

to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Applications for the special use permits discussed in this notice involve a collection-of-information requirement subject to the requirements of the PRA. OMB has approved this collection-of-information requirement under OMB control number 0648-0141. The collection-of-information requirement applies to persons seeking special use permits and is necessary to determine whether the proposed activities are consistent with the terms and conditions of special use permits prescribed by the NMSA. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average twenty four (24) hours per response (application, annual report, and financial report), including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. This estimate does not include additional time that may be required should the applicant be required to provide information to NOAA for the preparation of documentation that may be required under NEPA.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*

Dated: January 3, 2017.

**John Armor,**

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

#### References

1. MBNMS Guidelines for Desalination Plants in the MBNMS; May 2010, online: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/resourcepro/resmanissues/pdf/050610desal.pdf>.
2. ONMS Fair Market Value Analysis for a Fiber Optic Cable Permit in National Marine Sanctuaries, Aug 2002.
3. NOAA Final Notice of Applicability of Special Use Permit Requirements to Certain Categories of Activities Conducted Within the National Marine Sanctuary System; May 2013, online: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/fr/78fr25957.pdf>.
4. Moss Landing Marine Lab, Ecological Effects of the Moss Landing Powerplant Thermal Discharge; June 2006.
5. Ballard Marine Construction report prepared for Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency; 2014.
6. Geoscience Technical Memo; South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project—Vertical Infiltration Rate of Ocean Water Migrating Through the Seafloor in the Vicinity of the Slant Well Intake System; 2010.
7. Geoscience NPDES Start-up Report: Marina Slant Test Well Water Discharge to the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) Pacific Ocean Outfall; 2015.
8. Jenkins Consulting Memo, Potential Impacts on Wave and Current Transport Processes Due to Infiltration Rates Induced by the South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project; 2010.
9. Chambers Group Memo: Pretreatment and Design Considerations for Large-Scale Seawater Facilities; 2010, online: <http://www.mwdoc.com/cms2/ckfinder/files/files/Evaluation%20of%20Potential%20Impacts%20to%20Marine%20Life%20by%20Slant%20Wells%20-%20MLPA%20DEIR%20Comment%202010-10-13.pdf>.
10. Bureau of Reclamation Report: Pretreatment and Design Considerations for Large-Scale Seawater Facilities, online: <https://www.usbr.gov/research/AWT/reportpdfs/report137.pdf>.
11. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information Web site; Table 1; online: [https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/etopo1\\_ocean\\_volumes.html](https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/etopo1_ocean_volumes.html).

[FR Doc. 2017-00515 Filed 1-11-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2016-0054]

#### Request for Comments Regarding the Continuation of the Accelerated Examination Program

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is requesting comments from its stakeholders on whether the accelerated examination program should be retained. In an August 16, 2016 notice updating the program to reflect changes in the law and examination practice, the USPTO indicated that the number of accelerated examination requests has been quite low. In particular, in each of the fiscal years 2012–2015, fewer than 250 applications were accepted into the accelerated examination program. Accordingly, the USPTO seeks feedback from its stakeholders on whether the accelerated examination program provides a sufficient benefit to the public to justify the cost of implementation.

**Comment Deadline:** To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before March 13, 2017. No public hearing will be held.

**Addresses for Comments:** Written comments should be sent by electronic mail addressed to [AEcomments2016@uspto.gov](mailto:AEcomments2016@uspto.gov). Comments may also be

submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, marked to the attention of Pinchus Laufer, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the USPTO Internet Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov>. Because comments will be available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pinchus M. Laufer, Senior Legal Advisor ((571) 272–7726) or Matthew Sked, Legal Advisor ((571) 272–7627), Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In August 2006, the USPTO implemented the accelerated examination program under which an application will be advanced out of turn for examination if the applicant files a petition to make special with the appropriate showing. *See Changes to Practice for Petitions in Patent Applications To Make Special and for Accelerated Examination*, 71 FR 36323 (June 26, 2006). The program proved to be relatively popular as it was one of the few options an applicant had to expedite examination. The program was recently updated on August 16, 2016, to reflect changes in the law and examination practice. *See Changes in Accelerated Examination Practice*, 81 FR 54564 (August 16, 2016).

On September 26, 2011, the USPTO implemented the prioritized examination program (referred to as “Track One”), provided for in the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA). *See Changes to Implement the Prioritized Examination Track (Track I) of the Enhanced Examination Timing Control Procedures under the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act*, 76 FR 59050 (September 23, 2011). Track One also provides the ability to advance an application out of turn, but without an applicant having to meet the requirements of the accelerated examination program, such as performing a pre-examination search. Under Track One, applicants simply pay

an additional fee. In each of the past few fiscal years since Track One was implemented (fiscal years 2012–2015), fewer than 250 applications have met the requirements to take advantage of the accelerated examination program. In contrast, Track One has become a much more popular program than accelerated examination in that the number of requests approaches 10,000 annually over this same time.

Additionally, over this period, the overall first action pendency for newly filed applications has dropped incrementally each year. In particular, the overall first action pendency in fiscal year 2015 was approximately 17 months. A lower first action pendency and lower accelerated examination numbers seem to indicate that applicants have less need for as many programs that expedite patent examination.

Due to the low usage of the accelerated examination program, the reduction in overall first action pendency, the popularity of the Track One program, and the inconvenience to practitioners and the USPTO of retaining a seemingly redundant program with its own special handling procedures (See MPEP 708.02(a)), it is unclear whether the accelerated examination program still provides a sufficient benefit to the public to justify the cost of implementation. Accordingly, the USPTO seeks comments from the public on whether the accelerated examination program should be retained or discontinued.

Dated: January 9, 2017.

**Michelle K. Lee,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2017–00568 Filed 1–11–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–16–P**

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## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has submitted a public information collection request (ICR) entitled “Independent Living Performance Measures Aggregation Tool” for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of this ICR, with applicable

supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Corporation for National and Community Service, Jill Sears, at 202–606–7577 or email to [jsears@cns.gov](mailto:jsears@cns.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY–TDD) may call 1–800–833–3722 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted, identified by the title of the information collection activity, by February 13, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted, identified by the title of the information collection activity, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Ms. Sharon Mar, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service, by any of the following two methods within 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**:

- (1) *By fax to:* 202–395–6974, Attention: Ms. Sharon Mar, OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service; or
- (2) *By email to:* [smar@omb.eop.gov](mailto:smar@omb.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of CNCS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

### Comments

A 60-day Notice requesting public comment was published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 2016 at 81 FR 97. This comment period ended July 18, 2016. No public comments were received from this Notice.

*Description:* Senior Companion Program grantees are required to use the currently cleared surveys to solicit outcome data from clients and caregivers served by Senior Companion volunteers.

*Type of Review:* Renewal.

*Agency:* Corporation for National and Community Service.

*Title:* Independent Living Performance Measures Aggregation Tool and Independent Living and Respite Surveys.

*OMB Number:* 3045–0152.

*Agency Number:* None.

*Affected Public:* Senior Companion Program grantees.

*Total Respondents:* 53,470.

*Frequency:* Once.

*Average Time per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 26,735 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):*

None.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* None.

Dated: January 6, 2017.

**Erin McGrath,**

*Senior Corps Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 2017–00569 Filed 1–11–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6050–28–P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Defense Acquisition Regulations System

#### Early Engagement Opportunity: Implementation of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** DoD announces an early engagement opportunity regarding implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 within the acquisition regulations.

**DATES:** Early inputs should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before February 13, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit early inputs via the Defense Acquisition Regulations System (DARS) Web site at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/index.html>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Send inquiries via email to Ms. Jennifer Hawes at [osd.dfars@mail.mil](mailto:osd.dfars@mail.mil) and reference “Early Engagement Opportunity: Implementation of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017” in the subject line.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DoD is providing an opportunity for the public to provide early inputs on implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 within the acquisition regulations. The public is invited to submit early inputs on sections of the NDAA for FY 2017 via the DARS Web