

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-27674 Filed 10-26-00; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[Report No. 2447]

### Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification of Action in Rulemaking Proceedings

October 19, 2000.

Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification have been filed in the Commission's rulemaking proceedings listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR Section 1.429(e). The full text of this document is available for viewing and copying in Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. or may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc. (202) 857-3800. Oppositions to these petitions must be filed by (November 13, 2000. See Section 1.4(b)(1) of the Commission's rules (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must be filed within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions have expired.

*Subject:* Redesignation of the 17.7-19.7 GHz Frequency Band, Blanket Licensing of Satellite Earth Stations in the 17.7-20.2 GHz and 27.5-30.0 GHz Frequency Bands, and the Allocation of Additional Spectrum in the 17.3-17.8 GHz and 24.75-25.25 GHz Frequency Bands for Broadcast Satellite-Service Use (IB Docket No. 98-172, RM-9005, RM-9118).

*Number of Petitions Filed:* 4.

*Subject:* Implementation of Video Description of Video Programming (MM Docket No. 99-339).

*Number of Petitions Filed:* 8.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-27586 Filed 10-26-00; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### National Flood Insurance Program; Desktop Rating of Flood Insurance Policies

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**ACTION:** Notice of forum with request for ideas and participants.

**SUMMARY:** We (FEMA) will hold a forum on the feasibility of identifying

alternative methods for obtaining necessary risk and elevation information to rate flood insurance policies. The goal of the forum is to foster the development of a desktop system that supports the actuarial rating of a flood insurance policy and the floodplain management requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. We seek a solution that makes the risk, base flood elevation and lowest floor elevation data necessary to rate a flood insurance policy available to agents at their desks.

**DATES:** We will hold the forum on December 13, 2000.

Please send written responses to the ideas and questions that we pose by November 27, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** We will hold the forum in the Horizon Ballroom of the International Trade Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004.

Please send written responses to Edward Pasterick at the address immediately below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Edward Pasterick, Federal Insurance Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-3443, or (email) [edward.pasterick@fema.gov](mailto:edward.pasterick@fema.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides coverage against flood damage to property owners in communities that agree to adopt and enforce regulations designed to ensure safer future construction of buildings in high-risk flood zones. The provision of insurance, the regulation of the floodplain and the enforcement of the mandatory purchase requirements depend on three things:

- *Flood risk information* or certain key information about the nature and extent of the flood risk in a given area,
- *Elevation of the structure*, and
- *Structural characteristics*, such as the number of floors and occupancy type.

*Flood Risk Information.* The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides flood-zone information in the form of a Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The FIRM outlines the degree and extent of the flood risk in a given jurisdiction and serves as the guiding document for communities in the regulation of floodplain construction and for lenders in enforcing the mandatory purchase requirements. It also serves insurance companies and agents as the source of needed risk

information for writing and rating applications for flood insurance under the NFIP. The primary flood risk characteristics shown on the FIRMs are the areas inundated by the one percent annual probability flood and the elevation relative to the mean sea level to which the floodwaters will rise. The latter is the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

*Elevation of the Structure.* Individual property owners, through licensed surveyors and engineers, provide the elevation information needed to guide floodplain construction and to rate insurance applications. The elevation certificate contains this information, which shows the elevation relative to the mean sea level of the lowest floor of a structure or lowest floor elevation (LFE). The community must ensure that the LFE of a new structure built in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)<sup>1</sup> after the effective date of a FIRM is at or above the BFE shown on the FIRM. The insurance agent writing an application for flood insurance on the structure must calculate the difference between the BFE and the LFE to determine the proper rate for coverage. As a condition of its participation in the NFIP the community must maintain this elevation information in its records.

*Structural Characteristics.* The insurance agent obtains the relevant structural characteristics from the insured. For example, the property owner can supply information about the number of floors, occupancy type, date of construction, etc. to the agent.

Several factors currently affect the ease of writing flood insurance:

- Access to flood risk information is more difficult for insurance agents than the risk information other lines of property insurance need. Since the flood zone and BFE needed for rating are on the community's FIRM, agents must maintain a paper copy of every effective FIRM for the communities in which they write policies. Locating a property on the paper copy of the FIRM has been a problem for agents from the outset of the NFIP, a problem that we have not diminished substantially over the years. Flood Zone Determination (FZD) companies and some Write Your Own (WYO) companies digitize much of the information on the FIRMs and now provide this information to some agents. However, zone information is far from

<sup>1</sup>The Special Flood Hazard Area is an area of land that would be inundated by a flood having a one percent chance of occurring in any given year (also referred to as the base or 100-year flood). Flood insurance is required for insurable structures within the SFHA to protect Federal financial investments and assistance used for acquisition and/or construction purposes within communities participating in the NFIP.

universally available from the WYO companies, and agents are unwilling to pay the fee that FZD companies charge for the service. The primary clients of the FZD companies are federally regulated lenders who need the information to comply with the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994. Lenders can pass along the fee for the service to borrowers as part of a mortgage loan's closing costs. However, insurance agents cannot do the same with their customers because charging for this service would jeopardize their competitive position. Over the next year, we plan to make all effective maps available in Raster scan version through the Map Service Center. The digital files, which support the Government Printing Office's requirement for computer-to-plate printing, will be available on FEMA's website and on CD. This will greatly improve accessibility for agents and should eliminate the need to maintain paper copies of maps.

- An applicant for flood insurance may need to provide the LFE of a property in the form of an elevation certificate completed by a licensed engineer or surveyor.<sup>2</sup> The cost for the certificate is usually more than \$200. Certain communities, notably those participating in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS), provide at least some certificates from their records, but again, elevation certificates are not universally available and not readily accessible.

### Objective

The reliance on data that are difficult to obtain has led the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA) and the Mitigation Directorate to pursue the feasibility of identifying alternative methods for obtaining necessary risk and elevation information to rate a flood insurance policy. We seek a solution that makes the risk and elevation data necessary to rate a flood insurance policy available to agents at their desks.

We would like to see the private sector develop solutions to this problem and are trying to identify the optimum way to promote such. This can include the acceptance of risk information for rating purposes derived through methodologies other than those that we

currently use, so long as we are sure that the information will stand up to actuarial analysis and support sound floodplain management.

Our goal is to foster the development of a desktop system that supports the actuarial rating of a flood insurance policy and the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP. We have identified two possible strategies to develop a desktop rating system for flood insurance policies that we do not intend to be exclusive or preemptive. However, we welcome creative alternative approaches.

*Strategy A*—Continue the current approach for identifying the flood risk and rating a flood insurance policy, but develop a means to provide elevation information in a more easily accessible manner at the point of sale. The current method uses FEMA flood hazard zones, FEMA base flood elevations and the difference between a structure's lowest floor and the base flood elevation to determine risk. This strategy requires elevation information for each individual structure and a means to efficiently gather into a single, accessible database all available elevation certificates for structures in the floodplain and continually to update this database as new structure elevation information becomes available. Alternatively, this strategy would result in an efficient, cost-effective way of collecting LFE en masse.

*Strategy B*—Continue the current approach for identifying the flood risk and rating a flood insurance policy, but relax the requirement for elevation certificates for individual structures. Explore ways to use new mapping technologies and approaches, combined with other property data, to gather elevation data. For example, Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR) can provide information on the lowest adjacent grade near a structure from which it is possible to determine the ground elevation and estimate the structure's lowest floor elevation, measured from that ground elevation.

### Approach

We will hold a forum for parties interested in developing a desktop rating system for flood insurance policies. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange ideas on the best strategy to achieve our goals for a desktop rating system and to discuss alternatives for overcoming the difficulties and high cost of implementing such a system. The government does not require a desktop rating system; we are simply seeking industry input on the best

strategy to develop such a system. Our vision is that the forum will attract entrepreneurial energies and disparate skills and communities of interest that were perhaps previously unaware of the difficulties associated with rating a flood insurance policy.

We will hold the forum on Wednesday, December 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Horizon Ballroom of the International Trade Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004. We invite all interested parties to present their ideas for developing a desktop system that supports the actuarial rating of a flood insurance policy and the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP. We have several key questions that we invite the attendees to address. The list is not exhaustive and we welcome additional questions for consideration.

- What is the degree of accuracy of current building elevation information?
- What existing databases can we apply to the flood rating process?
- Is there an easy way to translate highest adjacent grade and lowest adjacent grade data into lowest floor elevation?
- How well will elevation data collected using LIDAR or similar technologies meet the needs of local floodplain managers in enforcing NFIP regulations?
- Is there a market beyond the NFIP for data that would be part of a desktop rating system?
- What technologies for collecting and disseminating data are available for application to this problem?
- What are practical alternatives for distributing a desktop rating system?

We must receive the text of your statement no later than November 27, 2000, so that we can make copies available to all participants and we may ask you to discuss portions of your statement at the forum. With your permission, we may post your statement on our website for other persons who may be interested in this challenge but who would like more information.

If you wish to participate in the Desktop Rating of Flood Insurance Policies Forum, please reply by e-mail to [edward.pasterick@fema.gov](mailto:edward.pasterick@fema.gov). You may attend without submitting a written response. Please let us know who from your organization will attend and the questions that they will address. If you have any questions, please email or call Edward Pasterick at 202-646-3443. We look forward to your involvement in

<sup>2</sup> A Pre-FIRM structure is a structure built before the issuance of a FIRM or before 1975, whichever is later. Structures built after a FIRM is issued are Post-FIRM. All Post-FIRM structures and Pre-FIRM structures electing an elevation rate must provide an elevation certificate. Pre-FIRM structures that are not elevation rated do not have to submit an elevation certificate, nor do structures outside the SFHA.

this effort and encourage your participation.

**Jo Ann Howard,**

*Administrator, Federal Insurance Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-27638 Filed 10-26-00; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**SUMMARY:**

#### Background

On June 15, 1984, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) its approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act, as per 5 CFR 1320.16, to approve of and assign OMB control numbers to collection of information requests and requirements conducted or sponsored by the Board under conditions set forth in 5 CFR part 1320 Appendix A.1. Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB inventory of currently approved collections of information. Copies of the OMB 83-Is and supporting statements and approved collection of information instruments are placed into OMB's public docket files. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

#### Request for Comment on Information Collection Proposals

The following information collections, which are being handled under this delegated authority, have received initial Board approval and are hereby published for comment. At the end of the comment period, the proposed information collections, along with an analysis of comments and recommendations received, will be submitted to the Board for final approval under OMB delegated authority. Comments are invited on the following:

a. whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Federal Reserve's functions; including whether the information has practical utility;

b. the accuracy of the Federal Reserve's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, 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 information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before December 26, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, which should refer to the OMB control number or agency form number, should be addressed to Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20551, or mailed electronically to [regs.comments@federalreserve.gov](mailto:regs.comments@federalreserve.gov). Comments addressed to Ms. Johnson also may be delivered to the Board's mail room between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., and to the security control room outside of those hours. Both the mail room and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, NW. Comments received may be inspected in room M-P-500 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except as provided in section 261.14 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.14(a).

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the Board: Alexander T. Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A copy of the proposed form and instructions, the Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (OMB 83-I), supporting statement, and other documents that will be placed into OMB's public docket files once approved may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below. Mary M. West, Chief, Financial Reports Section (202-452-3829), Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact Diane Jenkins, (202-452-3544), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

Proposal to approve under OMB delegated authority the extension for three years, without revision of the following reports:

1. *Report title:* Domestic Branch Notification.

*Agency form number:* FR 4001.

*OMB control number:* 7100-0097.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Reporters:* State member banks.

*Annual reporting hours:* 156 hours.

*Estimated average hours per response:* 30 minutes for expedited notifications; 1 hour for nonexpedited notifications.

*Number of respondents:* 169 expedited; 71 nonexpedited. Small businesses are affected.

*General description of report:* This information collection is mandatory (12 U.S.C. 321) and is not given confidential treatment.

*Abstract:* The Federal Reserve System requires a state member bank to file a notification whenever it proposes to establish a domestic branch. There is no formal reporting form; banks notify the Federal Reserve by letter prior to making the proposed investment. The Federal Reserve uses the information to fulfill its statutory obligation to supervise state member banks.

2. *Report title:* Investment in Bank Premises Notification.

*Agency form number:* FR 4014.

*OMB control number:* 7100-0139.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Reporters:* State member banks.

*Annual reporting hours:* 3 hours.

*Estimated average hours per response:* 30 minutes.

*Number of respondents:* 5.

Small businesses are affected.

*General description of report:* This information collection is mandatory (12 U.S.C. 371d) and is not given confidential treatment.

*Abstract:* The Federal Reserve System requires a state member bank to file a notification whenever it proposes to make an investment in bank premises that results in its total bank premises investment exceeding its capital stock and surplus or, if the bank is well capitalized and in good condition, exceeding 150 percent of its capital stock and surplus. There is no formal reporting form; banks notify the Federal Reserve by letter fifteen days prior to making the proposed investment. The Federal Reserve uses the information to fulfill its statutory obligation to supervise state member banks.

3. *Report title:* The Daily Report of Dealer Activity in Treasury Financing.

*Agency form number:* FR 2004WI.

*OMB control number:* 7100-0003.

*Frequency:* Daily.

*Reporters:* Primary dealers in the U.S. government securities market.

*Annual reporting hours:* 4,640 hours.

*Estimated average hours per response:* 1 hour.

*Number of respondents:* 29 dealers.