

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 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: Description of Materials.

OMB Control Number, if applicable: 2502-0192.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: This information collection provides information on the materials used and assembly required for new single family home construction and improvements. HUD-FHA uses this information to estimate the value of the homes and compute the maximum mortgage amount for FHA insurance.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: HUD-92005.

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 2,500, frequency of responses is 20, the total annual responses are 50,000, and the estimated annual burden hours requested is 25,000.

Status of the proposed information collection: The extension of currently approved collection.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C., chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 6, 2004.

John C. Weicher,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 04-512 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4907-N-04]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Request for Final Endorsement of Credit Instrument

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing, 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 public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments due date: March 12, 2004.

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 Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 471 7th Street, SW., L'Enfant Plaza Building, Room 8003, Washington, DC 20410 or Wayne_Eddins@hud.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael McCullough, Director, Office of Multifamily Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-1142 (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: Request for Final Endorsement of Credit Instrument.

OMB Control Number, if applicable: 2502-0016.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: Form HUD-92023 is used to request final endorsement of the credit instrument by the Department. It is completed by the mortgagee to indicate the schedule of advances made on the project and the final advance to be disbursed immediately upon final endorsement. The reverse side of the form provides for certifications by the mortgagor and the general contractor that there will not be any outstanding unpaid obligations following receipt of the final advance of mortgage proceeds, except such obligations as may be approved by the Commissioner as to term, form and amount.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: HUD-92023.

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 465, frequency of responses is 1, and the total number of annual burden hours requested is 465.

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

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: December 31, 2003.

Margaret Young,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Finance and Budget.

[FR Doc. 04-513 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4513-N-14]

Credit Watch Termination Initiative

AGENCY: Office of Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises of the cause and effect of termination of Origination Approval Agreements taken by HUD's Federal Housing Administration against HUD-approved mortgagees through its Credit Watch Termination Initiative. This notice

includes a list of mortgagees which have had their Origination Approval Agreements (Agreements) terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Quality Assurance Division, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh St., SW., Room B133-P3214, Washington, DC 20410-8000; telephone (202) 708-2830 (this is not a toll free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access that number through TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: HUD has the authority to address deficiencies in the performance of lenders' loans as provided in the HUD mortgagee approval regulations at 24 CFR 202.3. On May 17, 1999 (64 FR 26769), HUD published a notice on its procedures for terminating origination approval agreements with FHA lenders and placement of FHA lenders on Credit Watch status (an evaluation period). In the May 17, 1999 notice, HUD advised that it would publish in the **Federal Register** a list of mortgagees which have had their Origination Approval Agreements terminated.

Termination of Origination Approval Agreement: Approval of a mortgagee by HUD/FHA to participate in FHA mortgage insurance programs includes an Agreement between HUD and the mortgagee. Under the Agreement, the mortgagee is authorized to originate single-family mortgage loans and submit them to FHA for insurance endorsement. The Agreement may be terminated on the basis of poor performance of FHA-insured mortgage loans originated by the mortgagee. The Termination of a mortgagee's Agreement is separate and apart from any action taken by HUD's Mortgagee Review

Board under HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 25.

Cause: HUD's regulations permit HUD to terminate the Agreement with any mortgagee having a default and claim rate for loans endorsed within the preceding 24 months that exceeds 200 percent of the default and claim rate within the geographic area served by a HUD field office, and also exceeds the national default and claim rate. For the sixteenth review period, HUD is only terminating the Agreement of mortgagees whose default and claim rate exceeds both the national rate and 225 percent of the field office rate.

Effect: Termination of the Agreement precludes a branch or branches of the mortgagee from originating FHA-insured single family mortgages within the area of the HUD field office(s) listed in this notice. Mortgagees authorized to purchase, hold, or service FHA insured mortgages may continue to do so.

Loans that closed or were approved before the Termination became effective may be submitted for insurance endorsement. Approved loans are (1) those already underwritten and approved by a Direct Endorsement (DE) underwriter employed by an unconditionally approved DE lender and (2) cases covered by a firm commitment issued by HUD. Cases at earlier stages of processing cannot be submitted for insurance by the terminated branch; however, they may be transferred for completion of processing and underwriting to another mortgagee or branch authorized to originate FHA insured mortgages in that area. Mortgagees are obligated to continue to pay existing insurance premiums and meet all other obligations associated with insured mortgages.

A terminated mortgagee may apply for a new Origination Approval Agreement

if the mortgagee continues to be an approved mortgagee meeting the requirements of 24 CFR 202.5, 202.6, 202.7, 202.8 or 202.10 and 202.12, if there has been no Origination Approval Agreement for at least six months, and if the Secretary determines that the underlying causes for termination have been remedied. To enable the Secretary to ascertain whether the underlying causes for termination have been remedied, a mortgagee applying for a new Origination Approval Agreement must obtain an independent review of the terminated office's operations as well as its mortgage production, specifically including the FHA-insured mortgages cited in its termination notice. This independent analysis shall identify the underlying cause for the mortgagee's high default and claim rate. The review must be conducted and issued by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) qualified to perform audits under Government Auditing Standards as set forth by the General Accounting Office. The mortgagee must also submit a written corrective action plan to address each of the issues identified in the CPA's report, along with evidence that the plan has been implemented. The application for a new Agreement should be in the form of a letter, accompanied by the CPA's report and corrective action plan. The request should be sent to the Director, Office of Lender Activities and Program Compliance, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room B133-P3214, Washington, DC 20410 or by courier to 490 L'Enfant Plaza, East, SW., Suite 214, Washington, DC 20024.

Action: The following mortgagees have had their Agreements terminated by HUD:

Mortgagee name	Mortgagee branch address	HUD office jurisdictions	Termination effective date	Home ownership centers
Ace Mortgage Funding Inc.	777 Beachway Drive, Ste 300, Indianapolis, IN 46224.	Indianapolis, IN	9/18/2003	Atlanta.
All American Home Mortgage Corp.	300 Garden City Plaza, 226 Garden City, NY 11530.	New York, NY	9/18/2003	Philadelphia.
Central Bank for Savings.	240 Eisenhower Drive, Biloxi, MS 39535	Jackson, MS	9/18/2003	Atlanta.
CTX Mortgage Company.	3701 Grand Ave., Ste E, Gurnee, IL 60031	Springfield, IL	9/23/2003	Atlanta.
De Oro Inc.	1455 South Stapley, Ste 2, Mesa, AZ 85204	Phoenix, AZ	9/18/2003	Santa Ana.
International Home Capital Corp.	2835 South Jones Blvd., Ste 3, Las Vegas, NV 89146.	Las Vegas, NV	8/5/2003	Santa Ana.
Major Mortgage Corp	18951 W 12 Mile, Lathrup Village, MI 48076	Detroit, MI	9/18/2003	Philadelphia.
Mid America Mortgage ..	7907 W Cermak Road, North Riverside, IL 60546.	Chicago, IL	9/18/2003	Atlanta.
Mortgagestream Financial Services.	8758 Wolf Ct., Ste 203, Westminster, CO 80031.	Denver, CO	9/23/2003	Denver.
Suburban Mortgage, Inc	7400 E Caley Ave., Ste 210, Denver, CO 80111.	Denver, CO	9/18/2003	Denver.
Transland Financial Service, Inc.	2738 N. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 ..	Nashville, TN	9/18/2003	Atlanta.

Mortgagee name	Mortgagee branch address	HUD office jurisdictions	Termination effective date	Home ownership centers
Transland Financial Service, Inc.	311 Germantown Bend Cove, Cordova, TN 38018.	Memphis, TN	9/18/2003	Atlanta.
Trust America Mortgage, Inc.	2503 Del Prado Blvd., Ste 505, Cape Coral, FL 33904.	Coral Gables, FL	9/18/2003	Atlanta.
Union Planters Bank, NA.	5201 California Ave., #370, Bakersfield, CA 93309.	Fresno, CA	9/18/2003	Santa Ana.
United Mortgage Investors, Inc.	4290 Memorial Dr., Ste C, Decatur, GA 30032	Atlanta, GA	9/18/2003	Atlanta.

Dated: December 21, 2003.

Margaret Young,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Finance and Budget.

[FR Doc. 04-509 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuges

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Big Branch Marsh Wildlife Refuge, located in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), to achieve the following:

- (1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will be used to inform the public and state and local government agencies of the opportunities for input throughout the planning process. Open house style meetings and focus group meetings also will be held throughout the scoping phase of the comprehensive conservation plan development process. In addition, the Service will be inviting comments on archaeological, historic, and traditional cultural sites in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments on or before February 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to Barbara Boyle, Deputy Project Leader, Southeast Louisiana Refuges, 61389 Highway 434, Lacombe, Louisiana 70445. Additional information concerning this refuge may be found on the Fish and Wildlife Services's Internet site at <http://www.fws.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. This plan guides management decisions and identifies the goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including wildlife and habitat management, habitat protection and acquisition, wilderness preservation, public recreational activities, industrial use, and cultural resource preservation. Public input into this planning process is essential.

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1994, is one of seven refuges administered by the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and is managed primarily to provide habitat for a natural diversity of wildlife associated with Big Branch Marsh. Refuge objectives are to provide wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl; habitat for non-game migratory birds; habitat for threatened and endangered species; nesting habitat for wood ducks; and, to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, and environmental education and interpretation—whenever compatible with the purposes of the refuge.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deputy Project Leader, Southeast Louisiana Refuges, telephone: 985/882-2000; fax: 985/882-9133; e-mail: barbara_boyle@fws.gov; or mail (write to

the Deputy Project Leader at address in **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105-57.

Dated: December 5, 2003.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 04-544 Filed 1-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Change in Administrative Jurisdiction of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice clarifies that jurisdiction and control of submerged lands and marine waters at and surrounding Midway Atoll, located in the Pacific Ocean, are the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based on an agreement with the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Eric Alvarez, Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Telephone (703) 358-1713.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This gives public notice of the transfer of jurisdiction and control of marine waters at and surrounding Midway Atoll from the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs (both within the Department of the Interior) transferred the management of submerged lands and waters associated with Midway Atoll to the Fish and Wildlife Service on March 26, 2003. Upon execution of the MOU, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assumed