

agricultural statistician positions. Accordingly, in addition to resumes, curriculum vitae, and the standard Optional Application for Federal Employment, NASS has created a Supplemental Qualifications Statement (SQS) for agricultural statistician and mathematical statistician positions. The SQS allows applicants the opportunity to describe their achievements or accomplishments as they relate to the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Need and Use of the Information: The SQS provides applicants with information related to how they will be measured for a position and what kinds of information will be used to evaluate those abilities. NASS personnel specialist will use the information on the SQS to evaluate and rate the applicant's accomplishments or achievements. Ultimately, the information is used by the selecting official as one of the criteria in the selection process.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 150.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0203.

Summary of Collection: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking alternative service delivery processed that will reduce the necessity for USDA Service Center customers to travel to a Service Center to provide information and sign documents. One of the alternatives being implemented is to accept information provided via telefacsimile. Each of the USDA Service Center agencies (Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development Agencies) will share the signature on the FSA-237 (Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification) forms to eliminate redundant collection of the same data. FSA will collect information using form FSA-237.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect the name and signature and identification number from Service Center customers. The information collected will be used to verify the authenticity of signatures on documents provided to USDA service centers via telefacsimile. Failure to collect and maintain the original signature will limit USDA's ability to offer the telefacsimile alternative to its Service Center customers.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 866,089.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (once).

Total Burden Hours: 17,322.

Rural Development Services

Title: 7 CFR 1956-B, Debt Settlement—Farm Programs and Multiple Family Housing.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0118.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Service Agency's Farm Loan Program provides supervised credit in the form of loans to family farmers and ranchers to purchase land and finance agricultural production. The Rural Housing Service (RHS) provides supervised credit in the form of Multi-Family Housing (Housing Act of 1949) loans to provide eligible persons with economically designed and constructed rental or cooperative housing and related facilities suited to the living requirements. This regulation defines the requirements for debt settlement and the factors the agency considers in approving or rejecting the offer submitted by the borrowers.

Need and Use of the Information: The information submitted by the borrowers is used to determine if acceptance of the settlement offers on debts owed is in the best interest of the Government. If the information were not collected, outdated and inaccurate information would cause increased losses to the government.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 2,900.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 24,650.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR 1792, Subpart C—Seismic Safety of New Building Construction.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0099.

Summary of Collection: Seismic hazards present a serious threat to people and their surroundings. These hazards exist in most of the United States, not just on the West Coast. Unlike hurricanes, times and location of earthquake cannot be predicted. Most earthquake strike without warning and, if of substantial strength, strike with great destructive forces. To reduce risks to life and property from earthquake, Congress enacted the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-124, 42 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) and directed the establishment and maintenance of an effective earthquake reduction program. As a result, the

National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) was established. The objectives of the NEHRP include the development of technologically and economically feasible design and construction methods to make both new and existing structures earthquake resistant, and the development and promotion of model building codes. 7 CFR part 1792, subpart C, identifies acceptable seismic standards which must be employed in new building construction funded by loans, grants, or guarantees made by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) or the Rural Telephone Bank (RTB) or through lien accommodations or subordinations approved by RUS or RTB.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information on the project designation and owners' name; name of architectural/engineering firm; name and registration number (for the State in which the building project is located) of the certifying architect or engineer; purpose and location of the facility; seismic factor for the building location; the code identity and date of the model code used for the design and construction of the building project(s); total square footage of the building project; total cost of the building project; and estimated cost of the structural systems affected by the requirements of 7 CFR part 1792, Subpart C.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 525.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Telephone Bank

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Staff Briefing for the Board of Directors.

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 16, 2000.

PLACE: Room 0204, South Building, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Current telecommunications industry issues.
2. Status of PBO planning.

3. Contracts for financial and legal advisors to the Privatization Committee.
4. Allowance for loan losses reserve.
5. Schedule for stockholders' meeting in year 2001.
6. Administrative issues.

ACTION: Board of Directors Meeting.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 17, 2000.

PLACE: Room 104-A, The Williamsburg Room, Department of Agriculture, 12th Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters have been placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting:

1. Call to order.
2. Report on board election results.
3. Oath of office.
4. Election of board officers: Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
5. Action on Minutes of the August 4, 2000, board meeting.
6. Report on loans approved in FY 2000.
7. Report on financial activity for FY 2000.
8. Report on the allowance for loan losses reserve.
9. Privatization Committee report.
10. Consideration of resolution to reestablish the Privatization Committee.
11. Consideration of resolution to approve Anthony Haynes to serve as the Deputy Governor of the Bank.
12. Establish date and location of next board meeting.
13. Adjournment.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, (202) 720-9554.

Dated: November 2, 2000.

Anthony C. Haynes,

Acting Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 00-28662 Filed 11-3-00; 2:43 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Information for Certification Under FAQ 6 of the Safe Harbor Privacy Principles

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the

continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 35068 (2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 8, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Request for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to: Jeff Rohlmeier, Trade Development, Room 2011, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; Phone number: (202) 482-1614 and fax number: (202) 501-2548.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

In response to the European Commission Directive on Data Protection that restricts transfers of personal information from Europe to countries whose privacy practices are not deemed "adequate," the U.S. Department of Commerce has developed a "safe harbor" framework that will allow U.S. organizations to satisfy the European Directive's requirements and ensure that personal data flows to the United States are not interrupted. In this process, the Department of Commerce repeatedly consulted with U.S. organizations affected by the European directive and interested non-government organizations.

On July 27, 2000, the European Commission issued its decision, in accordance with Article 25.6 of the Directive, that the Safe Harbor Privacy Principles provide adequate privacy protection. The safe harbor framework bridges the differences between the European Union (EU) and U.S. approaches to privacy protection. Under the safe harbor privacy framework, information is being collected in order to create a list of the organizations that have self-certified to the Principles.

Organizations that have signed up to this list are deemed "adequate" under the Directive and do not have to provide further documentation to European officials. This list will be used by European Union organizations to determine whether further information and contracts will be needed for a U.S. organization to receive personally identifiable information. The decision to enter the safe harbor is entirely voluntary. Organizations that decide to participate in the safe harbor must

comply with the safe harbor's requirements and publicly declare that they do so.

To be assured of safe harbor benefits, an organization needs to self certify annually to the Department of Commerce, in writing, that it agrees to adhere to the safe harbor's requirements, which includes elements such as notice, choice, access, and enforcement. It must also state in its published privacy policy statement that it adheres to the safe harbor.

This list will be used by European Union organizations to determine whether further information and contracts will be needed by a U.S. organization to receive personally identifiable information. It will be used by the European Data Protection Authorities to determine whether a company is providing "adequate" protection, and whether a company has requested to cooperate with the Data Protection Authority.

The list will also be accessed when there is a complaint logged in the EU against a U.S. organization, and used by the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Transportation to determine whether a company is part of the safe harbor. It will be accessed if a company is practicing "unfair and deceptive" practices and has misrepresented itself to the public. In addition, the list will be used by the Department of Commerce and the European Commission to determine if organizations are signing up to the list on a regular basis.

II. Method of Collection

The information collection form will be provided via the Internet at <http://www.export.gov/SafeHarbor> and by mail to requesting U.S. firms.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0625-0239.
Form Number: N/A.
Type of Review: Regular submission.
Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,500.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes—website; and 40 minutes—letter.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 550 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Costs to Public: \$19,0250.

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