

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the above-named Agencies to request an extension for the currently approved information collection in support of the servicing of Community and Insured Business Programs Loans and Grants.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 2, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon R. Douglas, Loan Specialist, Community Programs Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 3222, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3222. Telephone (202) 720-1506

Deanna D. Plauche, Loan Specialist, Water and Waste Disposal Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 3223, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3222. Telephone (202) 720-9635.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Servicing of Community and Insured Business Programs Loans and Grants.

OMB Number: 0575-0066.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1997.

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

Abstract: The following Community and Insured Business Programs Loans and Grants are serviced by this currently approved regulation (0575-0066): The Community Facilities loan program is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to make loans to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes for the development of community facilities for public use in rural areas.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Title 3 (Pub. L. 88-452), authorizes Economic Cooperative loans to assist incorporated and unincorporated associations provide to low-income rural families essential processing, purchasing, or marketing services, supplies, or facilities.

The Water and Waste Disposal program is authorized by Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) to provide basic human amenities, alleviate health hazards, and promote the orderly growth of the rural areas of the Nation by meeting the need for new and improved water and waste disposal systems.

The Business and Industry program is authorized by Section 310 B (7 U.S.C. 1932) (Pub. L. 92-419, August 30, 1972) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities, including pollution abatement and control.

The Food Security Act of 1985, Section 1323 (Pub. L. 99-198), authorizes loan guarantees and grants to Nonprofit National Corporations to provide technical and financial assistance to for-profit or nonprofit local businesses in rural areas.

The Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, Section 601 (42 U.S.C. 8401), authorizes Energy Impact Assistance Grants to states, councils of local government, and local governments to assist areas impacted by coal or uranium development activities. Assistance is for the purposes of growth management, housing planning, and acquiring and developing sites for housing and public facilities.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Section 310 B(c) (7 U.S.C. 1932 (c)), authorizes Rural Business Enterprise Grants to public bodies and nonprofit corporations to facilitate the development of private businesses in rural areas.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Section 310 B(f)(i) (7 U.S.C. 1932 (c)), authorizes Rural Technology and Cooperative Development Grants to nonprofit institutions for the purpose of enabling such institutions to establish and operate centers for rural technology or cooperative development.

The Farm Ownership loan program is authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Pub.L. 91-229, to make insured loans to Indian Tribes or tribal corporations within tribal reservations and Alaskan communities. The Act also gives Farmer Programs the authority to make loans for grazing, other irrigation and drainage projects, and association irrigation and drainage loans.

The purpose of the loan and grant servicing function for the above programs is to assist recipients to meet the objectives of loans and grants, repay loans on schedule, comply with agreements, and protect the Government's financial interest. Routine servicing responsibilities include collection of payments, compliance reviews, security inspections, review of financial reports, and supervision activities.

Supervision by the Agencies include, but is not limited to: review of budgets, management reports, audits and financial statements; performing security inspections and providing, arranging, or recommending technical assistance; evaluating environmental impacts of proposed actions by the borrower; and performing civil rights compliance reviews.

Information will be collected by the field offices from applicants and borrowers. Under the provisions of this regulation, the information collected will be primarily financial data.

Failure to collect information could result in improper servicing of these loans.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.66 hours per response.

Respondents: State, local or tribal Governments, Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 110.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.63.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 120 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, (202) 720-9734.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the Agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agencies' 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 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 Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0743, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0743. 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: August 29, 1996.
Maureen Kennedy,
Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

Dated: September 4, 1996.
John Romano,
Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

Dated: September 17, 1996.
Dayton Watkins,
Administrator Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Dated: September 19, 1996.
Grant Buntrock,
Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 96-25007 Filed 10-1-96; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Annual Capital Expenditures Survey

ACTION: Proposed Agency Information Collection Activity; Comment Request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing

effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Charles Funk, Bureau of the Census, Room 300-20 Iverson Mall, Washington, DC 20233, Telephone (301) 763-2542.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans the continuing information collection for the 1996 and 1997 Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES) measuring capital investment in new and used structures and equipment. The ACES is the sole source of detailed comprehensive statistics on actual business spending by domestic, private, nonfarm businesses operating in the United States. Major changes from the 1995 collection of ACES data are the annual collection of data from businesses with one to four employees and nonemployers, and a request from employer businesses for data on total company sales and receipts, and sales and receipts for the three ACES industries with the largest sales and receipts.

Actual business spending will be collected from employer and nonemployer businesses. Business spending data are used to evaluate the quality of estimates of gross domestic product, develop monetary policy, analyze business asset depreciation, and improve estimates of capital stock for productivity analysis. Industry analysts use these data for market analysis, economic forecasting, identifying business opportunities, product development, and business planning.

II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau will use mail out/mail back survey forms to collect data. Companies will be asked to respond to the survey within 30 days of the initial

mailing. Letters and/or telephone calls encouraging participation will be directed to respondents that have not responded by the designated time. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and Touchtone Data Entry (TDE) will be used on a limited basis with small and middle sized businesses in data collection activities.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0782.

Form Number: ACE-1 (Sent to employer companies reporting payroll to the Internal Revenue Service) and ACE-2 (Sent to nonemployer businesses).

Type of Review: Regular Review.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations, non-profit institutions, small businesses or organizations, and self-employed individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 46,000 (34,000 employer companies, and 12,000 nonemployer businesses).

Estimated Time Per Response: The average for all respondents is 2.5 hours. For companies completing form ACE-1, the range is 2 to 16 hours, averaging 3 hours. For companies completing form ACE-2, the range is less than 1 hour to 2 hours, averaging 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: The total annual burden for fiscal year 1997, and 1998 is 114,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$3,450,000.

Respondents' Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 United States Code, Sections 182, 224, and 225.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.