

quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) inclusion of iron, steel, and the relevant manufactured goods produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

When a recipient or sub-recipient has used foreign iron, steel, and/or manufactured goods for an ARRA project without authorization, as is the case here, OMB's regulation at 2 CFR 176.130 directs EPA to take appropriate action, which may include processing a determination concerning the inapplicability of Section 1605 of ARRA in accordance with 2 CFR 176.120.

Consistent with the direction of 2 CFR 176.120, EPA will generally consider a waiver request made after obligating ARRA funds for a project to be a "late" request. However, in this case EPA has determined that the City's request, though made after the date the contract was signed and after use of the foreign pipe fitting, can be evaluated as timely because the City could not reasonably have foreseen the need for such a determination until after initiating the work. Accordingly, EPA will evaluate the request as if it were timely.

The City is requesting a waiver of the Buy American provision for a 30-inch diameter pipe fitting that was manufactured in China which replaced an existing 30-inch diameter cement lined ductile iron fitting on a finished water line at the Lowell Water Treatment facility. According to the City's design engineer, the existing 30-inch diameter pipe fitting had been leaking for some time at the threaded connection with a 2-inch air release valve. The original intent of the City was to remove the air release valve, clean the threads, perform the necessary repairs, and re-install the existing 30-inch fitting. However, in the event of a possible break in the pipe delivery system or if the existing fitting failed during the repair work, a new 30-inch diameter pipe fitting had to be on-site on an emergency standby basis. As a result, the City explored having a 30-inch diameter pipe fitting on-site before they could start any additional repair work.

During the week of May 3rd, 2010, the City was informed by three suppliers/vendors that a 30-inch diameter domestic pipe fitting would not be available on an emergency standby basis unless the City purchased it outright. Based on information provided by the City's consulting engineer, due to the large size of the fitting, vendors would only make their imported 30-inch tee pipe fittings available on standby status, but not their domestic pipe fittings. As a result, no domestic-made fittings of

that size were available for stand-by in an emergency situation that would meet technical specifications. The City could not find a supplier/vendor that would promise right of first refusal on a domestic manufactured pipe fitting without purchasing it in full. None of the available vendors would allow the City the opportunity to return a 30-inch diameter domestic pipe fitting, if the City had decided on not installing it.

The City decided to order a 30-inch diameter foreign manufactured pipe fitting (made in China at a cost to the City of Lowell of \$4,000) to have it available on an emergency standby basis to minimize plant shutdown and any disruption of water service delivery, in the event total replacement became necessary or if the pipe delivery system failed. The City had planned to repair and re-install the existing pipe fitting, but once the repair work had begun, it was determined that complete replacement was the proper approach to take. During the week of June 14th, the new foreign manufactured 30-inch diameter pipe fitting was installed. Fortunately, and more importantly, no disruption of water transmission service took place due to proper planning. The City then made the request to the EPA for a waiver on June 18, 2010, immediately after the emergency replacement work took place and it could not reasonably foresee the need for such a determination until after initiating the repair work and determining that a complete replacement of the pipe fitting was the proper course of action.

Furthermore, the purpose of the ARRA is to stimulate economic recovery by funding current infrastructure construction, not to delay or require the substantial redesign of projects that are "shovel ready," such as this project at the Lowell Water Treatment Plant. The imposition of ARRA Buy American requirements in this case would have likely resulted in unreasonable additional cost for this project and delay in its completion. Such delay would also directly conflict with a fundamental economic purpose of ARRA, which is to create or retain jobs. More importantly, the imposition could have resulted in a risk to public health had water service been interrupted for any extended period of time.

The Municipal Assistance Unit (CMU) has reviewed this waiver request and has determined that the supporting documentation provided by the City's design engineer established a proper basis to specify that using the domestic manufactured good would be inconsistent with the public interest of the City of Lowell. The information

provided is sufficient to meet the following criteria listed under Section 1605(b)(1) of the ARRA and in the April 28, 2009 Memorandum: Applying these requirements would be inconsistent with the public interest.

The March 31, 2009 Delegation of Authority Memorandum provided Regional Administrators with the temporary authority to issue exceptions to Section 1605 of the ARRA within the geographic boundaries of their respective regions and with respect to requests by individual grant recipients.

Having established both a proper basis to specify the particular good required for this project and that using a domestically available alternative manufactured good would be inconsistent with the public interest, the City of Lowell, Massachusetts 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 a foreign manufactured 30-inch diameter pipe fitting documented in the City's waiver request submittal dated June 18, 2010. 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.

Dated: September 15, 2010.

**Ira W. Leighton,**  
*Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region 1—New England.*

[FR Doc. 2010-23988 Filed 9-23-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-9205-5]

### **Science Advisory Board Staff Office Request for Nominations of Experts for the Review of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is requesting public nominations for technical experts to form an SAB panel to review the interagency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Action Plan which describes restoration priorities, goals, objectives, measurable ecological targets, and specific actions.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted by October 15, 2010 per instructions below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Notice and Request for Nominations may contact Ms. Iris Goodman, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), SAB Staff Office, by telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-2164, by fax at (202) 565-2098, or via e-mail at [goodman.iris@epa.gov](mailto:goodman.iris@epa.gov). General information concerning the EPA Science Advisory Board can be found at the EPA SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background:** The SAB (42 U.S.C. 4365) is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee that provides independent scientific and technical peer review, advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical basis for EPA actions. As a Federal Advisory Committee, the SAB conducts business in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App. 2) and related regulations. The SAB will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

EPA is leading an interagency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to protect and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes. The GLRI is designed to target the most significant environmental problems in the region, as documented in extensive scientific studies and by stakeholder review. To guide the efforts of the GLRI, EPA and its Federal partners, through the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, developed a comprehensive multi-year Action Plan. The GLRI Action Plan identifies outcome-oriented performance goals, objectives, measurable ecological targets, and specific actions for five major focus areas: toxic substances and areas of concern; invasive species; near-shore health and nonpoint source pollution; habitat and wildlife protection and restoration; and accountability, education, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and partnerships.

The EPA Great Lakes National Program Manager has requested the SAB to review the GLRI Action Plan to assess the appropriateness of its measures and actions to achieve its stated priorities and goals. The SAB Staff Office will form an expert panel to review the Plan and its targeted priorities.

**Request for Nominations:** The SAB Staff Office is seeking nominations of nationally and internationally recognized scientists and engineers with demonstrated expertise and research or management experience in one or more of the following areas: Limnology,

landscape ecology, restoration ecology, ecotoxicology, population biology, aquatic biology, fisheries and wildlife management, invasive species, water chemistry, environmental engineering, environmental monitoring, and environmental assessment. We are particularly interested in scientists and engineers with direct experience in the design, management, and implementation of environmental protection and restoration programs that have included development of metrics and environmental indicators used to monitor, evaluate, and communicate restoration progress.

**Availability of the review materials:** The GLRI Action Plan is available on the Great Lakes National Program Office Web site [http://greatlakesrestoration.us/?page\\_id=24](http://greatlakesrestoration.us/?page_id=24) and at the SAB Web site <http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabpeople.nsf/WebCommittees/BOARD>. For questions concerning the GLRI, please contact Paul Horvatin, Chief, Monitoring Indicators and Reporting Branch, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, 77 West Jackson Boulevard (G-17J), Chicago, Illinois 60604, phone (312) 353-3612; fax (312) 385-5456, or at [horvatin.paul@epa.gov](mailto:horvatin.paul@epa.gov).

**Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations:** Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals in the areas of expertise described above for possible service on this expert Panel. Nominations should be submitted in electronic format (which is preferred over hard copy) following the instructions for "Nominating Experts to Advisory Panels and Ad Hoc Committees Being Formed" provided on the SAB Web site. The instructions can be accessed through the "Nomination of Experts" link on the blue navigational bar on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>. To receive full consideration, nominations should include all of the information requested below.

EPA's SAB Staff Office requests contact information about the person making the nomination; contact information about the nominee; the disciplinary and specific areas of expertise of the nominee; the nominee's curriculum vita; sources of recent grant and/or contract support; and a biographical sketch of the nominee indicating current position, educational background, research activities, and recent service on other national advisory committees or national professional organizations.

Persons having questions about the nomination procedures, or who are unable to submit nominations through the SAB Web site, should contact Ms. Iris Goodman, DFO, as indicated above

in this notice. Nominations should be submitted in time to arrive no later than October 15, 2010. EPA values and welcomes diversity. In an effort to obtain nominations of diverse candidates, EPA encourages nominations of women and men of all racial and ethnic groups.

The EPA SAB Staff Office will acknowledge receipt of nominations. The names and bio-sketches of qualified nominees identified by respondents to this Federal Register notice, and additional experts identified by the SAB Staff, will be posted in a List of Candidates on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>. Public comments on this List of Candidates will be accepted for 21 calendar days. The public will be requested to provide relevant information or other documentation on nominees that the SAB Staff Office should consider in evaluating candidates.

For the EPA SAB Staff Office, a review panel includes candidates who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the charge. In forming this expert panel, the SAB Staff Office will consider public comments on the List of Candidates, information provided by the candidates themselves, and background information independently gathered by the SAB Staff Office. Selection criteria to be used for Panel membership include: (a) Scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) availability and willingness to serve; (c) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (d) absence of an appearance of a lack of impartiality; and (e) skills working in committees, subcommittees and advisory panels; and, for the Panel as a whole, (f) diversity of expertise and viewpoints.

The SAB Staff Office's evaluation of an absence of financial conflicts of interest will include a review of the "Confidential Financial Disclosure Form for Special Government Employees Serving on Federal Advisory Committees at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency" (EPA Form 3110-48). This confidential form allows Government officials to determine whether there is a statutory conflict between that person's public responsibilities (which includes membership on an EPA Federal advisory committee) and private interests and activities, or the appearance of a lack of impartiality, as defined by Federal regulation. The form

may be viewed and downloaded from the following URL address <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/epaform3110-48.pdf>.

The approved policy under which the EPA SAB Office selects subcommittees and review panels is described in the following document: *Overview of the Panel Formation Process at the Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board* (EPA-SAB-EC-02-010), which is posted on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ec02010.pdf>.

Dated: September 17, 2010.

**Vanessa T. Vu,**

*Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.*

[FR Doc. 2010-23982 Filed 9-23-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission for Extension Under Delegated Authority, Comments Requested

[month day, year].

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 – 3520. Comments are requested concerning: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, and (e) ways to further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that

does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Written Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) comments should be submitted on or before November 23, 2010. If you anticipate that you will be submitting PRA comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the FCC contact listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all PRA comments to Nicholas A. Fraser, Office of Management and Budget, via fax at 202-395-5167 or via the Internet at [Nicholas\\_A.Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A.Fraser@omb.eop.gov) and to the Federal Communications Commission via email to [PRA@fcc.gov](mailto:PRA@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Benish Shah, Office of Managing Director, (202) 418-7866. For additional information, contact Benish Shah, OMD, 418-7866, [benish.shah@fcc.gov](mailto:benish.shah@fcc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060-0384.

Title: Sections 64.901, 64.904 and 64.905, Auditor's Attestation and Certification.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 1 respondent, 1 response.

Estimated Time per Response: 35-250 hours.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority is contained in Sections 1, 4, 201-205, 215, and 218-220 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Sections 151, 154, 201-205, 215, and 218-220.

Frequency of Response: On-occasion, biennial, and annual reporting requirements.

Total Annual Burden: 255 hours.

Total Annual Cost: \$1,200,000.

Privacy Act Impact Assessment: N/A.

Nature of Extent of Confidentiality:

This collection does not address information of a confidential nature.

Needs and Uses: The Commission will submit this expiring information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) after this comment period to obtain the three year clearance from them. There is no change to the reporting requirements. The Commission is reporting a 1,280 hourly burden reduction. This reduction is due to fewer respondents and therefore the total annual burden hours have been reduced.

Section 64.904(a) requires each incumbent LEC required to file a cost allocation manual is required to either

have an attest engagement performed by an independent auditor every two years, covering the prior two year period, or have a financial audit performed by an independent auditor biennially. In either case, the initial engagement shall be performed in the calendar year after the carrier is first required to file a cost allocation manual. See Section 64.904(a)-(c). Instead of requiring mid-sized carriers to incur the expense of a biennial attestation engagement, they now file a certification with the Commission stating that they are in compliance with 47 CFR 64.901 of the Commission's rules. The certification must be signed, under oath, by an officer of the incumbent LEC, and filed with the Commission on an annual basis. Such certification of compliance represents a less costly means of enforcing compliance with our cost allocation rules. See 47 CFR 64.905 of the Commission's rules.

The requirements are imposed to ensure that the carriers are properly complying with Commission rules. They serve as an important aid in the Commission's monitoring program.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene H. Dortch,**

*Secretary,*

*Office of the Secretary,*

*Office of Managing Director.*

[FR Doc. 2010-23938 Filed 9-23-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6712-01-S**

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission, Comments Requested

September 17, 2010.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 – 3520. Comments are requested concerning: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the