and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration’s commitment to improving service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance will provide useful information, but it will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: the target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic collections, and any testing procedures for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic collections, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic collections, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. 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No comments were received in response to the 60-day notice published in the Federal Register on December 22, 2010 (75 FR 80542).

Below we provide OD’s projected average estimates for the next three years:


Type of Review: New collection.

Affected Public: Individuals and households, businesses and organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Average Expected Annual Number of Activities: 30.

Respondents: 253,000.

Annual Responses: 253,000.

Frequency of Response: Once per request.

Average Minutes per Response: 10.

Burden Hours: 49,358.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Dated: November 22, 2011.

Mikia P. Currie,
Program Analyst, Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration, Office of the Director.

[FR Doc. 2011–30994 Filed 11–30–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Laboratory Animal Welfare: Adoption and Implementation of the Eighth Edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has analyzed public comments received regarding adoption and implementation of the 8th Edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide) and has determined to adopt the 8th Edition of the Guide. (The comments, received by NIH from February 24 to May 24, 2011, may be viewed at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/2011guidecomments/web_listing.htm.) In NIH’s judgment, the 8th Edition of the Guide empowers continued advancement in the humane care and use of vertebrate animals in research, research training, and biological testing.

Effective January 1, 2012, institutions that receive Public Health Service (PHS) support for animal activities must base their animal care and use programs on the 8th Edition of the Guide and must complete at least one semiannual program review and facilities inspection using the 8th Edition of the Guide as the basis for evaluation by December 31, 2012. It is not required that all necessary changes be completed by December 31, 2012, but rather that an evaluation must be conducted and a plan and schedule for implementation of the standards in the 8th Edition of the Guide must be developed by December 31, 2012.

Institutions must verify to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the organizational component of NIH that provides guidance and interpretation of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, that they have met the required schedule. This will be done through the Annual Report to OLAW covering the 2012 reporting period due January 31, 2013. In addition, institutions must document the implementation of the 8th Edition of the Guide in their next Animal Welfare Assurance renewal.

OLAW has developed Position Statements located at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/2011positionstatement.htm. The Position Statements clarify the ways in which NIH expects Assured institutions to implement the 8th Edition of the Guide by addressing the following concerns: cost of implementing the 8th Edition of the Guide; animal housing specifications; use of nonpharmaceutical-grade compounds; food and fluid restrictions; multiple surgical procedures; and application of the 8th Edition of the Guide to agricultural animals used in biomedical research. In addition, there is a summary of OLAW’s position on performance standards and practice standards. The public is invited to submit comments on their understanding of the Position Statements for a period of 60 days from December 1, 2011, to January 29, 2012. In response, OLAW may further clarify the Position Statements.

DATES: Written comments on the public’s understanding of the Position Statements must be received by NIH on or before January 29, 2012, to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Public comments on the Position Statements may be entered at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/2011positionstatement.htm. Comments will be made publicly available. Personally identifiable information (except organizational affiliations) will be removed prior to making comments publicly available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, Office of Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health, RKL1, Suite 360, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892–7982; or telephone: (301) 496–7163.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Since 1985, the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, authorized by Public Law 99–

II. Electronic Access

The 8th Edition of the Guide was published in January 2011, following a study by the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research of the National Academy of Sciences. The 8th Edition of the Guide contains substantive changes and additions from the previous edition. To gain insight from institutions on the impact of changes to the Guide on their animal care and use programs, NIH sought comments on whether it should adopt the 8th Edition of the Guide and on the proposed implementation plan. On February 24, 2011, NIH issued a Federal Register Notice (see http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-4172.pdf) requesting public comments on (1) NIH’s adoption of the 8th Edition of the Guide as a basis for evaluating institutional programs receiving or proposing to receive PHS support for activities involving animals and (2) NIH’s proposed implementation plan (if NIH decided to adopt the 8th Edition of the Guide). The original implementation plan proposed that institutions complete at least one semiannual program and facility evaluation using the 8th Edition of the Guide as the basis for evaluation by March 31, 2011. Comments were collected via the Internet through a Web link available in the Federal Register and on the OLAW Web site, where respondents could also access both the 7th and 8th Editions of the Guide. The original comment period was scheduled from February 24, 2011, to March 24, 2011. This comment period was extended twice, on March 18 and April 21. Ultimately, the comment period spanned 90 days, closing on May 24, 2011. In addition to the time extension, the NIH removed the original 6,000-character limit on the comment form fields in the April 21 extension to maximize the opportunity for individuals and organizations to provide comments to NIH. A total of 806 responses were submitted by Assured institutions, professional organizations, animal advocacy organizations, and individuals. The comments and an analysis may be viewed at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/2011guidecomments/web_listing.htm.