

and administrative security. Further, MicroPact is Federally accredited, and is a FedRAMP Compliant Cloud Service Provider, engineering Web-based focused company that provides commercial off-the-shelf solutions, and delivers domain expertise within the area of EEO.

USDA may disclose information contained in a record in this system of records under the routine uses listed, without the consent of the individual if the disclosure is compatible with a purpose for which the record was collected, as follows:

- To the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), a court or other tribunal, or another party before such tribunal, when USDA, any component thereof, or any employee in his or her individual capacity where DOJ (or USDA where it is authorized to do so) has agreed to represent the employee, or the United States where USDA determines that the litigation is likely to affect directly the operations of USDA or any of its components, is a party to the litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and USDA determines that the use of such records by DOJ, the court, or other tribunal, or the other party before such tribunal is relevant and necessary to the litigation; provided, however, that in each case, USDA determines that such disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the records were collected. In the event that materials in this system indicate a violation of law, whether civil or criminal or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute, or by regulation, rule, or order issued pursuant thereto, the relevant records may be disclosed to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, State, local, or foreign, charged with the responsibility of investigation or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto.

- To a congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from the congressional office made at the request of that individual. Disclosure may be made to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in response to its request for information.

- To appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when (1) USDA suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records; (2) USDA has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, USDA (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and (3) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is

reasonably necessary to assist in connection with USDA's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.

- To another Federal agency or Federal entity, when USDA determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in (1) responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or (2) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

- To contractors and their agents, grantees, experts, consultants, and others performing or working on a contract, service, grant, cooperative agreement, or other assignment for OASCR, when necessary to accomplish an agency function related to this system of records; provided however that these individuals are subject to the same Privacy Act requirements and limitations on disclosure as are applicable to USDA officers and employees.

- To the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) or General Services Administration (GSA), pursuant to records management inspections being conducted under the authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

*Probable or potential effects on the privacy of individuals:* Although there is some risk to the privacy of individuals, that risk is outweighed by the benefit of a vendor-managed system. In addition, the safeguards in place by MicroPact protect against unauthorized disclosure. Records are accessible only to individuals who are authorized. Logical, physical, and electronic safeguards are employed to ensure security. CRES has successfully attained "the authority to operate," the security assessment, and authorization process, as well as successfully attained risk assessments, to include security scanning and patching.

OMB Control Number of Collection Request. OMB Control Number: 0508-0002, title: USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, expires: February 28, 2021.

[FR Doc. 2018-27475 Filed 12-18-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-9R-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 13, 2018.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *Pamela\_Beverly\_OIRA\_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

#### Forest Service

*Title:* Post-Hurricane Research and Assessment of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Communities in the U.S. Caribbean.

*OMB Control Number:* 0596-0246.

*Summary of Collection:* The primary authorities for this collection are the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended, which authorizes USDA agricultural research, education, and extension programs, and the Forest

and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978, which authorizes USDA Forest Service “investigations, experiments, tests, and other activities . . . to obtain, analyze, develop, demonstrate, and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing, and utilizing forest and rangeland renewable resources in rural, suburban, and urban areas” (Pub. L. 95–307 Sec. 3). Focus groups and interviews will be conducted with a non-probabilistic, purposive sample of individuals, families, and organizations involved in or associated with agriculture, forestry, and rural communities affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the U.S. Caribbean.

*Need and Use of the Information:* To better understand the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on agriculture, forestry, and rural communities in the U.S. Caribbean and the internal and external factors that affected their vulnerabilities or resilience, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)—Forest Service and Caribbean Climate Hub (CCH), seek Office of Management and Budget approval to conduct focus groups and in-depth interviews to collect information from farmers, forest owners, and other agriculture and forestry community members about their experiences with, preparations for, responses to, and recovery from these storms. This collection provides vital real-time information for ongoing recovery and restoration efforts by USDA and other entities working in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as valuable lessons learned for other disasters and regions.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 425.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Other (one time only).

*Total Burden Hours:* 226.

**Kimble Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018–27410 Filed 12–18–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411–15–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utility Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by February 19, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team 2, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 690–4492. Email [Thomas.dickson@usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.dickson@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Advance and Disbursement of Funds—Telecommunications.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572–0023.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection package.

*Abstract:* The RUS manages the Telecommunications loan program and Rural Broadband Access, to provide loans and loan guarantees to fund the cost of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities. RUS therefore requires Telecommunications and Broadband borrowers to submit Form 481, Financial Requirement Statement. This form implements certain provisions of the standard Rural Utilities Service loan documents by setting forth requirements and procedures to be followed by borrowers in obtaining advances and making disbursements of loan funds.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

*Respondents:* Business or other for profit, not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 84.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.2.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 480.

**Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of Rural Utility Service’s estimate of the burden to collect the required information, including the validity of the strategy used; (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 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 on the paperwork burden may be sent to: Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team 2, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 690–4492. Email [Thomas.dickson@usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.dickson@usda.gov). All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Diane M. Berger, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team, (715) 619–3124.

Dated: December 6, 2018.

**Christopher A. McLean,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 2018–27070 Filed 12–18–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Notice of Request for Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development administers rural utilities programs through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). RUS invites comments on the following information collection for which the Agency intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by February 19, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team 2, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 690–4492. Email [Thomas.dickson@usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.dickson@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction