7. Program Support Services

Type of Information Collection: Revision of a currently approved collection.


OMB Number: 3320–0009.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit, federal and state, local or tribal government.

Frequency: One time.

Total Annual Hours: 3.33.

Total Number of Respondents: 40.

Total Annual Burden: $157.


Dated: July 18, 2011.

Ellen Wheeler,
Executive Director, Udall Foundation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please direct any questions to Travis Norvell, Policy Analyst, National HIDTA Program, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC 20502; (202) 395–6789.

Daniel R. Petersen,
Deputy General Counsel.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Designation of Eight Counties as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

AGENCY: Office of National Drug Control Policy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy has designated eight additional counties as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 1706. The new counties are (1) Orange County in New York as part of the New York/New Jersey HIDTA; (2)1 Medocino County in California as part of the Northern California HIDTA; (3) Porter County in Indiana as part of the Lake County HIDTA; (4) Lexington and Richland Counties in South Carolina as part of the Atlanta HIDTA; (5) Harford County in Maryland as part of the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA; (6) Putnam and Mercer Counties in West Virginia as part of the Appalachia HIDTA.


NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION


AGENCY: National Science Foundation (NSF).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NSF is hereby granting a limited project-specific exemption of section 1605(b) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Public Law 111–5, 123 Stat. 115, 303 (2009), with respect to incidental items costing $10,000 or less used in and incorporated into the Alaska Region Research Vessel (ARRV) project.

DATES: July 26, 2011.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeffrey Leithead, Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support, 703–292–4595.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 1605(c) of the Recovery Act and section 176.80 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the National Science Foundation (NSF) hereby provides notice that on July 6, 2011 the NSF Chief Financial Officer, in accordance with a delegation order from the Director of the agency on 27 May 2010, granted a de minimis exemption of section 1605 of the Recovery Act (Buy American provision) with respect to each incidental item costing $10,000 or less that is used in and incorporated into the ARRV project. The basis for this exemption is section 1605(b)(1) of the Recovery Act, in that executing individual exemptions for incidental items costing $10,000 or less is not in the public interest.

I. Background

The Recovery Act appropriated $400 million to NSF for several projects being funded by the Foundation’s Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account. The ARRV is one of NSF’s MREFC projects. Section 1605(a) of the Recovery Act, the Buy American provision, states that none of the funds appropriated by the Act “may be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States.”

The ARRV has been developed under a cooperative agreement awarded to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) that began in 2007. UAF executed the shipyard contract in December 2009 and the project is currently under construction. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to stimulate economic recovery in part by funding current construction projects like the ARRV that are “shovel ready” without requiring projects to revise their standards and specifications, or to restart the bidding process.

Subsections 1605(b) and (c) of the Recovery Act authorize the head of a Federal department or agency to waive the Buy American provision if the head of the agency finds that: (1) Applying the provision would be inconsistent with the public interest; (2) the relevant goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) the inclusion of the goods produced in the United States will increase the cost of the project by more than 25 percent. If the head of the Federal department or agency waives the Buy American provision, then the head of the department or agency is required to publish a detailed justification in the Federal Register.

Finally, section 1605(d) of the Recovery Act states that the Buy American provision must be applied in a manner consistent with the United States’ obligations under international agreements.

NSF has previously granted exemptions for purchase of the bow thruster [75 FR 9256 (March 1, 2010)], anti-roll tank control system [76 FR 184 (January 3, 2011)], weather fax [76 FR 186 (January 3, 2011)], ultrasonic anti fouling system [76 FR 35920 (June 20, 2011)], and HVAC generators [76 FR 35919 (June 20, 2011)]; all of which were in excess of this $10,000 de minimus waiver and not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities.

II. Finding That Individual Exemptions for Incidental Items Are Not in the Public Interest

Ship construction projects typically involve the use of literally hundreds of miscellaneous, generally low-cost items that are essential for, but incidental to, the construction of the vessel. These items are permanently incorporated into the physical structure and connected to other subsystems in the ship and include such things as galley appliances, stateroom furnishings,