

Dated: January 6, 2017.

Tina A. Campbell,

Chief, Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-00462 Filed 1-10-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[GX170A030AD0100]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a new information collection, Ecosystems Program Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey.

SUMMARY: We (the U.S. Geological Survey) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC.

DATES: To ensure that your comments are considered, we must receive them on or before March 13, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); (703) 648-7197 (fax); or gs-info_collections@usgs.gov (email). Please reference 'Information Collection 1028-NEW, Ecosystems Program Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey' in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linn Kwan, Senior Program Officer, Tel. 703.648.4494 or Email-lkwan@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The survey will be sent to USGS Ecosystems Mission Area stakeholders/partners to provide respondents the opportunity to share their comments, insights and satisfaction of USGS Ecosystems research products, training, and technical assistance. The survey results will be compiled and reported in three new performance measures that are being proposed for FY2018-2022. The survey is voluntary and anonymous. The respondents' identities will only be known if they chose to share that information in the response.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1028-NEW.

Title: Ecosystems Program Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Affected Public: USGS partners at other DOI bureaus, Federal and State agencies, Tribes and Non-governmental Organizations.

Respondent's Obligation: None, participation is voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: Information will be collected once at the end of each fiscal year.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 150

Estimated Total Number of Annual Responses: 120

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes or less to complete the survey.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: None.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and current expiration date.

III. Request for Comments

We are soliciting comments as to: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that the comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your personal mailing address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifiable information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

John Thompson,

Deputy Chief, CRU.

[FR Doc. 2017-00444 Filed 1-10-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Indian Gaming Commission

Protocol for Categorical Exclusions Supplementing the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act for Certain National Indian Gaming Commission Actions and Activities

AGENCY: The National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed action and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC or "the Commission") is amending its protocol for categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, Executive Order 11514, as amended, and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) for certain NIGC actions.

DATES: Comments and related material must be post marked no later than 60 days after publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your comments by only one of the following means: (1) By mail to: NIGC Attn: Andrew Mendoza, Staff Attorney, C/O Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Mailstop #1621, Washington, DC 20240; (2) by facsimile to: (202) 632-7066; (3) by email to: andrew_mendoza@nigc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Mendoza, Staff Attorney at the National Indian Gaming Commission: 202-632-7003 (not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Comments Invited

The NIGC encourages interested persons to submit written comments. Persons submitting information concerning the Protocol should include their name, address, and other appropriate contact information. You may submit your information by one of the means listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you submit information by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit information by mail and would like to know it was received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. The NIGC will consider all comments received during the comment period.

II. Background

On December 4, 2009, the Commission published a draft NEPA manual in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 63765). The purpose of the manual was to establish the Commission's NEPA-related policies and procedures and to integrate environmental considerations into the Commission's decision-making processes. The draft manual identified one type of major federal action performed under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) that triggered NEPA review, specifically, the approval of contracts for the management of Indian gaming facilities pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 2711. In addition to identifying major federal actions applicable to the Commission, the draft manual also established the Commission's NEPA-related roles and responsibilities and created a framework for the preparation of NEPA documentation appropriate for each level of environmental review. The draft manual also identified three categories of actions taken by the NIGC that are categorically excluded from further NEPA review. Categorical exclusions (CATEX) are actions that do not normally require preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), absent extraordinary circumstances.

On May 22, 2012, after reviewing the comments submitted on the draft NEPA manual, the Commission published a Protocol for Categorical Exclusions Supplementing the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act for Certain National Indian Gaming Commissions Actions and Activities (77 FR 30315) and requested comments by June 30, 2012. This publication formally adopted two of the three categorical exclusions listed in the draft NEPA manual.

In 2015, after evaluating its past environmental reviews for management contract approvals and the comments received on the 2009 draft NEPA manual, the Commission decided to revisit its policies and procedures for implementing NEPA. To obtain updated views from the regulated community, the Commission held several consultation sessions over a two-year period with tribal nations and solicited comments regarding the scope and extent of its NEPA responsibilities. Following consultation, the Commission evaluated the newly submitted comments in conjunction with those received in response to the 2009 draft manual and decided to amend the 2012 Protocol to include a third CATEX for Management Contract and Agreement

Review Activities. This CATEX will apply to certain management contract approvals that are not associated with an application to take land into trust and do not provide for construction or expansion of existing structures. In identifying this category of actions, the NIGC relied on its past experience, several environmental professionals' opinions and comparisons with other Federal agency actions that are categorically excluded.

The Commission hereby adopts the amended protocol set forth below for determining whether a categorical exclusion applies to particular action as well as the categories of actions the Commission has determined are eligible for categorical exclusions.

A copy of this **Federal Register** publication, as well as the administrative record for the newly established categorical exclusion, is available at <http://www.nigc.gov>. A copy of the **Federal Register** publication is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Regulatory Flexibility Act: This Protocol will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities as defined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* Indian tribes are not considered to be small entities for the purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This Protocol is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This Protocol does not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more. This rule will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, state or local government agencies or geographic regions, and does not have a significant adverse effect on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Commission, as an independent regulatory agency within the Department of the Interior, is exempt from compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. 2 U.S.C. 1502(1); 2 U.S.C. 658(1).

Takings

In accordance with Executive Order 12630, the Commission has determined that this Protocol does not have significant takings implications. A takings implication assessment is not required.

Civil Justice Reform

In accordance with Executive Order 12988, the Office of General Counsel has determined that the Protocol does not unduly burden the judicial system and meets the requirements of sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of the Executive Order.

National Environmental Policy Act

This Protocol supplements CEQ regulations and provides guidance to NIGC employees regarding procedural requirements for the application of NEPA provisions to certain NIGC actions. The CEQ does not direct agencies to prepare a NEPA analysis or document before establishing agency procedures for implementing NEPA.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the National Indian Gaming Commission establishes the following Protocol:

Protocol for Categorical Exclusions (CATEX) of Certain Actions

The use of a CATEX can only be applied to an action if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The responsible NIGC official must determine that the entirety of the NIGC action is encompassed by one of the listed CATEXs.
2. The responsible NIGC official must determine that the action has not been segmented in order for the NIGC action to meet the definition of an action that can qualify for a CATEX. Segmentation occurs when an action is broken into smaller parts in an effort to avoid properly documenting impacts associated with the complete action. Segmentation also occurs when the NIGC action is too narrowly defined and the potential impacts are minimized in order to avoid a higher level of NEPA documentation. Connected and cumulative actions must be considered (*see* 40 CFR 1508.25).
3. The responsible NIGC official must determine if the NIGC action will involve any extraordinary circumstances that would prevent the use of a categorical exclusion.

Categorical Exclusions

The NIGC, based on past experience with similar actions, has determined that the following types of actions are categorically excluded and do not require the preparation of an EA or EIS because they will not individually or cumulatively result in a significant impact on the human environment. These types of federal actions meet the criteria established in 40 CFR 1508.4.

Category 1—Administrative and Routine Office Activities:

A. Normal personnel, fiscal, and administrative activities involving

personnel (recruiting, hiring, detailing, processing, paying, supervising and records keeping).

B. Preparation of administrative or personnel-related studies, reports, or investigations.

C. Routine procurement of goods and services to support operations and infrastructure, including routine utility services and contracts, conducted in accordance with applicable procurement regulations, executive orders, and policies (e.g. Executive Order 13101).

D. Normal administrative office functions (record keeping; inspecting, examining, and auditing papers, books, and records; processing correspondence; developing and approving budgets; setting fee payments; responding to request for information).

E. Routine activities and operations conducted on or in an existing structure that are within the scope and compatibility of the present functional use of the building, will not result in a substantial increase in waste discharge to the environment, will not result in substantially different waste discharges from current or previous activities, and will not result in emissions that exceed established permit limits, if any. In these cases, a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC), documentation is required.

F. NIGC training in classrooms, meeting rooms, gaming facilities, or via the internet.

Category 2—Regulation, Monitoring and Oversight of Indian Gaming Activities:

A. Promulgation or publication of regulations, procedures, manuals, and guidance documents.

B. Support of compliance and enforcement functions by conducting compliance training for tribal gaming regulators and managers in classrooms, meeting rooms, gaming facilities, or via the internet.

C. Preparing and issuing subpoenas, holding hearings, and taking depositions for informational gathering purposes, not associated with administrative enforcement actions.

Category 3—Management Contract and Agreement Review Activities:

A. Approval or disapproval of management contracts, management contract amendments and collateral agreements that meet the following criteria: (1) Are not associated with an application to take land into trust; (2) does not provide for construction or expansion of existing structures; (3) ensures compliance with all federal, state, local and tribal environmental laws (e.g., Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National

Historic Preservation Act, etc.), regulations, and permit requirements; and (4) ensures adequate provision of utilities, law enforcement, fire protection, and other emergency service coverage without effects on neighboring areas.

B. Conducting background investigations in connection with a management contract or management contract amendment.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Actions that can normally be categorically excluded may not qualify for a CATEX because an extraordinary circumstance exists (see 40 CFR 1508.4). If the proposed action has one or more of the following conditions, extraordinary circumstances exist and the action cannot be categorically excluded:

A. The proposed action/project would threaten a violation of applicable federal, state, local or tribal statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements with regard to public health and safety.

B. The proposed action/project has effects on the environment that involve risks that are highly uncertain, unique, or are scientifically controversial.

C. The proposed action/project violates one or more federal, tribal, state, or local environmental laws, regulations, or permit requirements.

D. The proposed action/project has an adverse effect on a property or structure eligible for listing or listed on the National Register of Historical Places, including the degradation, loss, or destruction of (1) scientific, cultural, or historical resources protected by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; (2) on World Heritage properties; or (3) other significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

E. The proposed action/project has adverse effects on natural, ecological, or scenic resources of federal, tribal, state and/or local significance. These resources include: (1) Resources protected by Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA); (2) resources protected by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; (3) prime, unique, tribal, state or locally important farmlands; (4) known cultural or archaeological resources; (5) park lands; (6) federal or state listed wild or scenic rivers; and/or (7) other ecologically critical areas.

F. The proposed action/project is related to other actions that may, when considered cumulatively, have significant adverse effects.

G. The proposed action/project may adversely affect (1) a federal or state listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species; or (2) designated or

proposed critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

H. The proposed action/project has effects which will impact floodplains and/or wetlands on Federal property.

I. The proposed action/project has effects that will cause a criteria pollutant listed under the Clean Air Act to exceed the threshold level of one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the surrounding geographical area.

J. The proposed action/project has effects that may cause disproportionately high adverse environmental or health impacts specific to children, minorities, or low-income populations.

K. The proposed action/project is likely to have adverse effects on migratory bird populations.

L. The proposed action/project has the potential to disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

M. The proposed action/project has effects that are highly controversial on environmental grounds.

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The purpose of categorical exclusions is to reduce paperwork and delay. The NIGC is not required to repeatedly document actions that qualify for a categorical exclusion and do not involve an extraordinary circumstance (see 40 CFR 1500.4(p)). The NIGC will document its decision to treat a particular action as categorically excluded from further NEPA review, when the CATEX applied specifically requires the preparation of a REC. In those cases, a REC will include:

A. A complete description of the proposed action/project;

B. The CATEX relied upon, including a brief discussion of why there are no extraordinary circumstances;

C. Supplemental documentation that supports the conclusions in the narrative. Examples include exhibit(s) showing boundaries of historical or archeological site(s) previously identified near the proposed project, documentation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service noting that no endangered species or habitat is present near the proposed project, evidence that the proposed project site is located outside any non-attainment area(s), etc. In some cases, a “no effect” determination from the State Historic Preservation Office or Tribal Historic Preservation Office may be required;

D. The following statement: *I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the*

information provided is the best available information and is accurate;

E. A signature from an environmental professional with a signature block that includes the professional's credentials.

Dated: December 22, 2016.

Jonodev Chaudhuri,
Chairman.

Kathryn Isom-Clause,
Vice-Chair.

Sequoyah Simermeyer,
Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 2017-00364 Filed 1-10-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NRNL-22604;
PPWOCRADIO, PCU00RP14.R50000]

National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before December 10, 2016, for listing or related actions in the National Register of Historic Places.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by January 26, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent via U.S. Postal Service to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW., MS 2280, Washington, DC 20240; by all other carriers, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1201 Eye St. NW., 8th floor, Washington, DC 20005; or by fax, 202-371-6447.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The properties listed in this notice are being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations for their consideration were received by the National Park Service before December 10, 2016. Pursuant to section 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60, written comments are being accepted concerning the significance of the nominated properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying

information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

ARIZONA

Cochise County

Mountain View Officers' Club, Kilbourn Ave., Ft. Huachuca, SG10000549

Maricopa County

Peoria High School Old Main, 11200 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria, SG10000551

Pima County

Brown, Grace and Elliot, House, (Single Family Residential Architecture of Josias Joesler and John and Helen Murphey MPS), 5025 N. Camino Escuela, Tucson, MP10000550

ARKANSAS

Garland County

Aristocrat Motor Inn, 240 Central Ave., Hot Springs, SG10000552

Hot Spring County

Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures, 1200 Catherine Park Rd., Hot Springs vicinity, SG10000553

Mississippi County

Minaret Manor, 844 W. Semmes, Osceola, SG10000554

Monroe County

Brinkley Concrete Streets, Ash St, between Main St. & New York Ave. & New York Ave. between Ash & Lynn Sts., Brinkley, SG10000555

Ouachita County

St. John's Episcopal Church, 117 Harrison St., Camden, SG10000556

Pulaski County

Darragh Building, 1403 E. 6th Ave., Little Rock, SG10000557

Sebastian County

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1115 N. D St., Fort Smith, SG10000558

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District of Columbia

Chilchester Arms Apartments, (Apartment Buildings in Washington, DC, MPS MPS), 1388 Tuckerman St. NW., Washington, MP10000559

IDAHO

Blaine County

Hailey Methodist Episcopal Church, 200 2nd Ave. S., Hailey, SG10000560

ILLINOIS

Cook County

Carling Hotel, (Residential Hotels in Chicago, 1910-1930 MPS), 1512 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, MP10000563

IOWA

Muscatine County

McColm, Laura Musser, Historic District, 1314 Mulberry Ave., Muscatine, SG10000562

Polk County

Home Federal Savings and Loan Association of Des Moines Building, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, SG10000561

MINNESOTA

Brown County

District No. 50 School, 20837 US 14, Milford Township, SG10000564

Hubbard County

Consolidated School District No. 22, 25895 Cty. Rd. 9, Helga Township, SG10000565

MISSOURI

Pulaski County

Devil's Elbow Historic District, (Route 66 in Missouri MPS MPS), 12175, 12177, 12198 Timber Rd., 21050, 21104, 21141, 21150 Teardrop Rd., Devil's Elbow, MP10000566

Piney Beach, (Route 66 in Missouri MPS MPS), 1280 Tank Ln., Hooker, MP10000567

OHIO

Hamilton County

Brunswick—Balke—Collender Building, 130-132 E. 6th St., Cincinnati, SG10000568

Reakirt Building, 126-128 E. 6th St., Cincinnati, SG10000569

First National Bank Building, 105 E. 4th St., Cincinnati, SG10000570

SOUTH CAROLINA

Richland County

Olympia Union Hall, 119 S. Parker St., Columbia, SG10000571

WEST VIRGINIA

Cabell County

Memphis Tennessee Garrison House, 1701 10th Ave., Huntington, SG10000573

Jefferson County

Feagans' Mill Complex, 28 Feagans' Mill Ln., Charles Town vicinity, SG10000572

WISCONSIN

Marathon County

Marathon Shoe Company East Side Plant, 1418 N. 1st St., Wausau, SG10000574

Vernon County

Harris, George and Mable, Round Barn, S1123 Harris Rd., Forest, SG10000575

A request for removal has been made for the following resource(s):

ARKANSAS

Conway County

Cove Creek Bridge, AR 124, Martinville vicinity, OT04000499