

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden to prepare technical and business proposals as part of a response to a solicitation is estimated to average 35 hours per response. This estimate does not include burden associated with providing information required in accordance with information collections prescribed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Only businesses submitting offers in response to a solicitation are affected by this collection.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 94,500 hours.

3. *Title:* Procurement: Brand Name or Equal Clause.

OMB Number: 0505-0014.

Expiration Date: 5/31/2000.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Proposed use of information: The Agriculture Acquisition Regulation permits the use of "brand name or equal" purchase descriptions to procure commercial products. Such descriptions require the offeror on a supply procurement to identify the "equal" item being offered and to indicate how that item meets salient characteristics stated in the purchase description. The contracting officer can determine from the descriptive information furnished whether the offered "equal" item meets the salient characteristics of the Government's requirements. The use of brand name or equal descriptions eliminates the need for bidders or offerors to read and interpret detailed specifications or purchase descriptions.

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 51,468.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One (1).

Estimate of Burden: This information collection is limited to solicitations for products for which other methods of product specification are impracticable. Only businesses wishing to submit bids or offers in response to a solicitation are affected. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimate to average one tenth of an hour per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,147 hours.

4. *Title:* Procurement: Key Personnel Clause.

OMB Number: 0505-0015.

Expiration Date: 5/31/2000.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Proposed use of information: The information enables the agency to determine whether the departure of a key person from the contractor's staff may have a deleterious effect upon

contract performance, and to determine what accommodations or remedies may be taken. If the agency could not obtain information about departing key personnel, it could not ensure that qualified personnel continue to perform contract work.

Respondents: State or local governments; businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One (1).

Estimate of Burden: The information collection is required only when a contractor proposes to make changes to key personnel assigned to performance of a contract. Consequently, information collection is occasional. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 200 hours.

5. *Title:* Procurement: Progress Reporting Clause.

OMB Number: 0505-0016.

Expiration Date: 5/31/2000.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Proposed use of information: The information is requested monthly or quarterly from contractors performing research and development (R&D) or advisory and assistance services, including ADP system or software development. The information enables the contracting office to monitor actual progress and expenditures compared to anticipated performance and proposal representations upon which the contract award was made. The information alerts the contracting office to technical problems, to a need for additional staff resources or funding, and to the probability of timely completion within the contract cost or price. If the contracting office could not obtain a report of progress, it would have to physically monitor the contractor's operations on a day-to-day basis throughout the performance period.

Respondents: State or local government; businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: The frequency of progress reports varies from monthly to quarterly depending on the complexity of the contract and the risk of successful completion. Based on monthly reporting, each respondent would submit 12 responses per year.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one and one half hours per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,600 hours.

Comments received will be considered in order to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of USDA contracting offices, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of OPPM's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 11, 2000.

W.R. Ashworth,

Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management.

[FR Doc. 00-3877 Filed 2-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-TX-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Office of Management and Budget Approval To Collect Information

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, Aug. 29, 1995 as corrected at 60 FR 96148, Sept 5, 1995), this notice announces the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) intention to request OMB approval for a new information collection from peer reviewers of ARS's research projects. The data will be used to manage the travel and stipend payments to panel reviewers and provide well organized feedback to ARS's researchers about their projects.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by April 24, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marcia Moore, Peer Review Program Coordinator; Office of Scientific Quality Review; Agricultural Research Service, USDA; 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5142; Beltsville, Maryland; 20705. Telephone: (301) 504-4786, E-mail: www.osqr@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Scientific Peer Review of ARS Research Projects.

Type of Request: OMB approval to collect information from peer reviewers of ARS's research projects.

Abstract: The Office of Scientific Quality Review was established in September of 1999 in response to the requirements of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-185, 7 U.S.C. 7601 *et seq.*). The law included mandates to perform scientific peer reviews of all research activities conducted by the USDA (Sec. 103, Pub. L. 105-185, 7 U.S.C. 7613). The Office manages the ARS peer review system by centrally planning peer panel reviews for ARS research projects on a five-year cycle. Each set of reviews is assigned a chairperson to govern the review process.

The majority of the peer reviewers will be non-ARS scientists. Peer review Panels are convened to provide in-depth discussion and review of the research project plans. Each reviewer receives information on all of ARS research projects within the program the reviewer is assigned to. The number of projects to review varies by program.

Information to be obtained from the public includes: Confidentiality Agreement, Panelist Information, Peer Review of an ARS Research Project, Critique of ARS Research Project, Panelist Expense Report, and Panelist Invoice.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this data collection is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: Scientific experts, currently working in the same discipline as the research projects under review, will be selected to review research projects.

These experts are notable peers within and external to the ARS.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 120 peer reviewers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,168 hours.

Copies of Information: Copies of the information to be collected can be obtained from Marcia Moore, Peer Review Program Coordinator; Office of Scientific Quality Review; Agricultural Research Service, USDA; 5601

Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5142; Beltsville, Maryland; 20705.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the 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, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Marcia Moore, Peer Review Program Coordinator; Office of Scientific Quality Review; Agricultural Research Service, USDA; 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5142; Beltsville, Maryland; 20705. 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.

Signed February 14, 2000.

Edward Knipling,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

[FR Doc. 00-3919 Filed 2-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Research Service**

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion Office of Public Health and Science Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee: Notice of Availability of the Final Report, Public Meeting, and Public Comment Period

AGENCIES: Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (a) announce the availability of the final Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (the Committee) (b) solicit written comments on the final Report, and (c) provide notice of a public meeting to solicit oral comments on the Report. The meeting will be held at the Jefferson Auditorium of the South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW,

Washington, DC, near the Smithsonian Metro Station. No registration is required to attend the public meeting, but pre-registration is required to provide oral comments at the meeting.

DATES: (a) Written comments on the Committee Report can be submitted and must be received by the Agencies on or before March 15, 2000. (b) The public meeting to solicit oral comments on the Report will be held on March 10, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. E.S.T.

ADDRESSES: The final Report is available electronically and in hard copy; for availability and contact and meeting addresses, refer to Unit I. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shanthi Bowman, Ph.D., USDA, Agricultural Research Service, 10300 Baltimore Boulevard, Building 005, BARC-West, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350, (301) 504-0619; Carole Davis, M.S., R.D., USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, 1120 20th St., NW, Suite 200 North Lobby, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 418-2312; or Kathryn McMurry, M.S., Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, Room 738-G, 200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 205-4872.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information****A. How Can I Get a Copy of the Report?**

Electronically, the Report can be downloaded from the Internet in .PDF file format at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/dgac>. Hard copies of the Report are available for review at the Reference Section of the National Agricultural Library located at 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, MD, 20705. The telephone number is (301) 504-5755.

B. How and to Whom Do I Submit Written Comments?

You may submit written comments to Shanthi Bowman, Ph.D., USDA, Agricultural Research Service, BHNRC/CNRG, 10300 Baltimore Boulevard, Building 005, Room 125, BARC-West, Beltsville, MD, 20705-2350, (301)-504-0619, and Kathryn McMurry, M.S., DHHS, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, Room 738-G, 200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 205-4872.

C. How Do I Register To Present Oral Comments?

Registration is required to provide oral input at the public meeting on