

submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The scoping process included; identification of potential issues; identification of key issues to be analyzed in depth; exploration of additional alternatives based on identified issues from the scoping process; and identification of potential environmental effects from analyzed alternatives.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and will be available for public review by September 1999. The comment period for the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, a reviewer of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F.Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters in the draft statement.

Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. (Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points).

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by January 2000. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments and responses received during the comment period that pertains to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. The Forest Service is the lead agency for this EIS. The responsible official is Mike Rassbach, District Ranger. As a responsible official, he will document the South Pyramid Timber Sales decision and rationale in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: July 22, 1999.

Mike Rassbach,

Sweet Home District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 99-19676 Filed 7-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: The 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 an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Prepayment and Displacement Prevention of Multiple Family Housing Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 1, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia Reese-Foxworth, Senior Loan Officer, Office of Rural Housing Preservation, Multi-Family Housing Portfolio Management Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 0782, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone (202) 720-1940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR 1965-E, "Prepayment and Displacement Prevention of Multiple Family Housing Loans".

OMB Number: 0575-0155.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1999.

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

Abstract: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is authorized under section 514, 515, 516 and 521 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, to provide loans and grants to eligible recipients for the development of rural rental housing. Such multiple family housing projects are intended to meet the housing needs of persons or families have with low-to moderate-incomes, senior citizens, the handicapped, and domestic farm laborers.

RHS has the responsibility of assuring the public that the housing projects financed are owned and operated as mandated by Congress. RD Instruction 1965-E was issued to insure proper servicing actions are accomplished for projects financed with multiple family housing loan and grant funds. Minimal requirements have been established as deemed necessary to assure that applicable laws and authorities are carried out as intended and to improve the Agency's ability to assure the continued availability of the facilities financed under RHS multiple housing programs to eligible users.

Without the provisions of this regulation, RHS would be unable to provide the necessary guidance to the RHS field staff to assist borrowers in processing servicing actions affecting their projects. RHS also would not be able to quickly respond to servicing requests from borrowers, initiate servicing actions or establish a uniform procedure for processing such requests from borrowers. RHS must be able to assure Congress and the general public that all projects financed with multiple family housing funds will be maintained for the purposes for which they are intended and for the benefit of those they are mandated to serve.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 required that rural rental housing borrowers wishing to prepay their RHS financed loans must be offered a fair incentive to not prepay the loan when RHS makes the decision that the housing continues to be needed to serve low-and moderate-income tenants. If the borrower rejects the incentive, the housing must be offered for sale to a nonprofit organization or public agency. Prepayment can only be accepted if RHS decided there is no need for the housing or if no nonprofit

organization or public agency can be found to purchase the project at fair market value.

The information required is collected on a project-by-project basis and is in accordance with the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, so that RHS can provide guidance and be assured of compliance with the terms and conditions of loan, grant, and/or subsidy agreements.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.6 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, State of local governments, farms, businesses or other for-profits, non-profit institutions, existing borrowers, transferors and/or transferees.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 800.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.15.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 587 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, Branch, at (202) 692-0045.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS'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 Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. 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: July 21, 1999.

Eileen Fitzgerald,

Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 99-19672 Filed 7-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:00 p.m. on August 20, 1999, at the Vermont State Retirement System, Conference Room 2, 133 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05633. The Committee will review its past civil rights monitoring activity, hear from invited guests on the role of private industry in addressing racial harassment in Vermont communities, and plan its next project.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Kimberly B. Cheney, 802-229-0334, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, July 21, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 99-19649 Filed 7-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

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 5).

Agency: Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Title: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Guidelines.

Form Number: Not Applicable.

OMB Approval Number: 0610-0093.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 33,150 hours.

Average Hours Per Response: (1) Initial CEDS for Districts and other EDA supported Planning Organizations—240 hours; (2) CEDS Document for non-districts and non-EDA supported organizations—25 hours; (3) Annual CEDS Report—50 hours; and (4) CEDS Update—75 hours.

Number of Respondents: Approximately 640 respondents.

Needs and Uses: The information is needed by EDA to ensure that areas served by an EDA supported planning organization have or are developing a continuous community-based planning process and have thoroughly thought out what type of economic development is needed in the area to alleviate unemployment, underemployment, and/or depressed incomes. This information is required under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, including the comprehensive amendments by the Economic Development Administration Reform Act of 1998, Public Law 105-393, (PWEDA). The information is used by EDA to determine: if statutory requirements are met on eligibility for projects for public works and economic adjustment (except for strategy/planning); district designation requirements; and for planning requirements are met. CEDS is the foundation for most of EDA's programs. CEDS is a continuous and broad based and diverse process put in place to describe and to address economic distress through a particular economic development project(s) activity(es).

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Government and not-for profit organizations.

Frequency: One time for Initial Document, Annual for Report, and Updates are due every 5 years for districts and other EDA-supported Planning Organizations.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-7340.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DoC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230. (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this