

The technical specifications for the proposed wastewater treatment facility states: “[t]he Contractor shall furnish, install and field test a complete rotary press sludge dewatering system.” According to the District, the only rotary press sludge dewatering unit that meets that above described technical specifications is not manufactured in the United States. As a result, the District requested a waiver of the ARRA Buy American provisions on the basis of nonavailability of a U.S. manufactured product that will meet the design and performance criteria specified for this rotary press sludge dewatering unit.

II. Nonavailability Finding

The Secretary has determined that, based on the information available, and to the best of USDA’s knowledge, there do not appear to be other rotary press sludge dewatering units manufactured in the United States that are available at this time to meet the District’s design specifications and performance requirements for this project.

The evaluation by USDA’s technical review team and engineers supports the District’s claim that a suitable rotary press sludge dewatering unit which meets the specifications for this project is not available in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality that is manufactured in the United States. USDA’s technical review team and engineers reviewed a memorandum submitted by the District describing the foreign equipment that fits the technical specifications for the rotary press sludge dewatering unit and the process the District followed in adopting the rotary press design. USDA’s technical review team and engineers conducted a nationwide review of equipment vendors, manufacturers’ representatives, and associated resources typically relied on by engineers who design wastewater treatment facilities. The purpose of USDA’s review process was to determine whether there were any sludge dewatering rotary presses manufactured in the United States that meet the District’s design specifications and performance requirements. In addition, USDA’s technical review team and engineers interviewed the District’s design engineer and sales engineers for a United States manufacturer that produced a dewatering rotary press. It was determined that the one domestically manufactured rotary press located by USDA engineers was not suitable for the District’s performance requirements. As a result of its review, to the best of the USDA’s knowledge there are no sludge dewatering presses manufactured in the United States that

meet the District’s design specifications and performance requirements for the District’s wastewater treatment plant.

The Rural Development Buy American Coordinator has reviewed this waiver request and has determined that the supporting documentation provided by the District established a proper basis that the manufactured good was not available from a producer in the United States able to meet the design specifications and performance requirements for the proposed project.

III. Waiver

Having established a proper basis that this manufactured good was not available from a producer in the United States, the District is hereby granted a waiver from the Buy American requirements of Section 1605(a) of Public Law 111–5. This waiver permits use of ARRA funds for the purchase of the specified Fournier Industries 6 channel rotary press sludge dewatering unit documented in District’s waiver request submittal dated October 7, 2009 as part of its wastewater treatment plant improvements. This supplementary information constitutes the detailed written justification required by Section 1605(c) for waivers “based on a finding under subsection (b).”

Authority: Public Law 111–5, section 1605.

Thomas J. Vilsack,

Secretary, United States of America.

[FR Doc. 2010–2217 Filed 2–2–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Report of Building or Zoning Permits Issued for New Privately-Owned Housing Units.

OMB Control Number: 0607–0094.

Form Number(s): C–404.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden Hours: 17,539.

Number of Respondents: 19,375.

Average Hours per Response: 9 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Census Bureau is requesting a three-year extension of a currently approved collection of the Form C–404, otherwise known as the

Building Permits Survey (BPS), with minor revisions to the data collection form.

The Census Bureau produces statistics used to monitor activity in the large and dynamic construction industry. Given the importance of this industry, several of the statistical series are key economic indicators. Three such series are dependent on the BPS: (1) Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits, (2) Housing Starts, and (3) New One-Family Houses Sold. These statistics help state, local, and federal governments, as well as private industry, analyze this important sector of the economy. The building permit series are available monthly based on a sample of building permit offices, and annually based on the entire universe of permit offices. Published data from the survey can be found on the Census Bureau’s Web site at <http://www.census.gov/permits>.

The Census Bureau collects these data primarily by mail using the Form C–404. Data are also collected via Internet web pages and receipt of electronic files. Form C–404 requests information on the number and valuation of new residential housing units authorized by building permits. The current form is titled “Report of New Privately-Owned Residential Building or Zoning Permits Issued”. We plan to change the title to “Report of Building or Zoning Permits Issued for New Privately-Owned Housing Units” to clarify the data being requested.

The proposed form includes several minor changes to the version of Form C–404 currently in use. Item 2 of the current form instructs respondents to provide details about geographic coverage changes in the Comments section; on the proposed new form, there are spaces in Item 2 itself to enter the same information. The checkboxes in Item 3a were revised for clarity, and Item 3f (the total of Items 3b–3e) was removed because we determined that respondents need not calculate these totals. The limit on the dollar valuation of permits which require additional information in Item 4 was adjusted for inflation. Other minor improvements were made to the format and layout of the form. The instructions on the back of the form were also modified to improve their clarity and completeness. These changes to the form will not have a measurable effect on respondent burden.

The Census Bureau uses the Form C–404 to collect data that will provide estimates of the number and valuation of new residential housing units authorized by building permits. About one-half of the permit offices are

requested to report monthly. The remainder is surveyed once per year. We use the data, a component of the index of leading economic indicators, to estimate the number of housing units started, completed, and sold (single-family only). The Census Bureau also uses these data to select samples for its demographic surveys. In addition, the Census Bureau uses the detailed geographic data in the development of annual population estimates which are used by government agencies to allocate funding and other resources to local areas. Policymakers, planners, businessmen/women, and others use the detailed geographic data to monitor growth and plan for local services, and to develop production and marketing plans. The BPS is the only source of statistics on residential construction for states and smaller geographic areas.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal governments.

Frequency: Monthly and annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Brian Harris-Kojetin, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (bharrisk@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: January 29, 2010.

Glenna Mickelson,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2010-2224 Filed 2-2-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Foreign Fishing Vessels Operating in Internal Waters

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, 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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 5, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Mi Ae Kim, (301) 713-9090 or Mi.Ae.Kim@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Foreign fishing vessels, granted permission by a governor of a State to engage in fish processing within the internal waters of that State, are required to report the tonnage and location of fish received from vessels of the United States. Fish processing includes, in addition to processing, other activity relating to fishing such as preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, or transportation. This reporting is required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Weekly reports are submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Administrator to allow monitoring of fish received by foreign vessels.

II. Method of Collection

Reports may be submitted by fax or e-mail.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0329.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes per weekly response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 36.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to

Public: \$216.00 in reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have

practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2010-2202 Filed 2-2-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 0911041393-0040-02]

NOAA Cooperative Institutes (CIs): (1) A CI To Support NOAA Research Facilities in the Pacific Northwest, (2) A CI for Southwestern U.S. Marine Ecosystems, Climate and Ocean Studies, and (3) A Southeastern Regional CI for Atmospheric and Marine Studies

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; extension of application deadlines dates.

SUMMARY: On November 13, 2009, the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) published a notice of availability of funds to establish three new NOAA cooperative institutes (CIs): (1) A CI To Support NOAA Research Facilities in the Pacific Northwest, (2) A CI for Southwestern U.S. Marine Ecosystems, Climate and Ocean Studies, and (3) A Southeastern Regional CI for Atmospheric and Marine Studies. OAR publishes this notice to announce an extension to the application solicitation period. The date when applications must be received at NOAA is being extended from February 10, 2010 until February 12, 2010.

DATES: Proposals must be received no later than February 12, 2010, 5 p.m.,