

and will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. on the second day. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review draft CMP alternatives and, (2) Open Public forum. All meetings are open to the public. Public comments will be received at 1:30 p.m. on March 9.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kendall Clark, Area Ranger, USDA, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, 88401 Highway 82, Enterprise, OR 97828, 541-426-5501.

Dated: February 3, 2000.

**Karyn L. Wood,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 00-2985 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Proposed Changes in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include Alley Cropping, Constructed Wetland, Firebreak, Forest Site Preparation, Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Trails and Landings, Prescribed Burning, Riparian Forest Buffer, Spring Development, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Use Exclusion, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation. These standards are used to convey national guidance when developing Field Office Technical Guide Standards used in the States. NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land or on land determined to be wetland.

**DATES:** Comments will be received on or before April 10, 2000. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 60-day period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in

Washington, D.C. Submit individual inquiries and return any comments in writing to William Hughey, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, D.C. 20013-2890. Telephone Number 202-720-5023. The standards are also available and can be downloaded from the Internet at: [http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice\\_std.html](http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_std.html).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. For the next 60 days, NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of change will be made.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 27, 2000.

**Danny D. Sells,**

*Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-2863 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

## 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:* Census Bureau.

*Title:* Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures (PACE) Survey.

*Agency Form Number(s):* MA-200.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0607-0176.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement, with change, of an expired collection.

*Burden Hours:* 160,000 hours.

*Number of Respondents:* 20,000.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 8 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* The Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures (PACE) Survey was conducted annually prior to 1995 but suspended due to Census Bureau budget limitations. The PACE Survey provided measures of the cost to private industry for the Nation's commitment to protecting the environment. This survey is an essential source of data for monitoring the impact of environmental programs on the U.S.

economy and responsiveness to these programs. The absence of the data over the past 4 years has highlighted the need for measures of private industry spending on pollution abatement activities. With support from the EPA, the Census Bureau proposes to reinstate this survey.

The survey will collect information similar to that previously collected: Pollution abatement expenditures, operating costs for pollution abatement, each by media, air pollution control, water pollution control and multi-media, and waste disposal. In addition, the survey will include the nature of the costs incurred, distinguishing between prevention and treatment. The survey will include approximately 20,000 establishments selected to represent manufacturing, mining and electric utilities industries defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) with emphasis on industries most heavily involved in pollution abatement activities. The survey sample will also include representation of establishments in the apparel and textile industry and manufacturing establishments with less than 20 employees. These groups had been excluded from the earlier survey design under the assumption that they contributed little or nothing to the estimates. Representation from these groups will be used to confirm the assumption.

The EPA will use the data to monitor the impact of environmental programs and to estimate cost projections for its regulatory impact analysis for proposed pollution regulations. Capital expenditures for pollution abatement is an important component of total capital expenditures when analyzing investment and productivity at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. State and local governments, trade associations, the academic community, and private businesses will use the data to evaluate regional pollution abatement spending, local legislation, and performance of specific industries.

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

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [LEngelme@doc.gov](mailto:LEngelme@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 1, 2000.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-2963 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### 2001 Residential Finance Survey

**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 April 10, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, or by e-mail at LEngelme@doc.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instructions should be directed to Walter L. Busse, U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Room 1445-3, Washington, DC 20233-8500, and telephone (301)457-3220.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau has conducted the Residential Finance Survey (RFS) every 10 years as part of the decennial census since 1950. The RFS is the only survey designed to collect and produce data about the financing of nonfarm, privately-owned residential properties.

The RFS does the following:

- Collects, tabulates, and presents data for properties, the standard unit of reference for financial transactions

related to housing. In most other demographic surveys, the unit of reference is the person, household, or housing unit;

- Provides the only source of information on property, mortgage, and financial characteristics for multi-unit rental properties.; and

- Conducts interviews of property owners and mortgage lenders, resulting in more accurate information on property and mortgage characteristics.

Some uses of the RFS data are:

- As benchmark data for estimates of several economic aggregates prepared by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, such as the gross domestic product (GDP) and the national income accounts;

- As the only source of information on the acquisition, financing, and ownership of multifamily rental properties;

- As source of data for developing benchmark per-unit estimates of rents collected, operating expenses, and capital expenditures on different classes of rental properties;

- As the basis for developing an estimate of the number of age-restricted housing units and other categories of seniors' housing units, and to study how they are financed;

- As data to help the Department of Housing and Urban Development regulate the Government Sponsored Enterprises and to monitor these organizations' progress in reaching established goals, such as to expand housing opportunities for working class and low-income families, and for families in underserved communities;

- As a source of information on the sources and uses of mortgage credit in rural areas and the rates and terms relative to metropolitan areas;

- As a source of data on credit extensions of individuals and on residential investor-property finance;

- As the only source of information on non-traditional sources of mortgage credit, such as individuals, trust funds, and philanthropic organizations;

- As the basis for studying the role second mortgages, mortgage refinancings, and home equity loans play in financing modeling;

- As an excellent and comprehensive source of information on the ability of all Americans to have equal access to mortgage credit; and

- As the basis for strategic planning and business decisions by firms involved with housing or mortgage credit.

We are undertaking several steps to make sure that the content for the 2001 RFS addresses the changes that occurred in the mortgage industry during the 1990s. This includes bringing together a

group of primary RFS data users and mortgage finance experts from in and out of government to develop the questionnaire content. We are also conducting cognitive testing with property owners and mortgage lenders to obtain their input on the RFS content and collection procedures, and to improve the validity of the questions asked.

## II. Method of Collection

In the RFS, we select a sample of addresses identified in Census 2000. From this sample, we first decide if a property is a homeowner property or a rental property. This determines the type of questionnaire the respondent will complete. A homeowner property is defined as one having fewer than five units where the owner of the property lives in one of the units. A rental property is one with five or more units or a property of fewer than five units with none being owner occupied. Condominium apartments are homeowner properties if the owner lives in the unit and rental properties if the owner does not live in the unit.

### Forms

We anticipate using the following four questionnaires to collect data for the 2001 RFS.

- An "owner seeker" letter will be mailed to units at basic street addresses having two or more housing units in order to identify the name and address of the owner or the owner's agent and to determine if the property is a homeowner property or a rental property.

- A homeowner questionnaire will be mailed to all addresses with only one unit, to all mobile homes, and to units identified on the "owner seeker" letter as having fewer than five units, one of which is owner occupied. If the property is mortgaged, the respondent will be asked to report the person or institution to whom mortgage payments are made.

- A rental and vacant property questionnaire will be mailed to owners or agents of properties with five or more housing units or those with fewer than five units when none is owner occupied as indicated by responses on the "owner seeker" letter and the homeowner questionnaire. As with the homeowner questionnaire, the respondents are asked to whom mortgage payments are made.

- A lender questionnaire will be mailed to financial institutions, government agencies, firms or individuals to whom mortgage payments are made, as indicated on the homeowner and the rental and vacant