

The MDP operates within the Office of Response and Restoration as part of NOAA's National Ocean Service.

II. Method of Collection

Respondents to this collection may choose to submit electronically or in paper format.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0718.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of an existing information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, state, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 70.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 hours (semi-annually).

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,400.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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: May 16, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–10748 Filed 5–18–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–JE–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Preliminary Case Study Assessing Economic Benefits of Marine Debris Reduction.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0756.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (revision of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 1,600.

Average Hours per Response: On-site intercept, 2 minutes; full survey, 10 minutes.

Burden Hours: 729.

Needs and Uses: This request is for revision of a currently approved information collection. A pretest was conducted at one site, and the survey is now being extended to 4 sites.

The National Ocean Service, Office of Response and Restoration, Marine Debris Program is sponsoring this data collection. The Marine Debris Program was created under the 2006 “Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act” (33 U.S.C. 1951 *et seq.*) which was reauthorized in 2012 as the “Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2012” (H.R. 1171) as part of the Coast Guard Maritime Transportation Act (H.R. 2838). Among other activities, the bill requires NOAA “. . . to address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the United States economy . . .” To that aim, the proposed data collection will support the goals of a larger study whose purpose is to develop a regional economic model to estimate the value to local economies of increased spending on recreation and tourism from the reduction or elimination of marine debris on beaches in seven coastal communities of the continental U.S. The data collection will consist of on-site sampling to generate a pool of respondents who will be sent a mail survey that asks questions related to beach attributes, local beach familiarity, number of beach trips taken, and ratings of marine debris encountered while on these trips. Onsite sampling will involve intercepting people at several beaches in each study area and asking them to participate in a mail survey. For those willing to take the mail survey, a brief onsite interview will ask the respondent's name and mailing address, as well as several demographic questions such as age and education. Those who do not agree to participate in the mail survey will only be asked the demographic questions, whether they participated in a single or multi-day

trip, and zip code. A mail-survey mode will be used for the follow-up questionnaire. The mail survey instrument will combine a selection of questions from a previously OMB-approved survey instrument used in Orange County, California with new contingent behavior questions developed specifically for this study to determine the impact of the presence of marine debris on respondents' recreation choices. This data collection will determine the impact of marine debris on survey respondents' recreation choices at these seven coastal communities and represents the first component to be undertaken as part of the larger study.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: One time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395–5806.

Dated: May 16, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–10746 Filed 5–18–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–JE–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on a proposed extension of an existing information collection; 0651–0080: Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 20, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651–0080: Generic Clearance comment” in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

• *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Director, Records and Information Governance Division, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Marcie Lovett, Director, Records and Information Governance Division, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-8123; or by email to informationcollection@uspto.gov with "Paperwork" in the subject line.

Additional information about this collection can be found at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under "Information Collection Review."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Executive Order 12862 (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12862.pdf>) directs Federal agencies to provide services to the public that matches or exceeds the best services available in the private sector. In order to work continuously to ensure that its programs are effective and meet its customers' needs, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereafter "USPTO" or "the Agency") proposes the following generic clearance to collect qualitative feedback on its service delivery. Qualitative feedback refers to information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but is not in the form of statistical surveys which yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study.

Collecting feedback will allow for the Agency to have a pulse on customer satisfaction and adjust where necessary to meet and exceed expectations. This feedback collection will provide for ongoing, collaborative, and actionable communication between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It also will enable the Agency to garner customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient and timely manner, in accordance with the USPTO's commitment to improving services. The information collected from Agency customers and stakeholders will help ensure users have an opportunity to

convey their experience with USPTO programs. This collection will also provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences, and expectations, which will allow the Agency to focus attention on areas where communication, training, or changes in operations may be necessary.

Improving Agency programs requires ongoing assessment. The Agency will collect, analyze, and interpret information gathered to identify strengths and weaknesses of current services. Based on feedback received, the Agency will identify operational changes needed to improve programs and services. The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: Timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. The Agency is committed to hearing feedback from its customers. Responses will be assessed to identify service areas in need of improvement. If this information is not collected, then the Agency will miss opportunities to obtain vital feedback from its customers and stakeholders on ways to improve their program and services.

The Agency will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collection is voluntary;
- The collection is low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collection is noncontroversial and does not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
- Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;
- Information gathered will only be used internally for general program and service improvement as well as program administrative purposes, and is not intended for release outside the Agency;
- Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially

informing influential policy decisions; and

- Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections are not designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results nor used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

As a general matter, these information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature.

II. Method of Collection

The USPTO uses surveys, focus groups, interviews, questionnaires, and usability testing to collect feedback from its customers. These may be conducted via telephone, through electronic means, or in person. The USPTO expects customers will respond to the questionnaires and surveys primarily through electronic means, and to the focus groups, interviews, and usability testing primarily in person.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0080.

IC Instruments and Forms: The individual instruments in this collection, as well as their associated forms, are listed in the table below.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Individuals and households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 143,000 responses per year.

Estimated Time per Response: Between 3 minutes (0.05 hours) and 120 minutes (2 hours), depending on the instruments used and the item being completed.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 18,475 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent (Hourly) Cost Burden: \$4,387,986.75. The USPTO expects that attorneys, paralegals and *pro se* applicants will complete these applications. The professional hourly rate for attorneys is \$438, and the hourly rates for paralegals and *pro se* applicants are \$145 and \$30, respectively. The average of the combined respondent rate is \$204.33. Using this blended hourly rate, the USPTO estimates that the total respondent cost burden for this collection is \$4,387,986.75 per year.

IC No.	Information collection item	Estimated time for response (minutes)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours	Rate (\$/hr)
		(a)	(b)	(a) x (b) = (c)	
1	Customer Surveys	5	40,000	3,333.33	\$204.33

IC No.	Information collection item	Estimated time for response (minutes)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours	Rate (\$/hr)
		(a)	(b)	(a) x (b) = (c)	
2	Questionnaires/Customer Comment Cards/Complaint Forms.	5	600	50.00	\$204.33
3	Focus Groups/Interviews	15	500	125.00	\$204.33
4	Small Discussion Groups	120	400	800.00	\$204.33
5	Usability Tests (In-person observation (i.e., Website/Software).	30	1,000	500.00	\$204.33
6	ForeSee Surveys (USPTO.GOV)	10	100,000	16,666.67	\$204.33
Total (Three-Year Period).	143,000 (429,000)	18,475 (55,425)

Estimated Total Annual (Non-hour) Respondent Cost Burden: \$0. There are no capital start-up, maintenance, postage, recordkeeping costs, or any other fees associated with this information collection.

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, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Marcie Lovett,
Records Management Division Director, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-10768 Filed 5-18-18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; "Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees"

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed extension of an existing information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 20, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0016 Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees" in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Director, Records and Information Governance Division, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-7728; or by email at Raul.Tamayo@uspto.gov with "Paperwork" in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under "Information Collection Review."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under 35 U.S.C. § 41 and 37 CFR 1.20(e)-(h) and 1.362-1.378, the United

States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) charges fees for maintaining in force all utility patents based on applications filed on or after December 12, 1980. Payment of these maintenance fees is due at 3½, 7½, and 11½ years after the date the patent was granted. If the USPTO does not receive payment of the appropriate maintenance fee and any applicable surcharge within a grace period of six months following each of the above due dates (at 4, 8, or 12 years after the date of grant), the patent will expire at that time. After a patent expires, it is no longer enforceable. Maintenance fees are not required for design, plant, or reissue patents if the patent being reissued did not require maintenance fees.

Payments of maintenance fees that are submitted during the six-month grace period before patent expiration must include the appropriate surcharge as indicated by 37 CFR 1.20(h). Submissions of maintenance fee payments and surcharges must include the relevant patent number and the corresponding United States application number in order to identify the correct patent and ensure proper crediting of the fee being paid.

If the USPTO refuses to accept and record a maintenance fee payment that was submitted prior to the expiration of a patent, the patentee may petition the Director to accept and record the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.377. This petition must be accompanied by the fee indicated in 37 CFR 1.17(g), which may be refunded if it is determined that the refusal to accept the maintenance fee was due to an error by the USPTO.

If a patent has expired due to nonpayment of a maintenance fee, the patentee may petition the Director to accept a delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378. The Director may accept the payment of