

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 will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 7, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-12890 Filed 5-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-EC-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Department of Commerce Partners in Quality Contracts (PQC) Program

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; 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 July 13, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental 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 Ms. Deborah O'Neill, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6422, Washington, DC, 20230. Her telephone number is (202) 482-0202.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Performance Review (NPR) conducted by Vice President Gore outlined several objectives, including improving the Federal acquisition process. Along with the NPR objectives are associated Administration initiatives, such as greater emphasis on contractor's past performance;

expanding the use of alternative disputes' resolution procedures; and improving communications overall between industry and government. The Department of Commerce (DOC) has developed a program that is philosophically consistent with NPR, known as the Partners in Quality Contracting (PQC) Program. PQC is a creative nonmonetary recognition program that showcases the importance of quality in the government acquisition process. It is intended as an effective yet inexpensive means of recognizing quality performance from both DOC contractors and acquisition personnel. The information collected is used to determine qualifications of applicants by DOC for purposes of recognizing DOC contractors and acquisition personnel who have promoted excellence in contracting through quality performance. The DOC PQC Evaluation Committee will be an independent committee, comprised of DOC employees from key functional areas. The universe of applicants includes all DOC contractors that have performed a DOC contract valued during the previous fiscal year at or above \$100,000, if a large business, \$50,000 or above, if a small one. A small business is defined as "a business, including an affiliate, that is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in producing or performing the supplies or services being purchased, and has no more than 500 employees." Eligible contractors would "self nominate" through the submission of a company profile than an application that would be independently evaluated against pre-established criteria. Finalists would be site visited, as appropriate, by a government team before the final selections are made. Award recipients will be selected by consensus of the Committee. Award recipients will be invited to send representatives to attend an award reception.

##### II. Method of Collection

*Written submission.*

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0690-0012.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission for extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 50.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 38.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,900.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* \$0 (no capital expenditures are required).

## 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 will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 7, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-12891 Filed 5-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-EC-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Women-Owned Small Business Sources

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce a 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 July 13, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental 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 Ms. Deborah O'Neill, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6422,