

involvement requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.7.

RUS held public scoping meetings for the original project on November 15 and 16, 2011. The EIS process has included a scoping comment period to solicit comments from interested parties; publication of a DEIS with a public hearing and comment period; and consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal governmental agencies. A Notice of Intent to prepare a SDEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on August 16, 2012 (78 FR 50026). In addition, there is a 45-day review/comment period beginning December 20, 2013. RUS will hold an open-house public hearing in January 2014 once the SDEIS is published. The time and location of the meeting will be well-advertised in local media outlets a minimum of 15 days prior to the time of the meeting. Attendees will be welcome to come and go at their convenience and provide written or oral comments on the proposed Project. In addition, attendees may provide written comments by letter, fax, or email to the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. Subsequent to the public comment period on the SDEIS, RUS will respond to comments received from all parties and publish a Final EIS. After a 30-day public comment period on the Final EIS, RUS will publish a Record of Decision. The expected environmental project review completion date is expected to be early spring 2014.

Dated: December 12, 2013.

**Nivin Elgohary,**

*Assistant Administrator, Electric Programs, USDA, Rural Utilities Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey

**AGENCY:** U.S. Census Bureau.

**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,

Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before March 17, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [jjessup@doc.gov](mailto:jjessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to William Abriatis, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 8K081, Washington, DC 20233-6500, (301) 763-3686 (or via the Internet at [william.m.abriatis@census.gov](mailto:william.m.abriatis@census.gov)).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey (MWTS) provides the only continuous measure of monthly sales, end-of-month inventories, and inventories/sales ratios in the United States by selected kinds of business for merchant wholesalers, excluding manufacturers' sales branches and offices. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information to improve the inventory valuation adjustments applied to estimates of the Gross Domestic Product. The Bureau of Labor Statistics uses the data as input to their Producer Price Indexes and in developing productivity measurements.

Estimates produced from the MWTS are based on a probability sample and are published on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis. The sample design consists of small, medium, and large cases requested to report sales and inventories each month. The sample, consisting of about 4,200 wholesale businesses, is drawn from the Business Register, which contains all Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) and listed establishment locations. The sample is updated quarterly to reflect employer business "births" and "deaths"; adding new employer businesses identified in the Business and Professional Classification Survey and deleting firms and EINs when it is determined they are no longer active.

The MWTS will continue to generate its monthly report form through a print-on-demand system. This system allows us to tailor the survey instrument to a specific industry. For example, it will print an additional instruction for a particular NAICS code. This system also reduces the time and cost of preparing mailout packages that contain unique

variable data, while improving the look and quality of the products produced.

##### II. Method of Collection

We collect this information by Internet, fax, mail, and telephone follow-up.

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0607-0190.

*Form Number:* SM4212-A and SM4212-E.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* U.S. merchant wholesale firms, excluding manufacturers' sales branches and offices.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,200.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 7 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 5,880 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* The cost to the respondent for fiscal year 2013 is estimated to be \$179,634.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

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

##### 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.

Dated: January 9, 2014.

**Glenna Mickelson,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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