

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection in support of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh and Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 12, 1996, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Frank O'Sullivan, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2065 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, (202) 720-2185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh and Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

OMB Number: 0581-0166.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1996.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh and Processed Fruits and Vegetables provide a common trading language to growers, packers/shippers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, and other financially interested parties which will promote a better product and create more uniformity throughout the industry.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 1087-1091, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) (AMA) directs and authorizes the Department to develop standards of quality, grades, grading programs, and services which facilitate trading of agricultural products and assure consumers of quality products which are graded and identified under USDA programs.

The AMA also directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging, and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices. There is a total of 314 U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh and Processed Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Miscellaneous Products.

The information and collection process is used by the Fruit and Vegetable Division prior to developing a proposal, which is a formal version of

a new or revised standard. This gives the Division the opportunity to gather and discuss information from all parts of the industry and other interested parties as to the likely impacts of the suggested changes or additions to the standard. If this process was not possible, the USDA would incur additional costs by rewriting and modifying the standards, or even worse, develop a standard that would be of no use.

The information and collection requirements in this request are necessary to carry out the intent of the AMA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to create and revise U.S. Standards for Fresh and Processed Fruits and Vegetables that are consistent with current cultural and marketing practices.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA (AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division's national staff; regional directors and their staffs; Federal-State supervisors and their staffs; and resident Federal-State graders, which includes State agencies). The information is used to administer and to conduct and carry out the grading services requested by the respondents and for the purpose of developing and maintaining U.S. grade standards. The Agency is the primary user of the information, and the secondary user is each authorized State agency which has a cooperative agreement with AMS.

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

Respondents: State or local governments, businesses or other for-profit, Federal agencies or employees, small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 930.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: one.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 930 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the function of the Fresh and Processed Fruit and Vegetable industries in regard to uniform trading language and USDA's oversight of that program; (2) the accuracy of the collection burden estimate and the validity of methodology and assumptions used in estimating the burden on respondents; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information requested; and, (4) ways to minimize the burden, including use of automated or electronic technologies.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0166 and be sent to USDA in care of Frank O'Sullivan at the address above. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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: September 4, 1996.

Eric M. Forman,

Acting Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 96-23019 Filed 9-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economics and Statistics Administration

2000 Census Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Economics and Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409), we are giving notice of a meeting of the 2000 Census Advisory Committee. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 1996, from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1250 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

The Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, Vice Chair, and up to thirty-five member organizations, all appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Advisory Committee will consider the goals of Census 2000 and user needs for information provided by that census, and provide a perspective from the standpoint of the outside user community about how operational planning and implementation methods proposed for Census 2000 will realize those goals and satisfy those needs. The Advisory Committee shall consider all aspects of the conduct of the 2000 census of population and housing, and shall make recommendations for improving that census.

DATES: On Thursday, September 26, 1996, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1250 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anyone wishing additional information about this meeting, or who wishes to

submit written statements or questions, may contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Committee Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Room 3039, Federal Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 10133, telephone: 301-457-2308.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A brief period will be set aside for public comment and questions. However, individuals with extensive questions or statements for the record must submit them in writing to the Commerce Department official named above at least three working days prior to the meeting.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Maney; her telephone number is 301-457-2308.

Dated: August 30, 1996.
Everett M. Ehrlich,
*Under Secretary for Economic Affairs,
Economics and Statistics Administration.*
[FR Doc. 96-23023 Filed 9-9-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-BP-M

Bureau of Export Administration

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Closed Meeting

A meeting of the Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will be held October 2 & 3, 1996, 9:00 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 1617M-2, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. The ISTAC advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration with respect to technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.

The Committee will meet only in Executive Session to discuss matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on October 10, 1995, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings of the Committee and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C., 552b(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and (a)(3), of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining

series meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. For further information, contact Lee Ann Carpenter on (202) 482-2583.

Dated: September 4, 1996.
Lee Ann Carpenter,
Director, Technical Advisory Committee Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-22965 Filed 9-9-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-DT-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

AGENCY: Office of Research and Technology Applications, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Proposals are sought from high tech small businesses to respond to agency research needs in ocean science. The "Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of 1992" requires the Department of Commerce (DOC), to establish a three-phase SBIR program by reserving a percentage of its extramural R&D budget to be awarded to small business concerns for innovation research. DOC has the unilateral right to select SBIR research topics and awardees, and to award several or no grants under a given topic. Phase 1 is to determine the technical feasibility of ideas submitted for consideration and the quality of performance of the small business concern receiving an award. Therefore, the proposal should concentrate on research that will significantly contribute to proving the feasibility of the approach, a prerequisite to further support in Phase 2. Only firms that are awarded Phase 1 contracts or grants under this solicitation will be given the opportunity of submitting a Phase 2 proposal immediately following completion of Phase 1. Phase 2 is the R&D or prototype development phase. It will require a comprehensive proposal, outlining the effort in detail. Further information regarding Phase 2 proposal requirements will be provided to all firms receiving Phase 1 grants. In Phase 3, it is intended that non-SBIR capital be

used by small business to pursue commercial applications of Phase 2.

DATES: Strict deadlines for submission to the FY 1997 program are: Opening Date: October 1, 1996, Closing Date: January 15, 1997. Awards will be announced in July 1997.

ADDRESSES: Proposals are to be submitted to: U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, Procurement Operations Branch, Code OA313, 1325 East-West Highway, SSMC2, Station 4301 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, ATTN: SBIR Proposals, Telephone: (301) 713-0829.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Joseph Bishop, Telephone: (301) 713-3565, Fax: (301) 713-4100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Funding Availability

Because of ongoing debates concerning the Federal budget, it is uncertain how much money will be available through this announcement. Funding levels will depend on final FY 1997 budget appropriations. During FY 1996, total funding was \$600,000. This included 4 Phase 1 awards of \$50,000, and 2 Phase 2 awards of \$200,000.

Program Authority

Authority: The Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of 1992, P.L. 102-564

(CFDA NO. 11.476)—Small Business Innovation Research

Program Objectives

SBIR invites small businesses to submit research proposals on ocean science topics described in the annual solicitation. Objectives of this solicitation include stimulating technological innovation in the private sector, strengthening the rule of small business in meeting Federal research and development needs, increasing the commercial application of innovations derived from Federal research, and improving the return on investment from Federally-funded research for the economic benefit of the Nation.

Program Priorities

In FY 1997, SBIR will give priority attention to individual proposals in the areas listed below.

- Underwater Visual Imaging System
- Aquaculture: Water Reuses and Effluent Treatment Systems
- Aquaculture: Developing and Improving Marine Species Culture
- Molecular and Immunological Probes
- Mapping Sonar for Small Underwater Vehicles
- Electronic Still Camera for Small Underwater Vehicles