations and individuals. An extensive subscription mailing list attests to the diverse groups using these data including foreign countries, universities, financial analysts, unions, trade associations, public libraries, banking institutions, and U.S. and foreign corporations. The primary users are governmental organizations charged with economic policy-making responsibilities. These organizations play a major role in providing guidance, advice, and support to the QFR Program.

While the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) current approval for the QFR Program’s data collection forms runs through September 30, 1998, the current quarterly report forms are outdated and have not undergone substantial revision for more than 20 years. There have been sweeping changes in financial statement presentation and the underlying accounting principles since the form’s introduction in 1973. We have been able to forestall form revision because QFR ‘‘catchall’’ data line items provided corporations with a dumping ground for new data items spawned by these accounting changes. The published values in the ‘‘catchall’’ items however, have increased measurably, and will continue to do so, as the number of accounting changes since 1973 mounts.

Our primary data users, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Federal Reserve Board (FRB), want less data item aggregation particularly in the QFR. This would allow separation of recurring and nonrecurring income/expense items. Others in the user community repeatedly request QFR data presentation to be more consistent with other financial data sets, such as SEC filings and request the addition of new line items for improved calculation of ratios measuring industry performance. Also, large reporting companies frequently call for assistance because there is insufficient space on the forms to accommodate the reporting of data items they usually report separately in their financial statements.

In order to bring the QFR data collection forms up-to-date and provide more meaningful data to users, we plan to make changes to the quarterly financial report forms QFR–101(MG)-long form, QFR–102(TR)-long form, and QFR–101A(MG)-short form. Form QFR–103(NB)-Nature of Business Report which is used to determine industry classification, verify corporate identity, and analyze parent-subsidiary relations will not be revised. The proposed new forms retain the single-page format. The number of reportable data items increases from 35 to 36 for form QFR–101A to accommodate for interest expense. The number of reportable data items remain the same for forms QFR–101 and QFR–102. These two forms do, however contain more detailed reporting of significant economic events such as asset sales and disposal of business segments. This additional level of detail will enable BEA to adjust more accurately the ‘‘income before tax’’ numbers for these events. Currently, we and BEA do ad hoc research of newspapers for these items and often must telephone companies for their detail. The proposed new forms also contain separate information on interest expense and corporate bonds. Both of these data items have been long standing requests from a variety of users, including the FRB, business economists, and the banking community.

We began addressing the issue of form redesign with a draft of the revised forms in January 1993. We sent these forms to more than 100 trade associations, interested parties, and user agencies for comment. Most of the comments received were positive. A number of the trade associations asked their members to comment on the proposed revision and they in turn passed these comments back to us. Suggestions for rewording and clarification of requirements were incorporated in a revised draft. The most notable change was the dropping of the research and development expense request. The comments we received indicated that these data are not uniformly available on a quarterly basis.

In July 1994, pursuant to the OMB generic clearance for questionnaire pretesting research (OMB number 0607–0725), we conducted a pretest of the revised forms and instructions. Revised QFR data collection forms were sent to 100 corporations currently participating in the QFR Program. Thirty of these cases were selected from the noncertainty or sample segment of the program and 70 cases were selected from the certainty or ‘‘take all’’ segment.

The results of the test were favorable. Response rates for the test cases were similar to those having to file the old or ‘‘current’’ form. The average time it took to complete the revised form for the noncertainty cases did not differ significantly from the time we estimate it takes to complete the current form. However, the average time it took for the certainty cases was significantly less than we estimate it takes to complete the current form. We believe this difference is primarily due to an over-estimate of the time it takes to complete the current form, rather than a result of the revised form. This is corroborated by the responses to the question on the debriefing questionnaire that compared the difficulty of the new form to the current form. Over 80% of the certainty cases reported that the revised and current forms required about the same level of effort to complete.

II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau will use mail out/mail back survey forms to collect data. Companies will be asked to respond to the survey within 25 days of the end of the quarter the data are being requested for. Letters and/or telephone calls encouraging participation will be directed to respondents that have not responded by the designated time.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607–0432

Form Number: QFR–101 (Sent to manufacturing, mining, and wholesale trade corporations with assets of $50 million or more at time of sampling), QFR–102 (Sent to retail trade corporations with assets of $50 million or more at time of sampling), QFR–101A (Sent to manufacturing corporations with assets of less than $50 million at time of sampling), and QFR–103 (Sent at the beginning of sample selection and at 2-year intervals if the corporation is included in the sample for more than eight quarters)

Type of Review: Regular Review

Affected Public: Manufacturing corporations with assets of $250 thousand or more and mining and wholesale and retail trade corporations with assets of $50 million or more.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

Form QFR–101—3,475 per quarter, 13,900 annually

Form QFR–102—575 per quarter, 2,300 annually

Form QFR–101A—4,500 per quarter, 18,000 annually

Form QFR–103—1,225 per quarter 4,900 annually

Estimated Time Per Response: The average for all respondents is about 2.1 hours. For companies completing form the QFR–101 or QFR–102, the range is from less than 1 to 10 hours, averaging 2.9 hours. For companies completing form QFR–101A, the range is less than 1 hour to 3 hours, averaging 1.2 hours. For companies completing form QFR–103, the range is from 1 to 4 hours, averaging 2.4 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: The total annual burden for fiscal years 1997 and 1998 is estimated to be 78,600 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: $2,950,000

Respondents' Obligation: Mandatory

Legal Authority: Title 13 United States Code, Sections 91 and 224

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 18, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97–4398 Filed 2–21–97; 8:45 a.m.]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

International Trade Administration

Format for Petition Requesting Relief Under U.S. Countervailing Duty Law

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c) (2) (A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230. Phone number: (202) 482–3272.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to: Roy A. Malmrose, AD/CVD Enforcement I, Room 3707, 1400 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20230; phone: (202) 482–5414, and fax: (202) 501–5439.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The International Trade Administration, Import Administration, AD/CVD Enforcement, implements the U.S. anti-dumping and countervailing duty law. Import Administration investigates allegations of unfair trade practices by foreign governments and producers and, in conjunction with the U.S. International Trade Commission, can impose duties on the product in question to offset the unfair practices. Form ITA–366P—Format for Petition Requesting Relief Under the U.S. Countervailing Duty Law—is designed for U.S. companies or industries that are unfamiliar with the countervailing duty law and the petition process. The Form is designed for potential petitioners that believe a foreign competitor is being subsidized unfairly. Since a variety of detailed information is required under the law before initiation of a countervailing duty investigation, the Form is designed to extract such information in the least burdensome manner possible.

II. Method of Collection

Form ITA–366P is sent by request to potential U.S. petitioners and completed in written form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0625–0148

Form Number: ITA–366P

Type of Review: Renewal—Regular submission

Affected Public: U.S. companies or industries that suspect the presence of unfair competition from subsidized foreign enterprises

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5

Estimated Time Per Response: 40 hours

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 200 hours

Estimated Total Annual Cost: Assuming the number of petitioners remains the same, with a total of 40 hours per respondent, at an estimated cost of $70 per hour, the total annual cost is $14,000.

IV. Requested for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the