

public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before December 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0027, Value Engineering Requirements, in all correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** Cecelia Davis, Contract Policy Division, GSA, (202) 219-0202.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Purpose**

Value engineering is the technique by which contractors (1) voluntarily suggest methods for performing more economically and share in any resulting savings or (2) are required to establish a program to identify and submit to the Government methods for performing more economically. These recommendations are submitted to the Government as value engineering change proposals (VECP's) and they must include specific information. This information is needed to enable the Government to evaluate the VECP and, if accepted, to arrange for an equitable sharing plan.

**B. Annual Reporting Burden**

*Respondents:* 400.  
*Responses Per Respondent:* 4.  
*Total Responses:* 1,600.  
*Hours Per Response:* 30.  
*Total Burden Hours:* 48,000.  
*Obtaining Copies of Proposals:*

Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501-4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0027, Value Engineering Requirements, in all correspondence.

Dated: November 19, 2004.

**Laura Auletta,**

*Director, Contract Policy Division.*

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BILLING CODE 6820-EP-S

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**GENERAL SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0113]

**Federal Acquisition Regulation;  
Submission for OMB Review;  
Acquisition of Helium**

**AGENCIES:** Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0113).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning acquisition of helium. A request for public comments was published at 69 FR 54655 on September 9, 2004. No comments were received.

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the FAR, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before December 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments regarding this burden or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0113, Acquisition of Helium, in all correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** Linda Nelson, Contract Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-1900.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Purpose**

The Helium Act (Pub. L. 86-777) (50 U.S.C. 167a, *et seq.*) and the Department of the Interior's implementing regulations (30 CFR parts 601 and 602) require Federal agencies to procure all major helium requirements from the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

The FAR requires offerors responding to contract solicitations to provide information as to their forecast of helium required for performance of the contract. Such information will facilitate enforcement of the requirements of the Helium Act and the contractual provisions requiring the use of Government helium by agency contractors, in that it will permit corrective action to be taken if the Bureau of Land Management, after comparing helium sales data against helium requirement forecasts, discovers apparent serious discrepancies.

The information is used in administration of certain Federal contracts to ensure contractor compliance with contract clauses. Without the information, the required use of Government helium cannot be monitored and enforced effectively.

**B. Annual Reporting Burden**

*Respondents:* 26.  
*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.  
*Total Responses:* 26.  
*Hours Per Response:* 1.  
*Total Burden Hours:* 26.

*Obtaining Copies of Proposals:*

Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VR), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501-4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0113, Acquisition of Helium, in all correspondence.

Dated: November 19, 2004.

**Laura Auletta,**

*Director, Contract Policy Division.*

[FR Doc. 04-26277 Filed 11-26-04; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Army; Corps of  
Engineers**

**Intent To Prepare an Integrated  
Feasibility Report/Environmental  
Impact Statement—James River  
Feasibility Study, South Dakota**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared and incorporated into the James River, South Dakota Feasibility Study once alternative actions are identified that meet the project objectives described below. The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) is the non-Federal sponsor for this study. The JRWDD encompasses portions of Brown, Marshall, Spink, Davison, Yankton, Beadle, Sanborn, Hutchinson and Hanson Counties in South Dakota.

Based on the authorizing legislation and previous studies, this Feasibility Study will address the need for enhancement of ecological resources and ecosystem management and flood damage reduction, both independently and in combination. The study will evaluate pertinent information and identify problems and opportunities that exist in the study area. Various alternatives (*i.e.*, potential projects) will be evaluated to determine whether or not they are technically feasible and economically cost effective or economically justified depending on their purpose (*e.g.*, ecosystem enhancement/restoration and/or flood damage reduction).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information on the NEPA process, or to be added to the mailing list, contact Eric Laux, CENWO-PM-AE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 106 South 15th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, telephone at (402) 221-7186, or Fax (402) 221-4886. For additional information on the Feasibility Study, contact Richard Taylor, CENWO-PM-AP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 106 South 15th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, telephone (402) 221-3772, or Fax (402) 221-4890.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** a. This Feasibility Study is authorized under Section 401(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. The Federal objective of water and related land resources planning is to contribute to national economic development consistent with protecting the nation's environment in accordance with national environmental statutes, applicable executive orders, and other Federal planning requirements.

b. The study area consists of the portion of the James River and adjacent areas that are located in eastern South Dakota. The James River flows generally southward for a distance of 747 river miles, 474 miles of which lie in the study area. This river has the flattest gradient of any river of its length in

North America, falling only about 135 feet along its South Dakota course. The James River basin occupies a total of 22,000 square miles, of which 14,000 square miles lie in South Dakota. The basin in South Dakota is bounded by the Missouri River drainage to the west and the Big Sioux and Vermillion River basins to the east and southeast. The Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge is located at the upper end of the study area. Land use in the basin is primarily agriculture and the larger communities located in the study area include Mitchell, Huron, and Aberdeen.

c. The intention of this Feasibility Study and EIS is to formulate and evaluate alternatives that help to restore or enhance ecological function and habitat and/or ameliorate flooding problems along the James River. Factors such as sediment deposits from tributaries, log jams, encroachment of vegetation into the channel, inadequate bridge capacity, low head dams in the channel, and the flat slope and meandering nature of the river are contributors to the flooding problems exhibited by the river. In 2000, the Corps completed a reconnaissance study evaluating potential solutions to limit flooding along the James River and to identify where flood control storage could supplement instream flows for fish and wildlife habitat. No structural flood control projects were found to be feasible. However, the study recommended future local study efforts focusing on long-term management and protection of the two- to five-year flood plain with emphasis on removing local channel obstructions. In addition, the report identified numerous opportunities to pursue environmental restoration projects that would also help alleviate agricultural flood damages.

d. Scoping and agency meetings will be held for this project. A public notice will be widely distributed inviting public participation in the scoping process. This process will be the key to preparing a concise EIS and clarifying the significant issues to be analyzed in depth. Public concerns on issues, studies needed, alternatives to be examined, procedures and other related matters will be addressed during scoping. Scoping meetings are tentatively planned to be held at Aberdeen, Huron, Mitchell and Yankton, South Dakota in the middle part of December. Upon setting exact locations, dates, and times for the meetings, the specific locations of the meetings will be provided in news releases and posted on the Omaha District Corps of Engineers and James River Water Development District Web-sites. The web addresses for the sites are

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/pa/pahm/hottopics.htm> and <http://www.jrwdd.com>.

e. The estimated date when a Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available for public review is September 2006.

**Candace M. Gorton,**

*Chief, Environmental, Economics, and Cultural Resources Section, Planning Branch.*  
[FR Doc. 04-26262 Filed 11-26-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Regional Dredged Material Management Plan for San Francisco Bay and Estuary, CA

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Francisco Bay and Estuary Regional Dredged Material Management Plan (Regional DMMP). The Regional DMMP will identify specific measures to manage the dredged material from maintenance and construction dredging at Federal navigation projects over the next twenty years. The Corps will take into consideration the dredged sediment from non-Federal, permitted dredging projects with the Bay and Estuary in formulating the Regional DMMP to the extent that disposal of the material affects the capacity and availability of disposal options required for Federal projects.

**DATES:** A scoping meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2004 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be at the Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA (510) 464-7700. TDD/TTY is (510) 464-7769. Public transit access includes BART (Lake Merritt Station on Fremont Line), AC Transit and Amtrak.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the proposed action and Environmental Impact Statement should be directed to Mr. Richard Stradford, either at (415) 977-8669 or [richard.a.stradford@spd02.usace.army.mil](mailto:richard.a.stradford@spd02.usace.army.mil). Written correspondence should be sent to Mr. Stradford, U.S. Army Corps of