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FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 2004–N–01]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) is seeking public comments concerning a three-year extension by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the information collection entitled “Members of the Banks.”

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on or before April 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments by e-mail to comments@fhfb.gov, by facsimile to (202) 408–2580, or by regular mail to the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan F. Curtis, Senior Financial Analyst, Regulations & Research Division, Office of Supervision, by e-mail at curtis@fhfb.gov, by telephone at (202) 408–2866, or by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Need for and Use of the Information Collection

Section 4 of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) establishes the eligibility requirements an institution must meet in order to become a member of a Federal Home Loan Bank (Bank). See 12 U.S.C. 1424. Part 925 of the Finance Board regulations—the membership rule—implements section 4 of the Bank Act. See 12 CFR part 925. The membership rule provides uniform requirements an applicant for Bank membership must meet, and review criteria a Bank must apply to determine if an applicant satisfies the statutory and regulatory membership eligibility requirements.

More specifically, the membership rule implements the statutory eligibility requirements and provides guidance to an applicant on how it may satisfy such requirements. The rule authorizes a Bank to approve or deny each membership application subject to the statutory and regulatory requirements and permits an applicant to appeal to the Finance Board a Bank’s decision to deny certification as a Bank member. The rule also imposes a continuing obligation on a current Bank member to provide information necessary to determine if it remains in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory eligibility requirements.

The information collection, which is contained in sections 925.2 through 925.31 of the membership rule, 12 CFR 925.2–925.31, is necessary to enable a Bank to determine if a respondent satisfies the statutory and regulatory requirements to be certified initially and maintain its status as a member eligible to obtain Bank advances. The Finance Board requires and uses the information collection to determine whether to uphold or overrule a Bank’s decision to deny member certification to an applicant.

The OMB number for the information collection is 3069–0004. The OMB clearance for the information collection expires on May 31, 2004.

The likely respondents are institutions that want to be certified as or are members of a Bank.

B. Burden Estimate

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of applicants at 300, with one response per applicant. The estimate for the average hours per application is 21.5 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for applicants is 6,450 hours (300 applicants × 1 response per applicant × 21.5 hours per response).

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of maintenance respondents, i.e., current Bank members, at 8,100, with one response per member. The estimate for the average hours per maintenance response is 0.6 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for Bank members is 4,860 hours (8,100 members × 1 response per member × 0.6 hours per response).

The estimate for the total annual hour burden for all respondents is 11,310 hours.

C. Comment Request

The Finance Board requests written comments on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of Finance Board functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Finance Board’s estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.


By the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Don Demitros,
Chief Information Officer.

BILLING CODE 6725–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHCA Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225) to engage de novo, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated.