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.

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.


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.

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.

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.

### 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.

<table>
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<th>IC No.</th>
<th>Information collection item</th>
<th>Estimated time for response (minutes)</th>
<th>Estimated annual responses</th>
<th>Estimated annual burden hours</th>
<th>Rate ($/hr)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Customer Surveys</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>3,333.33</td>
<td>$204.33</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Maintenance Fees**

**AGENCY:** Patent and Trademark Office

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request; “Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees”**

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

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**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 be made available to the public on the USPTO Web site.

**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**

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<th>Information collection item</th>
<th>Estimated time for response (minutes)</th>
<th>Estimated annual responses</th>
<th>Estimated annual burden hours</th>
<th>Rate (S/hr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Questionnaires/Comment Cards/Complaint Forms</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>$204.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Focus Groups/Interviews</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>$204.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Small Discussion Groups</td>
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<td>400</td>
<td>800.00</td>
<td>$204.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Usability Tests (In-person observation (i.e., Website/Software)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>$204.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ForeSee Surveys (USPTO.GOV)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>16,666.67</td>
<td>$204.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total (Three-Year Period)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>143,000 (429,000)</td>
<td>18,475 (55,425)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**ADDRESS:** 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 3 1/2, 7 1/2, and 11 1/2 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