

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

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection: comments request.

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 Management and Supervision of Multiple Family Housing Borrowers and Grant Recipients.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 9, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurence R. Anderson, Senior Loan Specialist, Multi-Family Housing Portfolio Management Division, RHS, United States Department of Agriculture, Mail Stop 0782, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0782, Telephone (202) 720-1611.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Management and Supervision of Multiple Family Housing Borrowers and Grant Recipients.

OMB Number: 0575-0033.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1998.

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 rental housing in rural areas. Such multi-

family housing (MFH) projects are intended to meet the housing needs of persons or families having very low to moderate incomes, senior citizens, the handicapped or disabled, and domestic farm laborers.

RHS has the responsibility of assuring the public that MFH projects financed are managed and operated as mandated by Congress. 7 CFR Part 1930, Subpart C was first issued October 27, 1980, to insure consistent and proper management and operation of projects financed with MFH loan and grant funds. Minimal requirements have been established as deemed necessary to assure that applicable laws and authorities are carried out as intended.

With the provisions of this regulation, RHS will be able to provide the necessary guidance and supervision to new and existing borrowers to assist in the economical operation of their projects. RHS must be able to assure Congress and the general public that all MFH projects will be operated as economically as possible, for the purposes for which they are intended, and for the benefit of those they are mandated to serve.

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

RHS will use the information collected to identify financially detrimental trends, poor management practices, and potential problems before they manifest themselves in the form of loan delinquencies, unpaid operation expenses, improper discriminatory practices, or high vacancy rates. With this information, RHS can assist the borrower through consultation (supervision) to improve the efficiency of the project and its operation. RHS supervision is especially critical during the first year of operation. In addition, the information provided is intended to verify whether or not the borrower is complying with the terms and conditions of loan, grant, or subsidy agreements. After the first year of operation, the information is requested of the borrower to assure continued compliance with the loan and grant agreements.

Failure by RHS to monitor progress of borrower operation through review of collected information and consultation would reasonably lead to noncompliance with statutory intent in some instances and financial default in others. Corrective action to remove such noncompliance or default would be costly to RHS and the public in terms of program integrity, public confidence, dollars, and staff time.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .64 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 538,200.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 4.61.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,218,740 hours.

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

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, Ag Box 0743, 1400 Independence Ave., 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: December 19, 1997.

Jan E. Shadburn,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 98-174 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission For OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of the Census.

Title: United States Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal Large Household Follow-up.

Form Number(s): DX-1(HF), -2(HF), 19A(L), -19B(L), -19C(L), and Spanish translations.

Agency Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 3,629 hours.

Number of Respondents: 23,500.

Avg Hours Per Response: Short form—6 minutes; Long form—25 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Census Bureau has made the development of user-friendly forms a key strategy to reduce respondent burden. The Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal questionnaire (a five-person questionnaire with a continuation roster to list up to seven additional individuals) is shorter than a comparable seven-person detailed version. This strategy is expected to lessen the public perception that responding to the census is an arduous task. The objective of the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal Large Household Follow-up is to acquire detailed characteristic data for households with more than five members.

We will mail a customized questionnaire package to those specific households which listed six or more individuals on the original dress rehearsal census questionnaire. The customized mailing package will consist of the following items: (1) An outgoing envelope addressed to either the respondent name reported on the original returned questionnaire or the Person 1 name; (2) A letter listing the names of all persons on the original questionnaire for whom detailed characteristics were provided and the names of all persons listed on the roster. The letter will request the respondent provide detailed characteristics for the additional individuals listed on the roster; (3) A continuation questionnaire(s) designed for Person 6 through Person 12; and (4) a Business

Reply Mail return envelope for the respondent to return the continuation questionnaire.

Only one follow-up mailing will be conducted for each identified large household. No personal visit or telephone follow-up is planned.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: One-time.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 USC, Sections 141 and 193.

OMB Desk Officer: Nancy Kirkendall, (202) 395-7313.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Nancy Kirkendall, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 30, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-220 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 971230316-7316-01]

Annual Retail Trade Survey

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Determination.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Title 13, United States Code, Sections 182, 224, and 225, I have determined that the Census Bureau needs to collect data covering annual sales, purchases, year-end inventories, and accounts receivables to provide a sound statistical basis for the formation of policy by various Government agencies. These data also apply to a variety of public and business needs. This annual survey is a continuation of similar retail trade surveys conducted each year since 1951 (except 1954). It provides on a comparable classification basis annual sales, purchases, and accounts receivables for 1997 and year-end inventories for 1996 and 1997. These data are not available publicly on a

timely basis from nongovernmental or other governmental sources.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ronald Pienckykoski or Dorothy Engleking on (301) 457-2713.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Census Bureau is authorized to take surveys necessary to furnish current data on the subjects covered by the major censuses authorized by Title 13, United States Code. This survey will provide continuing and timely national statistical data on retail trade for the period between economic censuses. The data collected in this survey will be within the general scope and nature of those inquiries covered in the economic census.

The Census Bureau will require a selected sample of firms operating retail establishments in the United States (with sales size determining the probability of selection) to report in the 1997 Annual Retail Trade Survey. We will furnish report forms to the firms covered by this survey and will require their submissions within thirty days after receipt. The sample will provide, with measurable reliability, statistics on the subjects specified above.

This survey was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, Public Law 96-511, as amended, and approved under OMB Control No. 0607-0013. We will provide copies of the form upon written request to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-0001.

Based upon the foregoing, I have directed that an annual survey be conducted for the purpose of collecting these data.

Dated: December 23, 1997.

Martha Farnsworth Riche,

Director, Bureau of the Census.

[FR Doc. 98-215 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 971230314-7314-01]

Annual Trade Survey

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of determination.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Title 13, United States Code, Sections 182, 224, and 225, I have determined that the Census Bureau needs to collect data covering year-end inventories, annual sales, and purchases to provide a sound