

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

Dated: December 29, 2003.

Joseph C. Montgomery,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 03-32312 Filed 12-31-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6646-9]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa>, Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed December 22, 2003 Through December 24, 2003 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 030576, Draft EIS, FHW, ND, United States Highway 2 (U.S. 2) Project, Improves from the Junction of U.S. 85 (milepost 31.93) to West of U.S. 52 (milepost 131.24), Funding, NPDES and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permits, Williams, Mountrail and Ward Counties, ND, Comment Period Ends: February 6, 2004, Contact: Mark Schrader (701) 250-4343, Ext. 111.

The above FHW EIS should have appeared in the 12/24/2003 **Federal Register**. The 45-day Comment Period is Calculated from 12/24/2003.

EIS No. 030577, Regulatory Final EIS, FRA, Interim Final Rule for the Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings in the United States, Wait Period Ends: January 22, 2004, Contact: David Valenstein (202) 493-6368.

This document is available on the Internet at: <http://www.fra.dot.gov>.

The above FRA EIS should have appeared in the 12-24-2003 **Federal Register**. The 30-day Wait Period is Calculated from 12/24/2003.

EIS No. 030578, Draft EIS, IBW, TX, NM, Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP), Long-Term River Management Alternatives Practices, Implementation, Extends from below Percha Dam in Sierra County, NM to American Dam in El Paso, TX, Comment Period Ends: February 10, 2004, Contact: Douglas Echlin (915) 832-4741.

This document is available on the Internet at: <http://www.ibwc.state.gov>.

The above IBW EIS should have appeared in the 12-24-2003 **Federal Register**. The 45-day Comment Period is Calculated from 12-24-2003.

EIS No. 030579, Final EIS, NPS, OH, Cuyahoga Valley National Park Rural

Landscape Management Program, Rural Landscape Resources Preservation and Protection, Cuyahoga River, Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, OH, Wait Period Ends: January 22, 2004, Contact: John P. Debo, Jr. (440) 546-5903.

The above NPS EIS should have appeared in the 12-24-2003 **Federal Register**. The 30-day Wait Period is Calculated from 12-24-2003.

EIS No. 030580, Draft EIS, NPS, NY, Saratoga National Historical Park General Management Plan, Implementation, Hudson River Valley, Towns of Stillwater and Saratoga, Saratoga County, NY, Comment Period Ends: March 1, 2004, Contact: Doug Lindsay (518) 664-9821.

EIS No. 030581, Draft Supplement, COE, PR, Port of the Americas Project, Additional Information on the Development of a Deep-Draft Terminal at the Port of Ponce to Receive Post-Panamax Ships, COE Section 10 and 404 Permits, Municipalities of Guyanilla-Penuelas and Ponce, Puerto Rico, Comment Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Edwin E. Muniz (787) 729-6905.

EIS No. 030582, Draft EIS, AFS, WY, ID, High Mountains Heli-Skiing (HMH) Project, Issuance of a New 5-Year Special Use Permit (SUP) to Continue Operating a Guided Helicopter Skiing, in Portions of the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF), Teton and Lincoln Counties, WY and Teton and Bonneville Counties, ID, Comment Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Ray Spencer (307) 739-5400.

EIS No. 030583, Final EIS, COE, FL, Broward County Shore Protection Project, Fill Placement in Segment II (Hillsboro Inlet to Port Everglades) and Segment III (Port Everglades to the south County Line), Broward County, FL, Wait Period Ends: February 2, 2004, Contact: Ms. Terri Jordan (904) 232-1817.

EIS No. 030584, Final EIS, NOA, WA, CA, OR, U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Approval and Implementation, Ocean Waters off the States of Washington, Oregon and California a portion of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), WA, OR and CA, Wait Period Ends: February 2, 2004, Contact: Rod McInnis (562) 980-4000.

EIS No. 030585, Final EIS, AFS, CA, Emigrant Wilderness Dams Project, Reconstruct, Repair, Maintain and Operate 12 Dams; Snow, Bigelow, Huckleberry, Emigrant Meadow, Middle Emigrant, Emigrant, Leighton, Long, Lower Buck, Y-Meadow and Bear, Stanislaus National Forest, Summer Ranger District, Tuolumne County, CA, Wait Period Ends: February 2, 2004,

Contact: John J. Maschi (209) 532-3671 Ext. 317.

This document is available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/projects/emigrant>.

EIS No. 030586, Draft EIS, UAF, HI, Johnston Atoll Airfield (Installation), Termination of the Air Force Mission, Johnston Atoll, Implementation, Honolulu, HI, Comment Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Patricia J. Vokoun (703) 604-5263.

EIS No. 030587, Draft EIS, FHW, WA, OR, WA-35 Columbia River Crossing, Proposal to build a New Bridge across the Columbia River between Hood River, Hood River, OR and White Salmon, WA, Comment Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Michael Kulbacki (360) 753-9556.

EIS No. 030588, Draft EIS, BLM, Programmatic EIS—Proposed Revision to Grazing Regulations for the Public Lands, 42 CFR Part 4100, In the Western Portion of the United States, Comment Period Ends: March 2, 2004, Contact: Molly S. Brady (202) 452-7714.

This document is available on the Internet at: <http://www.blm.gov/grazing>.

EIS No. 030589, Final EIS, FHW, MN, Trunk Highway 371 Corridor Reconstruction, U.S. Truck Highway 10 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) Highway 48, Funding, Morrison County, MN, Wait Period Ends: February 2, 2004, Contact: Cheryl Martin (651) 291-6120.

EIS No. 030590, Final EIS, COE, NJ, Union Beach Community Project, Provision of Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction to Residential, Commercial and Recreational Resources, Located along the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay Shoreline, Monmouth County, NJ, Wait Period Ends: February 2, 2004, Contact: Mark H. Burlas (212) 264-4663.

Dated: December 29, 2003.

Joseph C. Montgomery,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 03-32313 Filed 12-31-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Export-Import Bank of the United States.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) provides working capital guarantees to lenders. In assessing the creditworthiness of an

applicant Ex-Im Bank reviews EIB Form 84-1. This form provides information which allows the Bank to obtain legislatively required reasonable assistance of repayment, as well as fulfill other statutory requirements. The form has had no change in content or purpose; it requires only a three-year extension.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 2, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments or requests for additional information to Letitia Kress, Export-Import Bank of the

United States, Room 1125, 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20571, (202) 565-3613.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Solomon Bush (202) 565-3353.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: U.S. Small Business Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Joint Application for Working Capital Guarantee.

OMB Number: 3048-0003.

Form Number: EIB-SBA 84-1 (Rev. 8/2000).

Burden Statement

Type of Request: Extension of expiration date.

Annual Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 2 hours.

Annual Burden Hours: 1,000.

Frequency of Reporting or Use: Upon application for guarantees on working capital loans advanced by the lenders to U.S. exporters.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

Solomon Bush,

Agency Clearance Officer.

BILLING CODE 6690-01-M

OMB No.: 3048-0003
Expires February 29, 2004

(SBA Use Only) Date Received C.I.D. No. <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediary	U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES JOINT APPLICATION FOR WORKING CAPITAL GUARANTEE	(Ex-Im Bank Use Only) Date Received
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PART A. PRINCIPAL PARTIES

1. Borrower/Exporter Please circle the appropriate answer: New to Ex-Im Bank or SBA? **Yes** **No**

Company Name		D&B No.		Telephone No.	
Name and Title of Contact Person		Federal ID No.		Fax No.	
Address		City	State	Zip	
Gross Sales \$	No. of Full-Time Employees		Primary SIC Code OR North American Industrial Classification System No. (NAIC)		Products/Goods/Services to be exported (Description)
	Small Business as stipulated by SBA Guidelines? Yes No		*Minority-Owned? Yes No *Women-Owned? Yes No		

Management (Proprietors, partners, officers, directors and holders of outstanding stock -100% of ownership must be shown). (Attach separate sheet of paper if necessary.)

Name and Social Security Number	Complete Address	% owned	*Military Service From: To:	*Race **	*Sex

*This information is collected for statistical purposes only. It has no bearing on the credit decision to approve or decline this application.
**Please use one of the following categories: 1) American Indian/Alaska Native; 2) Black/African American; 3) Asian; 4) Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ; 5) White; 6) Ethnicity Hispanic; 7) Not Hispanic.

Affiliate(s) (If more than one, please attach list on separate sheet of paper.)

Company Name		D&B No.		Telephone No.	
Name and Title of Contact Person		Federal ID No.		Fax No.	
Address		City	State	Zip	

2. Personal Guarantor(s) (If more than one guarantor, please attach separate sheet of paper.)

Name		SSN		Telephone No.	
				Fax No.	
Address		City	State	Zip	

3. Lender Please circle the appropriate answer: New to Ex-Im Bank or SBA? **Yes** (If yes, submit annual report.) **No**

Name		Federal ID No.		Telephone No.	
				Fax No.	
Address		City	State	Zip	

PART B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRANSACTION

Loan Amount \$ _____	Terms and Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	Type (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Revolving <input type="checkbox"/> Transaction(s) Specific
Interest Rate to be Charged Lender Interest Rate _____ % Per Annum	Other Fees or Charges (type and amount) _____	Renewal? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Interest Rate is to be Variable: Base Rate _____ Adjustment Period _____ (Monthly, Quarterly, Annually, etc.) Spread _____ Base Rate Source _____ (WSJ, LIBOR, etc.)		Conversion of Preliminary Commitment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No

Were you assisted by an Ex-Im Bank City/State partner or a Small Business Development Center?	Yes	No	If yes, please identify: Name & Address _____ Contact Name _____ Telephone No. _____
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Estimated Total Export Sales to be supported by this Loan \$ _____

Principal Countries of Export: (Please identify the top 3 countries.) _____

U.S. Content _____ % (Ex-Im Bank applicants only)

Please estimate the number of jobs to be supported by this Loan:	_____ Maintained jobs	_____ Additional jobs created
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Are Performance Guarantees or Standby Letters of Credit to be issued under this Loan?	Yes	No	Percentage of Loan to be utilized for performance guarantees _____ %
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Please answer the following questions with regard to the "export items" to be exported from the U.S.

Military Is the Buyer associated in any way with the military? Are the items to be used by the military, or are they defense articles, or have a military application?	Yes	No	If yes, please attach a description of the buyer or items, as applicable.
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Nuclear Are the items to be used in the construction, alteration, operation, or maintenance of nuclear power, enrichment, reprocessing, research, or heavy water production facilities?	Yes	No	If yes, please attach a description of the items. (Ex-Im Bank applicants only)
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Environmental Are the products to be used for an environmental project or have perceptible environmental benefits?	Yes	No	If yes, please attach a description of the items and answer the following: Identify the project: _____ Project Location: _____ Project Sector or Industry: _____ If not related to a specific project, the products are to be used to create an environmental benefit in: _____ (Please identify Sector)
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Are the items on the U.S. Munitions Control List (Part 121 of Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations), OR do they require a validated export license from the Bureau of Export Administration?	Yes	No	If yes, please attach a description of the items. If uncertain whether a validated export license is required, written verification from the appropriate licensing agency may be required before loan approval. (Ex-Im Bank applicants only)
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OMB No.: 3048-0003
Expires February 29, 2004

PART C. CERTIFICATIONS

***Please attach a signed, duplicate original of Part C for each Borrower and each Guarantor**

1. Borrower/Exporter and Lender Certification

We certify and acknowledge that neither we or our Principals have within the past 3 years been a) debarred, suspended, declared ineligible from participating in, or voluntarily excluded from participation in, a Transaction; b) formally proposed for debarment, with a final determination still pending; c) indicted, convicted or had a civil judgment rendered against us for any of the offenses listed in the Regulations; d) delinquent on any amounts due and owing to the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities as of the date of execution of this certification; or the undersigned has received a written statement of exception from Ex-Im Bank attached to this certification, permitting participation in this Transaction despite an inability to make certifications a) through d) in this paragraph.

We further certify that we have not and will not knowingly enter into any agreements in connection with the goods and/or services covered by this policy with any individual or entity that has been debarred, suspended, declared ineligible from participating in, or voluntarily excluded from participation in a Transaction. All capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Government-wide Non-procurement Suspension and Debarment Regulations - Common Rule (Regulations).

In addition, we further certify that we have not, and will not, engage in any activity in connection with this transaction that is a violation of a) the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, 15 U.S.C. 78dd-1, et seq. (which provides for civil and criminal penalties against individuals who directly or indirectly make or facilitate corrupt payments to foreign officials to obtain or keep business), b) the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq., c) the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., or d) the Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 U.S.C. 2401 et seq.; nor have we been found by a court of the United States to be in violation of any of these statutes within the preceding 12 months, and to the best of our knowledge, the performance by the parties to this transaction of their respective obligations does not violate any other applicable law.

We certify that the representations made and the facts stated in this application and its attachments are true, to the best of its knowledge and belief, and it has not misrepresented or omitted any material facts. We further understands that these certifications are subject to the penalties for fraud against the U.S. Government (18 USC 1001, et. seq.)

Name of Borrower/Exporter	Date
Signature	
Name and Title (Print or Type)	

Name of Lender	Date
Signature	
Name and Title (Print or Type)	

2. Additional Borrower/Exporter Certification

Please circle the appropriate answer. Attach complete information for any "yes" circled.

- a. Are there any pending or threatened liens, tax liens, judgments or material litigation against the:

Borrower	YES	NO	Guarantor	YES	NO
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- b. Has the Borrower/Exporter or its owner(s), or the Guarantor ever filed for protection under U.S. bankruptcy laws? Has either had an involuntary bankruptcy petition filed against it?

Borrower	YES	NO	Guarantor	YES	NO
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- c. Has the Borrower/Exporter or its owner(s) or affiliates, or the Guarantor ever previously requested U.S. Government financing?

Borrower	YES	NO	Guarantor	YES	NO
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- d. Is/has the Borrower or Guarantor: (a) presently under indictment, on parole or probation; or (b) ever been charged for any criminal offense; or (c) ever been convicted, placed on pretrial diversion, or placed on any form of probation including adjudication withheld pending probation for any criminal offense other than a minor vehicle violation?

Borrower	YES	NO	Guarantor	YES	NO
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- f. Are all owners and guarantors U.S. Citizens? YES NO If no, give alien registration number: _____

We certify that the representations made and the facts stated in this application and its attachments are true, to the best of its knowledge and belief, and it has not misrepresented or omitted any material facts. We further understands that these certifications are subject to the penalties for fraud against the U.S. Government (18 USC 1001, et. seq.)

(SBA APPLICANTS ONLY)

Name of Borrower/Exporter*	Date	Name of Guarantor*	Date
Signature		Signature	
Name and Title (Print or Type)		Name and Title (Print or Type)	

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3. Additional Lender Certification

The Lender further certifies to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that if any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit a Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, US Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure. If Standard Form-LLL is necessary, it may be obtained from Ex-Im Bank or SBA.

We further certify that none of the Lender's employees, officers, directors, or substantial stockholders (more than 10%) have a financial interest in the applicant.

We certify that the representations made and the facts stated in this application and its attachments are true, to the best of its knowledge and belief, and it has not misrepresented or omitted any material facts. We further understands that these certifications are subject to the penalties for fraud against the U.S. Government (18 USC 1001, et. seq.)

Name of Lender	Date
Signature	
Name and Title (Print or Type)	

OMB No.: 3048-0003
Expires February 29, 2004

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

PART A. PRINCIPAL PARTIES

1. **Borrower/Exporter.** Complete this section with information on the individual or corporate borrower. Provide the preliminary SIC code OR North American Industrial Classification System No. (NAIC) of the borrower, rather than the product being exported.

Management. Complete this section for each proprietor, partner, officer or director owning 20% or more of the company.

2. **Personal Guarantor(s).** The personal guarantee of the owner(s) is required in most cases.

3. **Lender.** Leave blank if you are applying for a Preliminary Commitment and a prospective lender has not been identified.

PART B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRANSACTION

Provide the loan amount, term and type of loan requested, and answer all questions in Part B. (See also Checklist item 2 below.)

PART C. CERTIFICATIONS

This section must be signed by an authorized representative of the borrower and, if a request for a final commitment, an authorized representative of the lender.

CHECKLIST OF INFORMATION TO BE ATTACHED

(Note: All Attachments must be signed and dated by all person(s) signing this form.)

Yes N/A

	Yes	N/A
BACKGROUND		
1. Brief resume of principals and key employees, History of business; copy of business plan, if available; identify whether sole proprietorship, general partnership, limited liability company (LLC), corporation and/or subchapter-S corporation.		
2. Explanation of use of proceeds and benefits of the loan guarantee, including details of the underlying transaction(s) for which the loan is needed, including country(s) where the buyers are located.		
TRANSACTION		
3. Attach product literature. If applicable, attach description of items if they are nuclear, military, environmental, on the U.S. Munitions Control List, or require an export license.		
4. Copy of letter of credit and/or copy of buyer's order/contract, if available.		
5. Export credit insurance-related material (policy, application, buyer credit limit), if applicable.		
6. Copy of export license, if required.		
FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
7. Business financial statements (Balance Sheet, Income Statement, statement of Cash Flows) for the last three (3) years, if applicable, supported by the most recent Federal income tax return for the business. SBA applicants must submit the last three (3) years of signed, Federal income tax returns for the business.		
8. Current financial statement (interim) dated within ninety (90) days of the date of application filing.		
9. Aging of accounts receivable and accounts payable.		
10. Schedule of all principal officer/owner's compensation for the past three (3) years and current year to date [if none, please indicate].		
11. Signed joint personal financial statements(s) of each major shareholder(s)/partner(s), owner(s), of the company (with 20% or greater ownership, including assets and liabilities of both spouses) and their most recent Federal income tax return; (not required for venture capital partners).		
12. Estimate of monthly cash flow for the term of the loan, highlighting the proposed export transaction.		
13. Description of type and value of proposed collateral to support the loan (company assets/export product, i.e., inventory, accounts receivable, other).		
14. If Lender, attach Credit memorandum. For SBA Applications, attach D&B Report and Personal Credit Reports on Principals and Guarantors.		
15. For Ex-Im Bank Applications only: Nonrefundable \$500 application fee for a Preliminary Commitment or nonrefundable \$100 application fee for a Final Commitment, whichever is applicable, by check or money order made out to the Ex-Im Bank.		
16. SBA Form 1261 (SBA Applicants only)		
17. Copy of IRS Form 4506 (original to be submitted to IRS by the Lender). (SBA Applicants only)		

MAILING/FORWARDING INSTRUCTIONS

Please circle the appropriate answer.

1. If submitted by a Borrower/Exporter
- a. Is Borrower/Exporter's requested loan amount in Part B, \$1,111,111 or less? YES NO
- b. Is Borrower/Exporter a small business, as defined by Title 13 CFR Part 121.601? YES NO

If answer to *both* of the above is YES, send entire set of materials to the SBA Representative in the U.S. Export Assistance Center nearest you. Call (800) 827-5722 for the address.

If answer to *both* of the above is NO, send entire set of materials to:

Export-Import Bank of the U.S.
Office of Credit Applications and Processing
811 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20571

2. If submitted by a Lender.
- a. **SBA Participating Lenders** must submit with this application a Lender's check equal to 0.25% of the guaranteed amount of the loan application with a maturity of twelve (12) months or less.
- b. Is Lender using its **Ex-Im Bank Delegated Authority**? YES NO

If YES, send the application, the Loan Authorization Notice (two (2) originals), the appropriate facility fee, and the \$100 application fee to the Ex-Im Bank address *above*, *irrespective of the guarantee amount*.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT : The applicant is hereby notified that information requested by this application is done so under authority of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended (12 USC 635 et. seq.); provision of this information is mandatory and failure to provide the requested information may result in Ex-Im Bank being unable to determine eligibility for support. The information provided will be reviewed to determine the participants' ability to perform and pay under the transaction referenced in this application. Ex-Im Bank may not require the information and applicants are not required to provide information requested in this application unless a currently valid OMB control number is displayed on this form (see upper right of each page).

The information provided will be held confidential subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552) the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a), and the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 USC 3401), except as otherwise required by law. Note that the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 provides that Ex-Im Bank may transfer financial records included in an application for a loan or loan guarantee, or concerning a previously approved loan or loan guarantee, to another Government authority as necessary to process, service or foreclose on a loan or loan guarantee, or collect on a defaulted loan or loan guarantee.

Public Burden Statement: Reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including reviewing instructions, searching data sources, gathering information, completing, and reviewing the application. Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing it, to Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project OMB# 3048-0009, Washington, D.C. 20503.

FOR SBA USE ONLY			
Loan Officer's Recommendations	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Decline	State Reason(s)
Signature	Title		Date
Other Recommendation if required	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Decline	State Reason(s)
Signature	Title		Date
THIS BLOCK TO BE COMPLETED BY SBA OFFICIAL TAKING FINAL ACTION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Decline	State Reason(s)	
Signature	Title	Date	

[FR Doc. 03-32272 Filed 12-31-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6690-01-M

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 2003-N-10]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) has submitted the information collection entitled "Capital Requirements for the Federal Home Loan Banks" to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval of a three-year extension of the OMB control number, which is due to expire on December 31, 2003.

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on or before February 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Federal Housing Finance Board, Washington, DC 20503. For copies of the information collection or public comments, contact Mary Gottlieb, by e-mail at gottlieb@fhfb.gov, by facsimile at 202/408-2580, by telephone at 202/408-2826, or by regular mail to the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathon F. Curtis, Senior Financial Analyst, Regulations & Research Division, Office of Supervision, by e-mail at curtisj@fhfb.gov, by telephone at 202/408-2866, or by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Need for and Use of the Information Collection

Section 6 of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) establishes the capital structure for the Federal Home Loan Banks (Banks) and requires the Finance Board to issue regulations prescribing uniform capital standards applicable to each Bank. 12 U.S.C. 1426. In compliance with the requirements of section 6, the Finance Board added parts 930, 931, 932 and 933 to its regulations to implement the statutory capital structure for the Banks. 12 CFR parts 930, 931, 932 and 933. Part 930

establishes definitions applicable to risk management and the capital regulations; part 931 concerns Bank capital stock; part 932 establishes Bank capital requirements; and part 933 sets forth the requirements for Bank capital structure plans. The implementing regulations also include conforming changes to parts 917, 925 and 956, which concern, respectively, the powers and responsibilities of Bank boards of directors and senior management, Bank members, and Bank investments. 12 CFR parts 917, 925 and 956.

The Banks use the information collection contained in the rules implementing section 6 of the Bank Act to determine the amount of capital stock a member must purchase to maintain membership in and to obtain services from a Bank. More specifically, sections 931.3 and 933.2(a) authorize a Bank to offer its members several options to satisfy a membership investment in capital stock and an activity-based stock purchase requirement. 12 CFR 931.3 and 933.2(a). The information collection is necessary to provide the Banks with the flexibility to meet the statutory and regulatory capital structure requirements while allowing Bank members to choose the option best suited to their business requirements.

The OMB number for the information collection is 3069-0059. The OMB clearance for the information collection expires on December 31, 2003. The likely respondents include Banks and Bank members.

B. Burden Estimate

While the number of member respondents has increased, the burden has decreased significantly because the Banks can access most of the data required by the information collection electronically from call reports the members already must file with their primary regulator. The estimate for the total annual hour burden for all member respondents is 35,100 hours. The estimate for the total annual cost burden is \$1,508,598. These estimates are based on the following calculations:

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of activity-based stock purchase requirement member respondents at 5,500, with 4 responses per member. The estimate for the average hours per response is 0.65 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for activity-based stock purchase requirement member respondents is 14,300 hours (5,500 activity-based member respondents x 4 responses per member x 0.65 hours per response). The estimate for the annual cost burden is \$614,614 (14,300 hours x \$42.98 hourly rate).

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of membership investment in capital stock member respondents at 8,000, with 4 responses per member. The estimate for the average hours per response is 0.65 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for membership investment in capital stock member respondents is 20,800 hours (8,000 membership investment member respondents x 4 responses per member x 0.65 hours per response). The estimate for the annual cost burden is \$893,984 (20,800 hours x \$42.98 hourly rate).

C. Comment Request

In accordance with the requirements of 5 CFR § 1320.8(d), the Finance Board published a request for public comments regarding this information collection in the **Federal Register** on September 22, 2003. *See* 68 FR 55056 (Sept. 22, 2003). The 60-day comment period closed on November 21, 2003. The Finance Board received no public comments.

Written comments are requested on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of Finance Board functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Finance Board's estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be submitted to OMB in writing at the address listed above.

Dated: December 29, 2003.

By the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Donald Demitros,

Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-32308 Filed 12-31-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 2003-N-11]

Notice of Annual Adjustment

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Board.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of annual adjustment of the cap on average total assets that defines community financial institutions under section 2(13)(B) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act and § 900.1 of the