

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the General Services Administration, Office of Acquisition Policy has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning the Preparation, Submission, and Negotiation of Subcontracting Plans. A request for public comments was published at 67 FR 11701, March 15, 2002. No comments were received. This information collection will ensure that small and small disadvantaged business concerns are afforded the maximum practicable opportunity to participate as subcontractors in construction, repair, and alteration or lease contracts. Preparation, Submission, and Negotiation of Subcontracting Plans requires all negotiated solicitations having an anticipated award value over \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 for construction), submission of a subcontracting plan with other than small business concerns when a negotiated acquisition meets all four of the following conditions:

When the contracting officer anticipates receiving individual subcontracting plans (not commercial plans);

When the award is based on trade-offs among cost or price and technical and/or management factors under FAR 15.101-1;

The acquisition is not a commercial item acquisition, and

The acquisition offers more than minimal subcontracting opportunities.

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether the information collection generated by the GSAR Clause, Preparation, Submission, and Negotiation of Subcontracting Plans is necessary for small business/subcontracting plans; whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: *Comment Due Date:* July 10, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhonda Cundiff, Office of Acquisition Policy (202) 501-0044.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Ms. Jeanette Thornton, GSA Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10236, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to Ms. Stephanie Morris, General Services Administration (MVP), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

The General Services Administration is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) renew information collection, 3090-0252, concerning the Preparation, Submission, and Negotiation of Subcontracting Plans. This provision requires a contractor (except other than small business concerns) to submit a subcontracting plan when a negotiated acquisition including construction, repair, and alternations and lease contracts (except those solicitations using simplified procedures) meets all four of the following conditions:

When the contracting officer anticipates receiving individual subcontracting plans (not commercial plans), when award is based on trade-offs among cost or price and technical and/or management factors under FAR 15.101-1, the acquisition is not a commercial item acquisition, and the acquisition offers more than minimal subcontracting opportunities.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Respondents: 1,020.

Annual responses: 1.

Average hours per response: 12.

Burden hours: 12,240.

Obtaining Copies of Proposals

Requester may obtain a copy of the proposal from the General Services Administration, Regulatory Secretariat (MVP), 1800 F Street, NW., Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 3090-0252, Preparation, Submission, and Negotiation of Subcontracting Plans.

Dated: May 31, 2002.

Al Matera,

Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Draft Report on Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated by HHS Agencies

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an extension of the period for comment on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Draft Agency Guidelines for Ensuring the Quality of Information Disseminated to the Public until June 28, 2002. The HHS Draft Agency Guidelines have been developed pursuant to the government-wide OMB Guidelines for Information Quality published on January 3, 2002. HHS has received a number of requests to extend the comment period for the HHS draft guidelines, which are available at the following HHS website: <http://www.hhs.gov/infoquality>

DATES: Comments on the HHS draft agency guidelines must be submitted by 5:00 P.M., June 28, 2002. Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received by the deadline in the event of delivery delays.

ADDRESSES: Please submit written comments to Director, Division of Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Attn: Information Quality Comments, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Room 440D, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201. Comments also may be e-mailed to Info.comments@hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Scanlon, Division of Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. DHHS, Telephone (202) 690-7100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 3, 2002, OMB issued final guidelines to federal agencies that implement Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554). Section 515 directs OMB to issue government-wide guidelines that provide policy and procedural guidance to federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by federal agencies. The OMB guidelines in turn direct each federal agency to issue its own guidelines for ensuring the quality,

objectivity, utility and integrity of the information it disseminates to the public, including administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain, where appropriate, correction of information disseminated by the agency that does not comply with the guidelines.

The OMB Guidelines further direct federal agencies to prepare a draft report, no later than May 1, 2002, providing the agency's information quality guidelines and describing the administrative mechanisms developed by the agency to allow affected persons to seek and obtain appropriate correction of information. The agency also is directed to publish a notice of the availability of this draft report in the **Federal Register**, and post this report on the agency's website to provide an opportunity for public comment.

HHS Draft Agency Guidelines

In accordance with the requirements of the OMB Guidelines, the HHS draft report on agency guidelines is available for review and comment at the following HHS website: <http://www.hhs.gov/infoquality>

Comments Invited

Comments on the draft report are invited and must be submitted in writing to the office and email addresses specified in this notice. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot respond to individual comments.

Dated: May 31, 2002.

William Raub,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

[Program Announcement 02134]

Exposure to Tremolite Asbestos in Vermiculite Ore; Notice of Availability of Funds

A. Purpose

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2002 funds for a cooperative agreement program to conduct site-specific health activities for Exposure to Tremolite Asbestos in Vermiculite Ore. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area of Environmental Health.

The purpose of the program is to conduct site-specific health activities related to human exposure to contaminated vermiculite ore at sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as receiving and/or processing ore.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following performance goals for ATSDR:

1. Evaluate human health risks from toxic sites and take action in a timely and responsive public health manner.
2. Ascertain the relationship between exposure to toxic substances and disease.

B. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 104(i)(1)(E), (6), (7), (14) and (15) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 [42 U.S.C. 9604 (i)(1)(E), (6), (7), (14), and (15)]. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.161.

C. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided only to the health departments of States or their bona fide agents or instrumentalities. State organizations, including State universities, must establish that they meet their respective State legislature's definition of a State entity or political subdivision to be considered an eligible applicant.

Note: Title 2 of the United States Code section 1611 states that an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to receive Federal funds constituting an award, grant or loan.

D. Availability of Funds

Approximately \$400,000 is available in FY 2002 to fund approximately one to four awards. It is expected that the awards will range from \$10,000 to \$400,000 (\$10,000 per site evaluated for the conduct of health statistics reviews, \$75,000 for mesothelioma surveillance, and a maximum of \$400,000 for epidemiologic investigations.) It is expected that the awards will begin on or about September 1, 2002, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to three years. Funding estimates may change.

Continuation awards within an approved project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress as evidenced by required reports and the availability of funds.

Use of Funds

Funds may be expended for reasonable program purposes, such as personnel, travel, supplies, and services. Funds for contractual services may be requested; however, the grantee, as the direct and primary recipient of PHS grant funds, must perform a substantive role in carrying out project activities and not merely serve as a conduit for an award to another party or provide funds to an ineligible party. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment.

Funding Preference

For the mesothelioma surveillance, preference will be given to states with at least 100 cases of mesothelioma per year and at least eight sites that received the asbestos contaminated ore.

E. Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient will be responsible for activities under 1. Recipient Activities, and ATSDR will be responsible for the activities listed under 2. ATSDR Activities.

1. Recipient Activities

a. Health Statistics Reviews. Analyze existing health outcome data of select asbestos-related diseases. Mortality data will be the most readily available data for asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis, although cancer registry data should be utilized where available. Using disease rates by site, determine if there is any excess in disease that would require additional follow-up in Years two and three.

b. Epidemiologic Investigations. After demonstrating an increase of asbestos related disease at a specific site (e.g., through a health statistics review) develop a protocol, conduct the investigation and prepare a final report of the study. This protocol and report will undergo scientific peer review as required by ATSDR.

c. Mesothelioma Surveillance. Determine if a particular site which received Libby ore is contributing to the mesothelioma burden in the state. Develop a protocol, conduct the recommended investigation and prepare a final report of the project. This protocol and report will undergo scientific peer review as required by ATSDR.

d. Provide proof by citing a State code or regulation or other State pronouncement under authority of law, that medical information obtained pursuant to the agreement will be protected from disclosure when the consent of the individual to release identifying information is not obtained.