

Information collection	Number of respondents	Responses per year	Total annual responses	Estimated burden hours per response	Total hours	Hourly cost	Annual cost
Total—Grant Management ..	30	4	120	12	1440	35.22	50,717
MONITORING:							
Field Office Monitoring Tool	30	1	30	2	60	35.22	2,113
Total—Monitoring	30	1	30	2	60	35.22	2,113
Total—Monitoring	30	1	30	2	120	35.22	2,113
GRAND TOTALS	125	4	125	94	10484	35.22	367,124

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

Dated: August 19, 2014.

Colette Pollard,

*Department Reports Management Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2014-20047 Filed 8-21-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5750-N-34]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for use to assist the homeless.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juanita Perry, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 7266, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 402-3970; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565 (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 24 CFR part 581 and section 501 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411), as amended, HUD is publishing this Notice to identify Federal buildings and other real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. The properties were reviewed using information provided to HUD by Federal landholding agencies regarding unutilized and underutilized buildings and real property controlled by such agencies or by GSA regarding its inventory of excess or surplus Federal property. This Notice is also published in order to comply with the December 12, 1988 Court Order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.).

Properties reviewed are listed in this Notice according to the following categories: Suitable/available, suitable/unavailable, and suitable/to be excess, and unsuitable. The properties listed in the three suitable categories have been reviewed by the landholding agencies, and each agency has transmitted to HUD: (1) Its intention to make the property available for use to assist the homeless, (2) its intention to declare the property excess to the agency's needs, or (3) a statement of the reasons that the property cannot be declared excess or made available for use as facilities to assist the homeless.

Properties listed as suitable/available will be available exclusively for homeless use for a period of 60 days from the date of this Notice. Where property is described as for "off-site use only" recipients of the property will be required to relocate the building to their

own site at their own expense. Homeless assistance providers interested in any such property should send a written expression of interest to HHS, addressed to Theresa Ritta, Ms. Theresa M. Ritta, Chief Real Property Branch, the Department of Health and Human Services, Room 5B-17, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-2265 (This is not a toll-free number.) HHS will mail to the interested provider an application packet, which will include instructions for completing the application. In order to maximize the opportunity to utilize a suitable property, providers should submit their written expressions of interest as soon as possible. For complete details concerning the processing of applications, the reader is encouraged to refer to the interim rule governing this program, 24 CFR part 581.

For properties listed as suitable/to be excess, that property may, if subsequently accepted as excess by GSA, be made available for use by the homeless in accordance with applicable law, subject to screening for other Federal use. At the appropriate time, HUD will publish the property in a Notice showing it as either suitable/available or suitable/unavailable.

For properties listed as suitable/unavailable, the landholding agency has decided that the property cannot be declared excess or made available for use to assist the homeless, and the property will not be available.

Properties listed as unsuitable will not be made available for any other purpose for 20 days from the date of this Notice. Homeless assistance providers interested in a review by HUD of the determination of unsuitability should call the toll free information line at 1-800-927-7588 for detailed instructions or write a letter to Ann Marie Oliva at the address listed at the beginning of this Notice. Included in the request for review should be the property address (including zip code), the date of publication in the **Federal Register**, the landholding agency, and the property number.

For more information regarding particular properties identified in this Notice (i.e., acreage, floor plan, existing sanitary facilities, exact street address), providers should contact the appropriate landholding agencies at the following addresses: AGRICULTURE: Ms. Debra Kerr, Department of Agriculture, Reporters Building, 300 7th Street SW., Room 300, Washington, DC 20024, (202) 720-8873; AIR FORCE: Ms. Connie Lotfi, Air Force Real Property Agency, 143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78226, (210) 925-3047; COAST GUARD: Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Attn: Jennifer Stomber, 2100 Second St. SW., Stop 7901, Washington, DC 20593-0001; (202) 475-5609; GSA: Mr. Flavio Peres, General Services Administration, Office of Real Property Utilization and Disposal, 1800 F Street NW., Room 7040, Washington, DC 20405, (202) 501-0084; NASA: Mr. Frank T. Bellinger, Facilities Engineering Division, National Aeronautics & Space Administration, Code JX, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-1124; NAVY: Mr. Steve Matteo, Department of the Navy, Asset Management Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Washington Navy Yard, 1330 Patterson Ave. SW., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20374; (202) 685-9426 (These are not toll-free numbers).

Dated: August 14, 2014.

Brian P. Fitzmaurice,
Director, Division of Community Assistance,
Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs.

TITLE V, FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM FEDERAL REGISTER REPORT FOR 08/22/2014

Suitable/Available Properties

Building

Hawaii

Building 6138
Marine Corps Base
Kaneohe HI 96863
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 77201430004

Status: Excess

Comments: off-site removal; removal may be difficult due to building's condition; 198 sq. ft.; 18+ yrs.-old; severely deteriorated; secured area; contact Navy for more information.

7 Buildings

Marine Corps Base
Kaneohe HI 96863
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 77201430006

Status: Excess

Directions: 574(420 sq.); 1285(160 sq. ft.); 1306(441 sq.); 1615(200 sq. ft.); 1622 (324 sq. ft.); 5064 (104 sq. ft.); 6027 (25 sq. ft.)

Comments: off-site removal only; removal may be difficult; severely deteriorated; secured area; contact Navy for more information.

Kansas

Former SS Admin. Building
801 S. Broadway
Pittsburg KS 66762
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201420007
Status: Surplus
GSA Number: 7-G-KS-0529
Comments: 5,918 sq. ft.; sits on .52 acres; Admin. bldg.; 42+ yrs.-old; fair conditions; asbestos; lead-based paint; mold possible; contact GSA for more information.

Michigan

Nat'l Weather Svc Ofc
214 West 14th Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie MI
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54200120010
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 1-C-MI-802
Comments: 2230 sq. ft., presence of asbestos, most recent use—office.

Montana

Warehouse #2 Infra #2207
Cabinet Ranger District Administrative Site
Trout Creek MT
Landholding Agency: Agriculture
Property Number: 15201430014
Status: Excess
Comments: off-site removal only; 224 sq. ft.; storage; 60+ years old; very poor conditions; contact Agriculture for more information.

Warehouse #1 Infra #2206

Cabinet Ranger District Administrative Site
Trout Creek MT
Landholding Agency: Agriculture
Property Number: 15201430015
Status: Excess
Comments: off-site removal only; 224 sq. ft.; storage; 60+ years old; very poor conditions; contact Agriculture for more information.

New Mexico

Former Lordsburg Border Patrol Station
441 Duncan Highway
Lordsburg NM 88045
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201430008
Status: Surplus
GSA Number: 7-X-NM-0608
Directions: Landholding Agency: U.S. Customs & Border Protection; Disposal Agency: GSA

Comments: various buildings; 8,152 total sq. ft.; offices/storage/detention; fair conditions; contact GSA for more information.

Ohio

N. Appalachian Experimental Watershed Research Ctr.
28850 State Rte. 621
Coshocton OH 43824
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201420006
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 1-A-OH-849
Directions: Landholding Agency: Agriculture; Disposal Agency: GSA
Comments: 70,539 total sq. ft. for two bldgs.; storage/office; fair to poor conditions; lead-based paint; asbestos; PCBs; mold; remediation required; contact GSA for more information.

Land

South Carolina
Former FAA Outer Marker Facility—Greer Brookfield Parkway
Greer SC 29651
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201410011
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 1-U-SC-0631
Comments: 0.99 acres; contact GSA for more information.

Tennessee

Former FAA Outer Marker Facility—Nashville
W End of Kinhawk Drive
Nashville TN 37211
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201410012
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 1-U-TN-0672
Comments: 12.20 acres; contact GSA for more information.

West Virginia

Appalachian Farming System
Research Ctr. Reba Plumley Farm
898 Country Rte. 27
Shady Springs WV 25918
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201340005
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 4-A-WV-559AB
Directions: Landholding Agency—U.S. Forest Service? Disposal Agency—GSA
Comments: 126.6 acres; agricultural/research; Sec. 106 Nat'l Historic review required to transfer out of federal ownership; contact GSA for more info.

Wisconsin

TACAN Annex
6400 Block of Lake Rd.
Windsor WI 53598
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201320005
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 1-D-WI-611
Comments: 1 acre; moderate conditions

Suitable/Unavailable Properties

Building

Alabama

Anniston SSA Building
301 E. 13th St.
Anniston AL 36207
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201330002
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 4-G-AL-0790AA

Comments: 12,257 sf.; 11,927 rentable sf.; 59 parking spaces; office; 9+ months vacant; good conditions; contact GSA for more info.

Maryland

Appraisers Store
null
Baltimore MD 21202
Landholding Agency: GSA
Property Number: 54201030016
Status: Excess
GSA Number: 4-G-MD-0623
Comments: redetermination: 169,801 sq. ft., most recent use—federal offices, listed in the Nat'l Register of Historic Places, use restrictions.

Minnesota	Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201310009 Status: Surplus GSA Number: NY-0975 Directions: Previously reported by Navy w/ assigned property number 7720120019 Comments: 137,409 sf.; Navy Exchange, supermarket, & storage; 24 mos. vacant; mold, asbestos, & lead-based paint, significant renovations needed. Portion of GSA Binghamton "Hillcrest" Depot-Tract 1 1151 Hoyt Ave. Fenton NY 13901 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201320017 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 1-G-NY0670-AC Directions: Previously reported on March 24, 2006 under 54200610016; this property includes 40 acres of land w/6 structures; property is being parcelized Comments: warehouses range from approx. 16,347 sf.-172,830 sf.; admin. bldg. approx. 5,700 sf; guard house & butler bldg. sf. is unknown; 10 vacant; fair conditions; bldgs. locked; entry by appt. w/GSA. Former TSG Harold Lockwood U.S. Army Reserves Center 111 Finney Boulevard Malone NY 12953 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201340007 Status: Excess GSA Number: 1-D-NY-0966-AA Comments: 29960 Sq. Ft.: office/ administrative/garage; sits on 4.82+-acres; age 1961-1983; entry by appointment with USAR/GSA; asbestos and lead based paint; contact GSA for more information.	Property Number: 54201210002 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 4-Z-NC-0753 Comments: 49,300 sq. ft.; current use: transmitter bldg.; possible PCB contamination; not available—existing Federal need. Greenville Site A Transmitting Station 1000 Cherry Run Rd. Greenville NC 27834 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201410008 Status: Excess GSA Number: 4-Z-NC-0753 Directions: Landholding Agency: Broadcasting Board of Governors; Disposal: GSA; previously reported under 54201210002 Comments: main bldg. 54,318 sq. ft.; 40 transmitter antennas & 160 towers on the site; 12+ months vacant; fair conditions; asbestos/lead-based paint; environ. conditions; contact GSA for more info.
Montana	Huntley Townsite Tract 127 Near Hwy 522 Huntley MT 59037 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201410006 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 7-I-MT-0633-AB Directions: Disposal Agency: GSA; Landholding Agency: Interior Comments: sits on 2.29 acres; approx. 17,000 sf. total of bldg. space; office/governmental.	North Dakota
New Jersey	Former SSA Trust Fund Bldg. 396 Bloomfield Ave. Montclair NJ 07042 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201310004 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 1-G-NJ-0676 Comments: 7,183 sf.; office; vacant since March 2012. Portion of former Sievers-Sandberg U.S. Army Reserves Center (Camp Pedric) Artillery Ave at Garrison St. Oldmans NJ 08067 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201320003 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 1-D-NJ-0662-AB Directions: On the north side of Rte. 130, between Perkintown Road (Rte. 644) and Pennsgrove-Pedricktown Rd (Rte. 642) Comments: #171; mess hall bldg. #173; 14,282 total sf.; fair/poor conditions; asbestos/lead-based paint; potential legal constraints in accessing property; Contact GSA for more info.	Bismarck Tower Bureau of Reclamation Bismarck ND 58501 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201410005 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 7-I-ND-0520-AA Directions: Disposal Agency: GSA; Landholding Agency: Interior Comments: antenna tower; repairs needed; contact GSA for more information.
	Portion of Former Sievers-Sandberg U.S. Army Reserves Center-Tract 1 NW Side of Artillery Ave. at Rte. 130 Oldmans NJ 08067 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201320015 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 1-D-NJ-0662-AA Directions: Previously reported under 54200740005 as suitable/available ; 16 bldgs. usage varies: barracks/med./warehouses/garages; property is being parcelized Comments: 87,011 sf.; 10+ yrs. vacant fair/ poor conditions; property may be landlocked; transferee may need to request access from Oldmans Township planning & zoning comm.; contact GSA for more info.	Ohio
New York	One Amsterdam Road Scotia NY 12302 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201420003 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 54201420003 Directions: Previously reported in 2006 but has been subdivided into smaller parcel Comments: 325,000 sq. ft.; storage; 120+ months vacant; poor conditions; holes in roof; contamination; access easement, contact GSA for more information.	LTC Dwite Schaffner U.S. Army Reserve Center 1011 Gorge Blvd. Akron OH 44310 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201120006 Status: Excess GSA Number: 1-D-OH-836 Comments: 25,039 sq. ft., most recent use: Office; in good condition.
	North Carolina	Ohio
	Greenville Site 10000 Cherry Run Rd. Greenville NC 27834 Landholding Agency: GSA	Glenn Research Center 6100 Columbus Ave. Sandusky OH 44870 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201410002 Status: Excess GSA Number: 1-Z-OH-0598-AB Directions: Disposal Agency: GSA; Landholding Agency: NASA Comments: 6,424 sq. ft.; 20+ months vacant; repairs needed; contact GSA for more info.
		Virginia
		Building 641 216 Hunting Ave. Hampton VA 23681 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201320006 Status: Excess GSA Number: 4-Z-VA-0602-A1 Comments: 11,671 total sf.; office; fair/ moderate conditions; existing Federal need.
		West Virginia
		Appalachian Farming System

Research Ctr. Main Lab 1224 Airport Rd. Beaver WV 25813 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201340002 Status: Excess GSA Number: 4-A-WV-559AA Directions: Landholding Agency—U.S. Forest Service? Disposal Agency—GSA Comments: 4 buildings totaling 44,052 sq. ft.; USDA research facility; 12-months vacant; good condition; some water damage; contact GSA for more info. on a specific property.	New York FAA Radio Communication Link Adjacent to Babcock Road Colesville NY 13787 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201330001 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 1-NY-0977-AA Comments: 6.03 acres; contact GSA for more info.	Unsuitable Properties <i>Building</i> Alabama Bldg. 742, Recreation Center 101 E. Selfridge Street Maxwell AFB AL 36112 Landholding Agency: Air Force Property Number: 18201430033 Status: Underutilized Comments: public access denied and no alternative method to gain access without compromising national security. Reasons: Secured Area
Wisconsin Wausau Army Reserve Ctr. 1300 Sherman St. Wausau WI 54401 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201210004 Status: Excess GSA Number: 1-D-WI-610 Comments: bldg. 12,680 sq. ft.; garage 2,676 sq. ft.; current use: vacant; possible asbestos; remediation may be required; subjected to existing easements; Contact GSA for more detail.	Radio Communication Link Repeater Site 5979 Wagner Hill Rd. Wheeler NY 14809 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201330004 Status: Excess GSA Number: 1-NY-0981-AA Directions: Landholding Agency: FAA; Disposal Agency: GSA Comments: 7.473 acres; Contact GSA for more info.	California Building 143 Jet Propulsion Laboratory Pasadena CA 91109 Landholding Agency: NASA Property Number: 71201430021 Status: Unutilized Comments: public access denied & no alternative without compromising National Security. Reasons: Secured Area
<i>Land</i> Illinois Three Contiguous Vacant Lots 5139 S. Mason Ave. Chicago IL Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201320021 Status: Surplus GSA Number: 1-U-IL-803 Directions: Disposal Agency: GSA; Landholding Agency: FAA Comments: 0.65 acres; lots located w/in locked fence; contact GSA for more info.	South Carolina Marine Corps Reserve Training Center 2517 Vector Ave. Goose Creek SC 29406 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201410009 Status: Excess GSA Number: 4-N-SC-0630-AA Directions: Landholding Agency: Navy; Disposal Agency: GSA Comments: 5.59 acres; contact GSA for more information.	Building 87 & 88 Jet Propulsion Laboratory Pasadena CA 91109 Landholding Agency: NASA Property Number: 71201430022 Status: Unutilized Comments: public access denied & no alternative without compromising National Security. Reasons: Secured Area
Kentucky Little Hurricane Island Access Tract No. 819 & 816E, Newburgh Locks & Dams Owensboro KY 42301 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201320024 Status: Excess GSA Number: 4-D-KY-0629 Directions: Disposal: GSA; Landholding: COE Comments: 20.87 acres; boat ramp.	South Dakota Burke Radio Tower Site 290 St. Burke SD 57523 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201410004 Status: Excess GSA Number: 7-D-SD-0540 Directions: Disposal: GSA; Landholding: COE Comments: 2.48 acres; vacant; contact GSA for more information.	Hawaii Bldgs. 245 & 313; Marine Corps Base Intersection of Mokapa Rd. & E Street Kaneohe HI 96863 Landholding Agency: Navy Property Number: 77201430008 Status: Excess Comments: public access denied and no alternative method to gain access without compromising national security. Reasons: Secured Area
Massachusetts FAA Site Massasoit Bridge Rd. Nantucket MA 02554 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54200830026 Status: Surplus GSA Number: MA-0895 Comments: approx. 92 acres, entire parcel within MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.	West Virginia Appalachian Farming System Research Ctr. Peters Farms 227 Peters Ct. Cool Ridge WV 25825 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201340003 Status: Excess GSA Number: 4-A-WV-559AD Directions: Landholding Agency—US Forest Service? Disposal Agency—GSA Comments: 53.6 acres; agricultural/research; possible wetlands near property; contact GSA for more info.	Michigan Housing Complex (OJ11) (17068) 2512/2514 Tahoma Way Sault Ste Marie MI 49783 Landholding Agency: Coast Guard Property Number: 88201430003 Status: Excess Comments: documented deficiencies; extensive fire damage. Reasons: Extensive deterioration
Montana Turner Lots 7-12 Park Street Turner MT 59542 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201410003 Status: Excess GSA Number: 7-G-MT-0635 Comments: .96 acres; vacant; undeveloped; contact GSA for more information.	Appalachian Farming System Research School House Farm 4362 Pluto Rd. Shady Springs WV 25918 Landholding Agency: GSA Property Number: 54201340004 Status: Excess GSA Number: 4-A-WV-559AC Directions: Landholding Agency—US Forest Service. Disposal Agency—GSA Comments: 54.8 acres; agricultural/research; Sec. 106 Nat'l Historic review required to transfer out of federal ownership; contact GSA for more info.	New Jersey Detachment Sandy Hook 20 Crispin Road Highlands NJ 07732 Landholding Agency: Coast Guard Property Number: 88201430004 Status: Unutilized Comments: documented deficiencies; extensive damage by Sandy; extensive water/fire damage; extensive interior/exterior damage; clear threat to human safety. Reasons: Extensive deterioration
Ohio Erie County Conservation League		Ohio

Building #7147
Glenn Research Center
Sandusky OH 44870
Landholding Agency: NASA
Property Number: 71201430023
Status: Unutilized
Comments: public access denied and no alternative without compromising national security.
Reasons: Secured Area
K Site Test Building
Glenn Research Center
Sandusky OH 44870
Landholding Agency: NASA
Property Number: 71201430024
Status: Unutilized
Comments: public access denied and no alternative without compromising national security.
Reasons: Secured Area
Oregon
Antelope Lookout Garage 1509
(1253.004801) 07660 00
Prairie City
Drewsy OR 97904
Landholding Agency: Agriculture
Property Number: 15201430016
Status: Excess
Comments: documented deficiencies; bldg. is collapsing; unstable foundation; structurally unsound.
Reasons: Extensive deterioration
Virginia
Building 212
Bauer Road
Quantico VA 22134
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 77201430005
Status: Unutilized
Comments: located within military airfield clear zone.
Reasons: Within airport runway clear zone
Naval Air Station Oceana
B-601, Central Heating Plant
Virginia Beach VA
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 77201430007
Status: Excess
Comments: public access denied and no alternative method to gain access without compromising national security.
Reasons: Secured Area
UIC M00264
Building #2112, Larson's Gym
Quantico VA 22134
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 77201430009
Status: Unutilized
Comments: property located w/in military airfield clear zone.
Reasons: Within airport runway clear zone

[FR Doc. 2014-19646 Filed 8-21-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
[GX14AE3800C2000]
National Environmental Policy Act: Implementing Procedures; Revision to Categorical Exclusions for U.S. Geological Survey (516 DM 9)
AGENCY: Department of the Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces proposed revisions to two existing categorical exclusions included in the Department of the Interior's Departmental Manual 516 DM 9. The proposed revisions to the categorical exclusions pertain to two types of activities conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): the excavation of trenches across potentially active faults to assess the history of earthquakes along those faults; and the removal of hydrologic and water-quality monitoring structures and equipment and restoration of the sites. USGS experience with these activities indicates that they do not have the potential for significant environmental impacts. The intent of the revisions is to improve the efficiency of the environmental review process.

DATES: Comments are due by September 22, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Esther Eng, Chief, Environmental Management Branch, USGS, MS-207, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 20192-0002; email: eeng@usgs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Esther Eng, Chief, Environmental Management Branch, USGS, (703) 648-7550, eeng@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of their proposed actions before deciding whether and how to proceed. The Council on Environmental Quality encourages Federal agencies to use categorical exclusions to protect the environment more efficiently by (a) reducing the resources spent analyzing proposals that generally do not have potentially significant environmental impacts and, (b) focusing resources on proposals that may have significant environmental impacts. The appropriate use of categorical exclusions allows the NEPA review to be concluded without preparing either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (40 CFR 1500.4(p) and 40 CFR 1508.4).

Proposed Categorical Exclusion Revision for Trenching

The Department of the Interior (DOI) proposes to revise an existing categorical exclusion in the Departmental Manual at 516 DM 9, from "Digging of exploratory trenches requiring less than 20 cubic yards of excavation" to "Digging and subsequent site restoration of exploratory trenches not to exceed one acre of surface disturbance." The categorical exclusion would be limited to trenching and associated activities resulting in a total land disturbance of one acre or less, and which do not adversely affect any biological, cultural, or archeological resources. As with any USGS categorical exclusion, each proposed trench excavation must be reviewed for extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of this categorical exclusion. This requirement is found in DOI regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c)(1). The DOI's list of extraordinary circumstances, under which a normally excluded action would require further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS, is found at 43 CFR 46.215.

Analysis for the Trenching Category

The USGS excavates trenches across potentially active faults to assess the history of earthquakes along those faults. The study of ancient earthquakes and their rates of occurrence are known as paleoseismology. Paleoseismic data obtained from trenching studies is a fundamental input for USGS National Seismic Hazard Maps. The USGS National Seismic Hazard Maps, in turn, are used to inform emergency response and to guide building codes.

The USGS and its State and academic partners were involved in approximately 10 fault-trenching activities per year during the last 5 years. A fault trench involves an excavation or series of closely spaced excavations across the surface expression of an active fault to expose deformed soils and deposits. Field geologists map the exposed trench walls and date deformed strata to infer the earthquake history at the site.

Land disturbance in trenching studies is minimized by choosing sites near established roads or previously disturbed sites. Scientists involved in USGS fault-trenching activities were queried about the largest area of trenching disturbance they have encountered in the last 5 years with no significant environmental impacts. Respondents reported a range of upper limits of surface disturbance from .02 to 5 acres, with an average of 1.5 acres and a median of 1 acre. The USGS believes