

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the March 28, 2002, *Federal Register* (67 FR 14956), the NIH proposed to change the PHS Policy to allow institutions to provide IACUC approval for competing applications subsequent to peer review but prior to award. This change would modify the PHS Policy, applicable to all PHS-conducted or -supported activities involving live, vertebrate animals, which currently provides institutions with a PHS-approved Animal Welfare Assurance the option of submitting verification of IACUC approval for competing applications (1) at the time of submission, or (2) subsequent to submission but within 60 days from the receipt date and in any case prior to peer review. Now, with this change in the PHS Policy, IACUC verification is no longer required to be submitted prior to NIH peer review, but instead is simply required prior to award. This process, already adopted as of May 1, 2000, for Institutional Review Board approval of applications involving human subjects, is often referred to as "just-in-time." The purpose of the change is to enhance the flexibility of institutions and reduce the burden on applicants and IACUCs, allowing resources to be focused on substantive review of applications likely to be funded. The change, however, permits funding components to require verification of IACUC approval at an earlier date if necessary.

Over 200 comments from the research community and institutional officials were received in response to the March 28, 2002, *Federal Register* solicitation for public comment on the proposed change. The comments were overwhelmingly in favor of the change; some included suggestions for NIH in its implementation of the change. Consequently, NIH emphasizes the following principles and expectations:

- The fundamental PHS Policy requirement that no award may be made without an approved Assurance and without verification of IACUC approval remains in effect. This change only affects the timing of the submission of the verification of that review.

- This change is intended to permit flexibility and discretion on the part of the institution. It is not a requirement that IACUC approval be deferred. Institutional officials retain the discretion to require IACUC approval prior to peer review in certain

circumstances of their choosing if they so desire.

- Under no circumstances may an IACUC be pressured to approve a protocol or be overruled on its decision to withhold approval. NIH peer review groups will continue to address the adequacy of animal usage and protections in their review of an application and will continue to raise concerns about animal welfare issues. However, in no way is peer review intended to supersede or serve as a replacement for IACUC approval. An institution that elects to use IACUC just-in-time bears the responsibility for supporting the role of the IACUC.

- It remains incumbent upon investigators to be totally forthcoming and timely in conveying to their IACUCs any modifications related to project scope and animal usage that may result from the NIH review and award process. Should an institution find that one of its investigators disregards his/her responsibilities, the institution may, for example, determine that all animal protocols from that investigator be subject to IACUC approval before it will permit submission of an application from that investigator.

- The existing PHS Policy requirement that modifications required by the IACUC be submitted to the NIH with the verification of IACUC approval remains in effect, and it remains the responsibility of institutions to communicate any IACUC-imposed changes to NIH staff.

- The NIH understands its responsibility to ensure that institutions are given adequate notice to allow for timely IACUC review prior to award and will take appropriate internal measures to fulfill its responsibility to establish timely feedback.

For the reasons stated above, the NIH amends the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals as set forth below:

Amend the second sentence of Section IV.D.2. of the PHS Policy to delete the words "a time not to exceed 60 days after the receipt deadline date" and replace them with the words "any time prior to award unless specifically required earlier by the funding component" so that the sentence states: "For competing applications or proposals only, such verification may be filed at any time prior to award unless specifically required earlier by the funding component."

The NIH will modify the NIH Grants Policy Statement and instructions for the 398 Grant Application Form accordingly.

Dated: July 29, 2002.

Elias A. Zerhouni,

Director, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 02-19867 Filed 8-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request extending the collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contracting the USGS Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days; therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made directly to the Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to the USGS Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192.

As required by OMB regulations at CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the USGS, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of the USGS estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,

4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Ferrous Metals Surveys.

Current OMB approval number: 1028-0053.

Abstract: Respondents supply the U.S. Geological Survey with domestic production and consumption data on

nonferrous and related metals. This information will be published as monthly, quarterly, and annual reports for use by Government agencies, industry, and the general public.

Bureau form number: Various (32 forms).

Frequency: Monthly, Quarterly, and Annual.

Description of respondents: Producers and Consumers of nonferrous and related metals.

Annual Responses: 5,897.

Annual burden hours: 4,791.

Bureau of clearance officer: John E. Cordyack, Jr., 703-648-7313.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,

Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.

[FR Doc. 02-19903 Filed 8-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposal for the collection of information described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection, but may respond after 30 days; therefore public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made directly to the Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192.

Specific public comments are requested as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Earthquake Report.

Current OMB approval number: 1028-0048.

Abstract: Respondents supply information on the effects of the shaking from an earthquake—on themselves personally, buildings and their effects, other man-made structures, and ground effects such as faulting or landslides. This information will be used in the study of the hazards from earthquakes and used to compile and publish the annual USGS publication "United States Earthquakes".

Bureau form number: 9-3013.

Frequency: After each earthquake.

Description of respondents: State and local employees; and, the general public.

Estimated completion time: 0.1 hours.

Annual responses: 100,000.

Annual burden hours: 10,000 hours.

Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack 703-648-7313.

Dated: June 28, 2002.

P. Patrick Leahy,

Associate Director for Geology.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BC-621-1830-PF-24 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Approval Number 1004-0187

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests the office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend an existing approval to collect social security numbers or taxpayer identification numbers (SSN/TIN) from entities doing business with BLM. The BLM needs this information in case an entity fails to timely pay money owed, in which case BLM may refer the matter to the Treasury Department for collection. BLM uses Form 1372-6 to collect this information for debt collection purposes

only under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996.

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before October 7, 2002. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to: Regulatory Affairs Group (WO-630), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

You may send comments via Internet to: WOComment@blm.gov. Please include "ATTN: 1004-0187" and your name and address with your comments.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Dorothy Butler, Branch Chief, Collection and Billings (BC-621), National Business Center, Denver, Colorado, on (303) 236-6332 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) on 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Butler.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires that we provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;

(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and

(d) ways to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), 31 U.S.C. 3701, contains a number of provisions that affect how BLM does business. One of the more significant provisions allows BLM to refer debts delinquent over 180 days to the Treasury Department for collection. Another provision gives the Treasury Department increased flexibility in seeking to collect the debts by various