

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT****[Docket No. FR-4739-N-07]****Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Statement of Taxes****AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting comments on the subject proposal.

**DATES:** May 24, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Office, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., L'Enfant Plaza Building, Room 8003, Washington, DC 20410.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Betty A. Belin, Systems Accountant, Office of Financial Services, 451 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 401-2168, extension 2807, (this is not a toll free number) for copies of the proposed forms and other available information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department is submitting the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Statement of Taxes.  
*OMB Control Number:* 2505-0418.

*Description of the need for the information and proposed use:* When a lender with an insured multifamily mortgage assigns a mortgage or conveys a property to HUD, the lender is required to submit all records and accounts relative to the mortgage to HUD. These provisions are spelled out in Statute 12 U.S.C. 1713(g); Title II, section 207(g) of the National Housing Act; and 24 CFR 207.258(b)(4). Included in the records is the Statement of Taxes. From this Statement, HUD updates its records of the mortgagor's real estate taxes, the location (lot and block numbers) of the property, taxes due dates, and penalty dates. During the claim audit for insurance benefits, this form is used to verify the last taxes paid.

*Agency form number:* HUD-434.

*Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:* The estimated number of respondents is 215, frequency of response is once per claim, the burden per response is estimated to be .50 hours, and the total estimated annual burden hours requested is 107.

*Status of the proposed information collection:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Authority:** The paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: March 19, 2002.

**John C. Weicher,**

*Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. 02-7127 Filed 3-22-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-27-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT****[Docket No. FR-4743-N-03]****Notice of Planned Closing of Topeka, Kansas Post-of-Duty Station****AGENCY:** Office of Inspector General, HUD.**ACTION:** Notice of planned closing of Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty station.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) is closing its Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty station, and also provides a cost-benefit analysis of the impact of the closure.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bryan Saddler, Counsel to the Inspector General, Room 8260, Department of

Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-1613. (This is not a toll free number.) A telecommunications device for hearing- and speech-impaired persons (TTY) is available at 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Information Relay Services). (This is a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

In 1998, HUD/OIG established a one-person post-of-duty station in Topeka, Kansas, to give direct support to the HUD/OIG's Operation Safe Home (OSH) initiative to combat violent and drug-related crime in public and assisted housing in Topeka and nearby communities. Although the Topeka post-of-duty station is only about 50 miles from HUD/OIG's Kansas City Regional Office, nationwide experience since the initiation of OSH in 1994 had proven that the best results/impact could be obtained when HUD/OIG Special Agents were physically located in the target city. However, in accordance with the requirements of the Fiscal Year 2002 HUD Appropriations Act (Public Law 107-73, approved November 26, 2001), HUD/OIG is terminating OSH and re-deploying staff to focus on investigations involving single-family fraud and property flipping. This change eliminates the need to maintain a separate post-of-duty station in Topeka, Kansas, and gives HUD/OIG the opportunity to generate cost savings associated with discontinuing an additional office.

Section 7(p) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(p)) provides that a plan for field reorganization, which may involve the closing of any field or regional office, of the Department of Housing and Urban Development may not take effect until 90 days after a cost-benefit analysis of the effect of the plan on the office in question is published in the **Federal Register**. The required cost-benefit analysis should include: (1) An estimate of cost savings anticipated; (2) an estimate of the additional cost which will result from the reorganization; (3) a discussion of the impact on the local economy; and (4) an estimate of the effect of the reorganization on the availability, accessibility, and quality of services provided for recipients of those services.

Legislative history pertaining to section 7(p) indicates that not all reorganizations are subject to the requirements of section 7(p). Congress stated that "[t]his amendment is not intended to [apply] to or restrict the internal operations or organization of the Department (such as the

establishment of new or combination of existing organization units within a field office, the duty stationing of employees in various locations to provide on-site service, or the establishment or closing, based on workload, of small, informal offices such as valuation stations)." (See House Conference Report No. 95-1792, October 14, 1978 at 105-106.)

The two-person duty station in Topeka, Kansas, is a single-purpose duty station, and the duty station is being closed based on workload rather than on a reorganization of HUD/OIG field offices. Although notice of the closing of a duty station is not subject to the requirement of section 7(p), as supported by legislative history, HUD/OIG nevertheless prepared a cost-benefit analysis for its own use in determining whether to proceed with the closing. Through this notice, HUD/OIG advises the public of the closing of the Topeka, Kansas duty station and provides the cost-benefit analysis of the impact of the closure.

#### **Impact of the Closure of the Topeka, Kansas Post-of-Duty Station**

HUD/OIG considered the costs and benefits of closing the Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty, and is publishing its cost-benefit analysis with this notice. In summary, HUD/OIG has determined that the closure will result in a cost savings, and, as a result of the size and limited function of the office, will cause no appreciable impact on the provision of authorized investigative services/activities in the area (*i.e.*, OSH activities, of course, will be impacted, but HUD/OIG has been directed to terminate these activities).

#### *Cost-Benefit Analysis*

**A. Cost Savings:** The Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty currently costs \$21,415 per year in lease and other expenses. Thus, closing the post-of-duty will result in an annual savings of at least \$21,415. In addition, by closing the office HUD/OIG will not be required to incur additional costs associated with current plans to install high-speed computer access lines to and on the premises, nor will HUD/OIG incur costs associated with the lease or purchase of duplicative office equipment.

**B. Additional Costs:** There are no offsetting expenses anticipated. The Special Agent assigned to the Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty will be reassigned to the Kansas City Regional Office, without need for relocation reimbursement. Further, there is adequate existing office space to accommodate the Special Agent within the Kansas City Regional Office.

**C. Impact on Local Economy:** The Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty office space comprises a mere 1,162 square feet of space, which can easily be released to other tenants. Thus, no appreciable impact on the local economy is anticipated.

**D. Effect on Availability, Accessibility and Quality of Services Provided to Recipients of Those Services:** The establishment of the Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty was based entirely on the needs of the HUD/OIG to have a Special Agent in closer proximity to OSH activities conducted in the Topeka area. These activities are being terminated. Further, as was the case prior to 1998, fraud investigations in the Topeka area can be cost effectively addressed by agents assigned to the Kansas City Regional Office, which is about 50 miles away.

For the reasons stated in this notice, HUD/OIG intends to proceed to close its Topeka, Kansas post-of-duty station at the expiration of the 90-day period from the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: March 15, 2002.

**Michael P. Stephens,**

*Deputy Inspector General.*

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**BILLING CODE 4210-78-P**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Receipt of a Permit Application (Rockledge) for Incidental Take of the Golden-Cheeked Warbler**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Rockledge, Inc. (Applicant) has applied for an incidental take permit (TE-051567-0) pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The requested permit would authorize the incidental take of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. The proposed take would occur as the result of the construction and occupation of a low-density residential development of 35 to 40 homesites on 53.5 acres of the 193.0-acre Russell Park Estates, Williamson County, Texas.

**DATES:** Written comments on the application should be received within 60 days of the date of this publication.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to

review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Scott Rowin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 am to 4:30 pm) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number TE-051537-0 when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Rowin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Office, (512) 490-0057.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the golden-cheeked warbler. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until at least 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

**Applicants:** Rockledge, Inc. plans to construct a low-density residential development of 35 to 40 homesites, within 30 years, on approximately 53.5 acres of the 193.0-acre Russell Park Estates, located approximately 0.25 miles south of the intersection of County Road 262 and Farm to Market 3405, Williamson County, Texas. This action will eliminate up to 53.5 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat. In addition, the vulnerability of another approximately 34.4 acres of warbler habitat may be reduced as a result of indirect effects associated with the development. The Applicant has made every effort to minimize and/or avoid impacts to the Bone Cave harvestman and believes the proposed action will not impact the harvestman. No take for this species is being requested or would be granted by issuance of this permit. The Applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of the golden-cheeked warbler by preserving