

entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Grounds Maintenance

Picatinny Arsenal, Picatinny, New Jersey
NPA: The First Occupational Center of New Jersey, Orange, New Jersey

Janitorial/Custodial

U.S. Courthouse, 1030 SW 3rd Avenue,
Portland, Oregon
NPA: Portland Habilitation Center, Inc.,
Portland, Oregon

Janitorial/Custodial

U.S. Coast Guard, 2420 South Lincoln
Memorial Parkway, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin
NPA: GWS, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Publications Distribution

Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota NPA:
Minot Vocational Adjustment Workshop,
Inc., Minot, North Dakota

Deletions

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on future contractors for the commodities.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities proposed for deletion from the Procurement List.

The following commodities have been proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

Surgical Pack, Disposable
6532-01-018-3286

Pillowcase, Disposable
7210-00-852-3417
7210-00-883-8494

Trousers, Night Camouflage, Desert
8415-01-102-6285 through -6299

Beverly L. Milkman,
Executive Director.
[FR Doc. 97-11478 Filed 5-1-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, May 9, 1996, 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street, NW., Room 540, Washington, DC 20425.

STATUS:

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of April 4, 1997
- III. Announcements
- IV. Staff Report
- V. Future Items
- 11:30 a.m. Briefing on the Legal Services Corporation

CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER

INFORMATION: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 376-8312.

Stephanie Y. Moore,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 97-11579 Filed 4-30-97; 10:32 am]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 970408082-7082-01]

RIN 0607-XX28

Block Group Program for Census 2000—Proposed Criteria

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed program revisions and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Block groups are geographic statistical divisions of census tracts, each of which consists of from one to nine block groups. A block group comprises a reasonably compact and

contiguous cluster of census blocks. The primary goal of the block group program is to provide data users with a geographic subunit of census tracts for which decennial census sample and 100 percent data are tabulated and disseminated.

The Census Bureau first used block groups in its data presentations from the 1970 census. It did this in lieu of providing data summaries for enumeration districts in areas that had census block numbers. As census blocks and block groups became increasingly popular with data users, the Census Bureau established them in many new areas. By 1990, there was complete census block and block group coverage for all of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States).

Through the 1990 census, block groups were subunits either of census tracts or of similar entities known as block numbering areas (BNAs). For areas where census tracts did not exist, the Census Bureau had established BNAs to control the numbering of census blocks within block groups. A county or statistically equivalent entity¹ could, therefore, have either census tracts or BNAs. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau will merge the two programs and convert all BNAs to census tracts.

To determine boundaries and identification numbers for block groups, the Census Bureau offers a program to local participants, such as locally identified agencies and American Indian tribal officials, whereby they can review and update the boundaries of the block groups delineated for the 1990 census and suggest revisions according to the criteria developed and promulgated by the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau then reviews the resulting block groups for conformance to these criteria.

As the first step in this process, the Census Bureau is requesting comments on the criteria proposed for the delineation of block groups in conjunction with Census 2000. These criteria will apply to the 50 states, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The Census Bureau may modify and, if

¹ Includes parishes in Louisiana; boroughs and census areas in Alaska; independent cities in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia; that portion of Yellowstone National Park in Montana; districts in American Samoa and the Virgin Islands of the United States; municipalities in the Northern Mariana Islands; municipios in Puerto Rico; and the entire areas constituting the District of Columbia and Guam. This notice will refer to all these entities collectively as "counties."

necessary, reject proposals for block groups that do not meet the criteria established following this notice.

Besides the proposed criteria, this notice includes a description of the changes from the criteria used for the 1990 census and a list of definitions of key terms used in the criteria.

DATES: Any suggestions or recommendations concerning the proposed criteria should be submitted in writing by June 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Joel Morrison, Chief, Geography Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-7400, telephone (301) 457-1132, or e-mail (jmorrisson@geo.census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The block group delineation criteria have evolved in response to decennial census practices and the preferences of program participants and data users. After each decennial census, the Census Bureau, in consultation with participants and data users, reviews and revises these criteria. Then, before the next decennial census, the Census Bureau offers state, tribal, and local officials an opportunity to correct, update, and otherwise improve the block group delineations.

In July and August 1995, the Census Bureau issued invitations to local and tribal groups and agencies to participate in the delineation of statistical geographic areas for Census 2000. These included regional planning agencies, councils of governments, county planning agencies, officials of Federally recognized American Indian tribes, and officials of the 12 nonprofit Alaska Native Regional Corporations.

During 1997, the Census Bureau will provide materials and detailed guidelines to program participants for the review and delineation of block groups for Census 2000.

A. Criteria For Delineating Block Groups For Census 2000

The Census Bureau proposes the following criteria for use in delineating Census 2000 block groups.

1. General Characteristics

- A block group must meet the population and boundary feature criteria and comprise a compact piece of territory.
- A census tract boundary always must be a block group boundary.
- Each census tract must contain a minimum of one block group and may have a maximum of nine block groups.

- Block groups must cover the entire land and inland water area of a census tract.

- A block group entirely within an American Indian reservation (AIR) may extend across a state or county boundary for tabulations in the American Indian geographic hierarchy. For standard data tabulations, the portion of the block group in each state and county is treated as a separate block group.

2. Identification

- A block group consists of all blocks within a census tract that have the same first digit and is identified using that same first digit. For example in 1990, block group 3 included all census blocks numbered in the 300s. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau will introduce a four-digit block numbering system, and block group 3 will include all census blocks numbered in the 3000s within a census tract.

- The range of acceptable block group numbers is 1 through 9. Block group numbers must always be unique within a census tract; that is, the same number cannot be repeated.

- The Census Bureau will assign a single "zero" block group to census tracts numbered "0000." (In counties that have coastal water, territorial sea, or Great Lakes waters, the Census Bureau recommends establishing a "0000" census tract to provide complete area coverage.)

3. Boundary Features

The Census Bureau recommends that block group boundaries follow visible and identifiable features; that is, visible, perennial natural and cultural features such as roads, rivers, canals, railroads, above-ground high-tension power lines, and so forth. This provision makes the location of boundaries less ambiguous and easier for data users to locate.

State and county boundaries are always block group boundaries. The Census Bureau also permits the use of other types of legal boundaries in some states and situations where the boundaries of these governmental units tend to remain unchanged between censuses. The following features are acceptable as block group boundaries:

- All minor civil division (MCD) boundaries (generally towns or townships) in Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- Those MCD boundaries not conjoint with the boundaries of incorporated places that themselves are MCDs (being

either coextensive with or independent of MCDs) in Illinois (townships only, not election precincts), Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri (governmental townships only), Nebraska (townships only, not election precincts), North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

- Barrio, barrio-pueblo, and subbarrio boundaries in Puerto Rico, census subdistrict boundaries in the Virgin Islands of the United States, MCD-county and island boundaries in American Samoa, and municipal district boundaries in the Northern Mariana Islands.

- All incorporated place boundaries in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

- Conjoint incorporated place boundaries in other states; that is, the boundary separating two different incorporated places.

- AIR boundaries.

- American Indian trust land, Alaska Native village statistical area, and Alaska Native Regional Corporation boundaries, at the discretion of the Census Bureau, insofar as such boundaries are unambiguous for allocating living quarters as part of census activities.

When the above types of features are not available for selection, the Census Bureau may, at its discretion, approve other nonstandard visible features, such as ridge lines, pipelines, intermittent streams, fence lines, and so forth. The Census Bureau also may accept, on a case-by-case basis, the boundaries of selected nonstandard and potentially nonvisible features, such as the boundaries of national parks and forests, cemeteries, or other special land-use properties, the straight-line extensions of visible features, and other lines of sight.

4. Population Thresholds

The Census Bureau proposes standard size criteria for most block groups in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (see Table 1). Smaller optimum and minimum sizes are permissible for block groups located on AIRs or comprising special places. (Special places are correctional institutions, military installations, college campuses, workers' dormitories, hospitals, nursing homes, and group homes.)

TABLE 1.—POPULATION THRESHOLDS FOR CENSUS 2000 BLOCK GROUPS

Area(s)	Optimum	Minimum	Maximum
Standard (most areas)	1,500	600	3,000
AIRs	1,000	300	3,000
Special place block group	none	300	none

If a block group located on an AIR crosses a county boundary or a state boundary, the minimum population size criterion applies to the entire area of the block group, not to the individual portions that are in separate counties or states.

5. Final Approval of Block Groups

The Census Bureau reserves the right to approve all block group proposals for Census 2000. The Census Bureau will make an effort to reach agreement with local and tribal participants in the block group program, but cannot approve the use of block groups as submitted if they do not meet Census 2000 criteria. If necessary, the Census Bureau will revise block group boundaries where they do not meet the boundary and population size requirements.

B. Changes to the Criteria for Census 2000

Most provisions of the block group criteria remain unchanged from those used in conjunction with the 1990 census, with the few exceptions summarized below:

1. For 1990 and previous decennial censuses, the Census Bureau delineated the block groups in BNAs on the basis of the number of housing units rather than population. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is merging the census tract and BNA programs to create a single census tract program, and the size criteria for all block groups will be on the basis of population rather than the number of housing units.

2. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is increasing the number of governmental units that have boundaries acceptable to use as block group boundaries. The added areas are: All MCDs in Indiana and selected MCDs in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; the MCD-county and island areas of American Samoa; and villages in New York.

3. The Census Bureau now allows officials of Federally recognized AIRs to establish block groups that cross state or county boundaries. While the Census Bureau will publish data for each state-county-census tract-block group part, it also plans to provide summed data for all block groups that are located within

an AIR and that cross state or county boundaries.

Definitions of Key Terms

Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC)—A corporate entity established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1972, Pub. L. 92–203, as amended by Pub. L. 92–204, to conduct both the business and nonprofit affairs of Alaska Natives. Twelve ANRCs cover the entire State of Alaska except for the Annette Islands Reserve.

Alaska Native village statistical area (ANVSA)—A statistical entity containing the densely settled extent of an Alaska Native village that constitutes an association, band, clan, community, group, tribe, or village recognized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1972, Pub. L. 92–203, as amended by Pub. L. 92–204.

American Indian reservation (AIR)—A Federally recognized American Indian entity with boundaries established by treaty, statute, and/or executive or court order and over which American Indians have governmental jurisdiction. Along with reservation, designations such as colonies, communities, pueblos, rancherias, and reserves apply to AIRs.

Block numbering area (BNA)—A small-area, statistical geographic division of a county or statistically equivalent area delineated in 1990 instead of and generally geographically equivalent to a census tract. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is merging the BNA program with the census tract program and converting all BNAs to census tracts.

Census block—The smallest geographic entity for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census information; bounded on all sides by visible and nonvisible features identified by the Census Bureau in computer files and on maps.

Census tract—A small, relatively permanent statistical geographic subdivision of a county or statistically equivalent area defined for the tabulation of data. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau is replacing BNAs with census tracts.

Coastal water—Water bodies between territorial seas and inland water, the encompassing headlands being greater

than one mile apart and less than 24 miles apart.

Conjoint—A description of a boundary shared by two adjacent geographic areas.

Contiguous—A description of geographic areas that are adjacent to one another, sharing either a common boundary or point.

Great Lakes waters—Water area beyond one-mile-wide headland embayments located in any of the five Great Lakes: Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, or Superior.

Incorporated place—A type of governmental unit, sanctioned by state law as a city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), village, or borough (except in Alaska and New York), having legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions.

Inland water—Water bodies entirely surrounded by land or at the point where their opening to coastal waters, territorial seas, or the Great Lakes is less than one mile across.

Minor civil division (MCD)—The primary governmental or administrative division of a county in 28 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas having legal boundaries, names, and descriptions. MCDs represent many different types of legal entities with a wide variety of characteristics, powers, and functions depending on the state and type of MCD. In some states, some or all of the incorporated places also constitute MCDs.

Nonvisible feature—A map feature that is not visible on the ground, such as a city or county boundary through space, a property line, a short line-of-sight extension of a road, or a point-to-point line of sight.

Special place—A specific location requiring special enumeration procedures because the location includes people not in households or the area includes special land use. Special places include facilities with resident population, such as correctional institutions, military installations, college campuses, workers' dormitories, hospitals, nursing homes and group homes and land-use areas such as national parks. A special place includes the entire facility, including nonresidential areas and staff

housing units, as well as all group quarters population.

Territorial seas—Water bodies not included under the rules for inland water, coastal water, or Great Lakes waters (see above).

Visible feature—A map feature that one can see on the ground such as a road, railroad track, above-ground transmission line, stream, shoreline, fence, sharply defined mountain ridge, or cliff. A nonstandard visible feature is a feature that may not be clearly defined on the ground (such as a ridge), may be seasonal (such as an intermittent stream), or may be relatively impermanent (such as a fence). The Census Bureau generally requests verification that nonstandard features pose no problem in their location during field work.

Dated: April 1, 1997.

Martha Farnsworth Riche,

Director, Bureau of the Census.

[FR Doc. 97-11453 Filed 5-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 33-97]

Foreign-Trade Zone 82—Mobile, Alabama; Application for Foreign-Trade Subzone Status, Shell Oil Company (Oil Refinery Complex), Mobile County, Alabama

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the City of Mobile, Alabama, grantee of FTZ 82, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the oil refinery complex of Shell Oil Company, located in Mobile County, Alabama. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 USC 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on April 16, 1997.

The refinery complex (847 acres, 130 employees) consists of 2 sites in Mobile County, Alabama: *Site 1* (811 acres)—refinery complex located at 400 Industrial Parkway, Extension East, near the intersection of State Highway 158 and 43, on Chickasaw Creek, some 10 miles north of Mobile; *Site 2* (36 acres)—terminal and storage facility (6 tanks/ 1.3 million barrel capacity) located at Highway 90 Alternate and Bay Bridge Road, Blakely Island, on the Mobile River, some seven miles south of the refinery. The refinery (74,000 BPD) is used to produce fuels and petrochemical feedstocks. Fuel products

include gasoline, jet fuel, distillates, residual fuels, naphthas and motor fuel blendstocks. Petrochemical feedstocks and refinery by-products include methane, ethane, propane, liquid natural gas, propylene, ethylene, butylene, butane, butadiene, benzene, toluene, xylene, carbon black oil and sulfur. Some 52 percent of crude oil and four percent of the natural gas condensate (45% and 55% of inputs, respectively) are sourced abroad.

Zone procedures would exempt the refinery under the FTZ from Customs duty payments on the foreign products used in its exports. On domestic sales, the company would be able to choose the Customs duty rates that apply to certain petrochemical feedstocks and refinery by-products (duty-free) by admitting incoming foreign crude oil and natural gas condensate in non-privileged foreign status. The duty rates on inputs range from 5.25¢/barrel to 10.5¢/barrel. The application indicates that the savings from zone procedures would help improve the refinery's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is July 1, 1997. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to July 16, 1997).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Export Assistance Center, Medical Forum Building, 7th Floor, 950 22nd Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce 14th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: April 23, 1997.

John J. Da Ponte, Jr. Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-11457 Filed 5-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 32-97]

Foreign-Trade Zone 84—Houston, Texas; Application for Foreign-Trade Subzone Status; LYONDELL-CITGO Refining Company, Ltd. (Oil Refinery and Petrochemical Complex), Harris County, Texas

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Port of Houston Authority, grantee of FTZ 84, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the oil refinery and petrochemical complex of LYONDELL-CITGO Refining Company Ltd. (LYONDELL-CITGO), located in Harris County, Texas. LYONDELL-CITGO is a limited liability company owned by subsidiaries of CITGO Petroleum Corporation (subsidiary of Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., the national oil company of Venezuela) and Lyondell Petrochemical Corporation. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on April 15, 1997.

The refinery and petrochemical complex (645 acres, 1,300 employees) consists of 4 sites in the Houston metropolitan area of Harris County, Texas: *Site 1* (500 acres)—refinery complex located at 12000 Lawndale Road, on the Houston Ship Channel, within the city limits of both Houston and Pasadena; *Site 2* (20 acres)—Allendale Tank Farm (4 tanks/713,000 barrel capacity) located south of the refinery, across Lawndale Rd.; *Site 3* (65 acres) South Tank Farm (16 tanks/1.9 million barrel capacity) located south of the refinery across Lawndale Rd., east of Site 2; *Site 4* (60 acres)—“225” Tank Farm (13 tanks/3.6 million barrel capacity) located south of Sites 1-3, across State Highway 225.

The refinery (265,000 BPD) is used to produce fuels and petrochemical feedstocks. Fuel products include gasoline, jet fuel, distillates, residual fuels, naphthas and motor fuel blendstocks. Petrochemical feedstocks and refinery by-products include methane, ethane, propane, liquid natural gas, propylene, ethylene, butylene, butane, butadiene, benzene, toluene, xylene, petroleum coke, asphalt, carbon black oil and sulfur. Some 95 percent of the crude oil (83 percent of inputs), and some motor fuel blendstocks are sourced abroad.