

studies. To help structure the workshop the following questions have been developed by the organizing committee and will be discussed with respect to each study:

1. For each study, what are the relative exposures to organic or inorganic mercury?
2. What are the sources of exposure? Is the consumption of fish, shellfish and marine mammals the dominant source? Are dental amalgams, occupational exposures or other sources significant confounders?

3. What is the specificity and sensitivity of health endpoints, e.g., behavioral, neurological, and developmental? What are the most specific and sensitive tests of these endpoints? How are these tests impacted by cultural or behavioral practices?

4. Are the developmental tests used comparable across different studies? Across species?

5. What are the confounders that affect health endpoints positively (e.g., selenium, omega-3 fatty acids) and negatively (e.g., PCBs; alcohol use; health conditions with neurological effects, such as diabetes)? Do they influence the interpretation of the study.

6. What is the variability within and across populations studied in mercury exposure and host factors (e.g., age, gender, nutritional status and practices, and genetic predisposition)?

7. For each epidemiological study of interest, which features of its statistical design, research protocol or execution in the field are particularly strong or weak? To what extent do these strengths and weaknesses affect the validity and reliability of scientific inferences based on these studies?

8. What are the contributions of animal or experimental studies toward interpretation of the human studies?

Organized panels will assess the presentations with respect to the questions above. A panel on exposure will assess and develop a report on questions 1 & 2; a neurobehavioral panel will assess and develop a report on questions 3 & 4; a panel on confounders and variables will address 5 & 6; and a panel on design/statistics will assess and report on question 7; question 8 will be addressed by the experimental panel.

Invited workshop participants will include scientists involved in the major studies, epidemiologists, pediatric neuropsychiatrists, developmental biologists, toxicologists, biomathematicians, biomonitoring specialists and scientists who are skilled at integrating diverse data sets, as well as representatives from Federal and

State agencies who are involved in assessing risks from methylmercury exposure.

A public comment session will provide the opportunity for additional views and comments. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes in length to allow for a maximum number of presentations. Written statements should supplement and may expand on the oral presentation. Written comments may also be provided and should be submitted to the NTP Liaison & Scientific Review Office, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 and must be received by November 9, 1998, to be transmitted to the workgroups prior to the workshop.

The Preliminary Schedule Follows

Wednesday, November 18, 1998

8:30 am–6:00 pm Presentation and Discussion of Each Epidemiology Study and a Presentation and Discussion of the major animal or experimental studies

Thursday, November 19, 1998

8:30 am–Noon Moderators will lead panel discussions addressing each of the 8 questions in the general session

1:00 pm–2:00 pm Public Comment Session

2:00 pm–6:00 pm Panels develop recommendations and conclusions in separate breakout groups

Friday, November 20, 1998

8:30 am–Noon Each panel will make a summary presentation on their assessment of the assigned questions

Noon Overview and Summary
1:00 pm Adjourn

Public Participation Encouraged

The general sessions and the breakout groups are open to the public and limited only by the space available. A public comment session is scheduled as described above. Oral and/or written comments are requested as discussed above.

Registration

To register, please provide the following information: to the Workshop on "Scientific Issues Relevant to Assessment of Health Effects from Exposure to Methylmercury".

"Scientific Issues Relevant to Assessment of Health Effects from Exposure to Methylmercury"

(Open to the public, limited only by space available)

Brownstone Hotel, Raleigh, NC,
November 18–20, 1998

(Please type or print clearly)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
Institution	Department	
Address	City	State Zip Code

Office Phone	FAX Number	Email Address
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Please mail or fax your registration, no later than November 6, 1998 to:

NTP Liaison & Scientific Review Office,
NTP/NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD:
A3–01, Research Triangle Park, NC
27709, fax: (919) 541–0295

I am interested in observing the following break-out group discussion: "Breakout" Panel Sessions: (Please mark first and second choices)

1. Exposure Panel _____
2. Neurobehavioral Endpoints Panel _____
3. Confounders & Variables Panel _____
4. Design/Statistics Panel _____
5. Experimental Panel _____

Public Comment Session:

I would like to make an oral presentation during the Public Comment Session _____ (limit to 5 minute oral presentation, written statements should supplement and may expand on the oral presentation)

A registration fee of \$50.00 (US) is requested. Credit cards cannot be accepted. Personal checks, cashier checks or money orders made payable to: *Methylmercury Workshop* should be included with your registration. For those faxing registration, please indicate the date the registration fee is being forwarded by mail.

Accommodations

Hotel reservations can be made directly with the Brownstone Hotel (919) 828–0811. A block of rooms is being held through October 30, 1998. Identify yourself as attending the NIEHS Methylmercury Workshop.

Dated: October 21, 1998.

Samuel H. Wilson, M.D.,

Deputy Director, NIEHS

[FR Doc. 98–29075 Filed 10–29–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–4375–N–04]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the President of Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments due: December 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Sonya Suarez, Office of Policy, Planning and Risk Management, Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451—7th Street, SW, Room 6226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sonya Suarez, Ginnie Mae, (202) 708-2772 (this is not a toll-free number) for copies of the proposed forms and other available documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed

information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

The Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) evaluate 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; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Quarterly Loan Level Reporting

OMB Control Number, if applicable: 2503-0026

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The Quarterly Loan Level Reporting data is necessary to monitor the risk of over \$500 billion of federally insured mortgage-backed securities. The collection of loan level data gives management a more complete understanding of the nature and trend of Ginnie Mae's portfolio of securities, as well as a more detailed understanding of each of the individual issuer portfolios.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: not applicable

Members of affected public: For-profit businesses (mortgage companies, thrifts, savings & loans, etc.)

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:

	Respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual responses	Total hours
Ginnie Mae Issuers	396	4	1,584	6,336

Status of the proposed information collection: This is a reinstatement of a previously approved collection of information for which approval has expired.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: October 22, 1998.

George S. Anderson,
Executive Vice President, Ginnie Mae.
[FR Doc. 98-29066 Filed 10-29-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4341-N-33]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities to Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Johnston, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7256, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1226; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: October 22, 1998.

Fred Karnas, Jr.,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.
[FR Doc. 98-28778 Filed 10-29-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Notice of the Secretary's Decision to Assume Jurisdiction and Review United States v. United Mining Corporation, and to Accept Briefs From Interested Parties

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to a petition and a letter requesting Secretarial review, the Secretary of the Interior has decided to exercise his authority as set forth in 43 CFR 4.5 to review **United States v. United Mining Corporation (United Mining)**, 142 IBLA 339 (1998), a decision that raises important mining law issues arising under the Building Stone Act. Of particular importance in this matter is the meaning of the phrase "chiefly valuable" in that statute.

In order to undertake his review, the Secretary will accept briefs on the issues set forth in the Supplementary Information according to the schedule and instructions in that portion of this Notice.

Pending conclusion of the Secretary's review of this matter, the decision of the IBLA is stayed.