

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

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, February 13, 2003.

Carol House,

Acting Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-6057 Filed 3-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2003

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR part 4279, subpart B, each fiscal year (FY) the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent. This notice covers only FY 2002 carryover and recovered funds. Once FY 2003 appropriated funds are apportioned, a second notice will be published for those funds.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster or are experiencing fundamental structural changes in the economic base.

Not all of the available Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan program funding authority for FY 2002 was used; consequently, this and recovered funding authority for approved B&I Guaranteed Loans which did not come to fruition are now apportioned and available for use. Not

more than 12 percent of the Agency's quarterly apportioned carryover and recovered guarantee authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned carryover and recovered guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans guaranteed with carryover and recovered funds during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank (NADBank) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. Up to 50 percent of CAIP funds may be used for loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent guarantee fee or a guaranteed loan exceeding 80 percent must be forwarded to the National Office, Attn: Director, Business and Industry Division, for review and consideration prior to obligation of the guaranteed loan. The Administrator will provide a written response to the State Office confirming approval or disapproval of the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 13, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Kieferle, Processing Branch Chief, Business and Industry Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224, telephone (202) 720-7818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866.

Dated: March 4, 2003.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 03-6052 Filed 3-12-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Collection of Public Information With the Use of a Survey

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request clearance for a new information collection to measure the quality of service provided by the Rural Housing Service (RHS) Centralized Servicing Center (CSC).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 12, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Scaggs, Section Head, Customer Service Branch, Centralized Servicing Center, 1520 Market Street, Room 3622, St. Louis, Missouri 63103, phone: (314) 206-2096, e-mail: bs244@stl.rural.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Housing Service—Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) provides insured loans to low- and moderate-income applicants located in rural geographic areas to assist them in obtaining decent, sanitary, and safe dwellings. RHS currently processes loan originations through approximately 900 Field Offices. The RHS Centralized Servicing Center (CSC), located in St. Louis, Missouri, provides support to the Field Offices and is responsible for loan servicing functions with borrowers. The CSC was established to achieve a high level of customer service and operating efficiency. The CSC has established a fully integrated call center and is able to provide borrowers with convenient access to their loan account information.

To facilitate the CSC's mission and in an effort to continuously improve its services, a survey has been developed that can measure the quality of service that the Field Offices and borrowers receive when they contact the CSC. Respondents will only need to report information on a one-time basis. The outcome of the Customer Satisfaction Survey will provide the general satisfaction level among RHS customers throughout the nation highlighting areas that need improvement and to provide a benchmark for future surveys and improvements in customer service. A follow up survey will be conducted in 18 months, but may or may not be sent to the same initial respondents. Additionally, in accordance with Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the survey will enable CSC to measure the results and overall effectiveness of customer services

provided as well as implement action plans and measure improvements.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response.

Respondents: Field office personnel, most likely office clerks and borrowers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 23,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 23,000

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,680

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0043.

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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 6, 2003.

Arthur A. Garcia,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-6053 Filed 3-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the

provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Questionnaire for Building Permit Officials.

Form Number(s): SOC-QBPO.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0125.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 225 hours.

Number of Respondents: 900.

Avg Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Census Bureau requests an extension of the current OMB clearance of the Questionnaire for Building Permit Officials (SOC-QBPO). The Census Bureau uses the SOC-QBPO to collect information from state and local building permit officials, such as (1) The types of permits they issue, (2) the length of time a permit is valid, (3) how they store the permits, and (4) the geographic coverage of the permit system. Census Bureau field representatives visit selected permit-issuing places and conduct the survey using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology and a lap top computer. We need this information to carry out the sampling for the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales and Completions (OMB number 0607-0110), also known as the Survey of Construction (SOC). The SOC provides widely used measures of construction activity, including the economic indicators Housing Starts, Housing Completions, and New Housing Sales.

We plan no changes to the information collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202)482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or email (susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: March 7, 2003.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-5966 Filed 3-12-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35)

Agency: Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS).

Title: Chemical Weapons Convention Declaration Forms.

Agency Form Number: Form 1-1, Form 1-2, Form 1-2A, Form 1-2B, etc.

OMB Approval Number: 0694-0091.

Type of Request: Renewal of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 20,538 hours.

Average Time Per Response: 10 minutes-31 hours per response.

Number of Respondents: 929 respondents.

Needs and Uses: Declarations: The CWC requires annual declarations and reports for activities involving Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3 and Unscheduled Discrete Organic Chemicals (UDOCs) above specified threshold quantities. The frequency of this collection is the minimum required under the CWC. The associated Declaration and Report Handbooks and the forms are available from the following Internet URL: http://www.cwc.gov/Declarations/Handbooks_and_Forms/cwcIndex_html

Schedule 1: The CWC requires annual declarations for facilities that produced in excess of specified aggregate quantities of Schedule 1 chemicals in the previous calendar year.

Schedule 2: The CWC requires plant sites that had one or more plants that produced, processed or consumed Schedule 2 chemicals above the applicable threshold quantity during any of the three previous to determine whether there is an annual declaration requirement on past activities.

Schedule 3: The CWC requires annual declarations from plant sites that had one or more plants that produced in excess of specified quantities of one or more Schedule 3 chemicals in the previous calendar year.

UDOCs: Although the majority of declarations are required from plant