

resulted in unanticipated costs associated with the environmental review process. While we understand applicants' concerns in this regard, because the NEPA analysis at times involves the discovery of unforeseen environmental impacts that require more analysis than originally contemplated, we see no way to set monetary limits or to accurately forecast total expenditures at the outset of the NEPA process, nor any practical way to further monitor costs throughout the process beyond SEA oversight. And we see no viable alternative to the use of third-party contractors to ensure a legally sufficient environmental review that is timely, given the Board's budget.

NEPA mandates a process rather than a result. In order to respond to new developments, SEA, as well as contractors working under SEA's supervision and applicants, must remain flexible and responsive. We understand that this process may introduce some undesired uncertainty and additional cost into the environmental review process, but NEPA has certain requirements, including thorough, accurate, and ultimately, legally defensible environmental analyses, and the current third-party contractor process is needed to meet those requirements in the most timely and efficient way possible.

We do not seek public comment on this policy statement because we do not propose a new rule or policy here. Rather, we are explaining the Board's existing policy regarding third-party contractors.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Decided: March 16, 2001.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Clyburn, and Commissioner Burkes.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 7, 2001.

The Department of the Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by

calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 18, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-1625.

Regulation Project Number: REG-105170-97 Final.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Credit for Increasing Research Activities.

Description: These final regulations related to the computation of the credit under section 41(c) and the definition of *qualified research* under section 41(d). These regulations are intended to provide (1) guidance concerning the requirements necessary to qualify for the credit for increasing research activities, (2) guidance in computing the credit for increasing research activities, and (3) rules for electing and revoking the election of the alternative incremental credit.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 12,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper: 1 hour, 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 18,250 hours.

Clearance Officer: Garrick Shear, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Departmental Reports, Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, 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)). Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Application For An Amended Federal Firearms License.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 18, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Linda Barnes, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Charles Bartlett, Chief, ATF National Licensing Center, 2600 Century Parkway, Suite 400, Atlanta, Georgia 30345, (404) 679-5007.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application For An Amended Federal Firearms License

OMB Number: 1512-0525.

Form Number: ATF F 5300.38.

Abstract: ATF F 5300.38 is used when a Federal firearms licensee makes application to change the location of the firearms business premises. The applicant must certify that the proposed new business premises will be in compliance with State and local law for that location, and forward a copy of the application to the chief law enforcement officer having jurisdiction over the new premises.

Current Actions: There are no changes to this information collection and it is being submitted for extension purposes only.

Type of Review: Extension.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 18,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 22,500.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the