

minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures would remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

Dated: February 23, 2026.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026-03861 Filed 2-25-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda for a meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (Board), a non-discretionary Federal Advisory Committee.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 18, 2026 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (CDT) and Thursday March 19, 2026 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (CDT).

ADDRESSES: Not applicable; this meeting will be conducted online only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Liz Tirpak, Designated Federal Officer, or Gretchen Spencer, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, via email: oceanexplorer@noaa.gov or phone: 301-734-1226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board was established (per 33 U.S.C. 3405) to advise NOAA leadership on priority areas for survey, discovery, and opportunities for extramural collaboration and partnerships; development of a 5-year strategic plan for the fields of ocean, marine, and Great Lakes science, exploration, and discovery; the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process; market barriers to development or commercialization of novel ocean mapping, exploration, and characterization products, processes, and tools; best practices to improve data management, processing, storage, and archiving standards; and other matters as requested by the NOAA Administrator.

Matters To Be Considered: Board members will receive agency updates and discuss recommendations for NOAA leadership. Detailed agenda and

meeting materials will be posted on the Board website at <https://oead.noaa.gov/meetings/2026-oead-meetings/>.

Public Comment Instructions: The meeting will be open to the public with a public comment period on Wednesday, March 18 at 3:35 p.m. CST. Registration is required; use this link <https://forms.gle/2DkS5SMHJsAH3Rjy9> to register attendance and/or public comments in advance. In general, each individual or group delivering public comments will be limited to a total time of three (3) minutes. The Board will not consider public comments beyond the scope of the Board's remit or public comments located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, not on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). Comments that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will also not be considered. This public meeting will be recorded for use in preparation of minutes. If you have a public comment, you acknowledge that you will be recorded and are aware you can opt out of the meeting. Participation in the meeting constitutes consent to the recording.

Special Accommodations: The Board meeting is accessible to people with disabilities, as Webex offers closed captioning. Questions regarding additional accommodations should be directed to the Designated Federal Officer via email: oceanexplorer@noaa.gov by Tuesday, March 5, 2026.

Nikola Garber,

Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026-03815 Filed 2-25-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KA-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Patent Term Extension and Adjustment

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereafter “USPTO” or “Agency”) will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in

accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. The USPTO invites comments on the information collection renewal of 0651-0020, which helps the USPTO assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the reporting burden to the public. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on November 19, 2025, during a 60-day comment period (90 FR 52043). This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

DATES: To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before March 30, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for this information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website, <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the information collection or the OMB Control Number, 0651-0020. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- This information collection request may be viewed at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce, USPTO information collections currently under review by OMB.
- Email:** InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651-0020 information request” in the subject line of the message.

- Mail:** Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- Telephone:** Jeffrey West, Senior Legal Advisor, 571-272-2226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Patent Term Extension and Adjustment.

OMB Control Number: 0651-0020.

Abstract: The patent term restoration portion of the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Pub. L. 98-417), which is codified at 35 U.S.C. 156, permits the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to extend the term of protection under a patent to compensate for delay during regulatory review and approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Only patents for drug products, medical devices, food additives, or color additives are potentially eligible for extension. The maximum length that a patent may be extended under 35 U.S.C. 156 is five years. The USPTO administers 35 U.S.C. 156 through 37 CFR 1.710–1.791.

This information collection covers information gathered in patent term extension applications submitted under 35 U.S.C. 156(d). Under this provision, an application for patent term extension must identify the approved product; the patent to be extended; and the claims included in the patent that cover the approved product, a method of using the approved product, or a method of manufacturing the approved product. 35 U.S.C. 156(d) also requires the submission of information that enables the USPTO to determine the eligibility of the patent for extension, and the rights that will be derived from the extension, and information to enable the USPTO and the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the period of the extension. Additionally, 35 U.S.C. 156(d) requires the applicant for patent term extension to provide a brief description of the activities undertaken by the applicant during the regulatory review period with respect to the approved product and the significant dates of these activities.

This information collection also covers information gathered in requests for interim extensions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) and 156(e)(2). Under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5), an interim extension may be granted if the applicable regulatory review period that began for a product is reasonably expected to extend beyond the expiration of the patent term in effect. Under 35 U.S.C. 156(e)(2), an interim extension may be granted if the term of an eligible patent for which an application for patent term extension has been submitted would expire before a certificate of extension is issued. In addition, this information collection covers requests for review of final eligibility decisions, and requests to withdraw an application requesting a patent term extension after it is submitted.

Separate from the extension provisions of 35 U.S.C. 156, the USPTO may in some cases adjust the term of an original patent under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154 due to certain delays in the prosecution of the patent application, including delays caused by interference and derivation proceedings, secrecy orders, or appellate review by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board or a federal court in which the patent is

issued pursuant to a decision reversing an adverse USPTO determination of patentability. The USPTO administers 35 U.S.C. 154 through 37 CFR 1.701–1.705. The patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b), as amended by Title IV, Subtitle D of the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999, allow the applicant an opportunity to request reconsideration of the USPTO's patent term adjustment determination. This information collection covers information gathered in such a request.

In addition, this information collection covers information collected when the USPTO reduces the amount of a granted patent term adjustment if delays were caused by an applicant's failure to make a reasonable effort to respond to a communication from the USPTO within three months of the communication's mailing date. Applicants may petition for reinstatement of a reduction in patent term adjustment with a showing that, in spite of all due care, the applicant was unable to respond to a communication from the USPTO within the three-month period.

Forms: None.

Type of Review: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Private sector.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 903 respondents.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 903 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the public approximately 1 hour to 25 hours to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 6,807 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden: \$489,440. The postage costs have increased since the publication of the 60-day **Federal Register** notice, from \$11.20 to \$12.25 for the Priority Mail legal flat rate envelope used for mailed submissions. As a result, the estimated postage costs have increased from \$101 to \$110. This accounts for the added \$9 to the

estimated total annual non-hourly cost burden.

Justin Isaac,

Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2026–03900 Filed 2–25–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–C–2026–0100]

Request for Comments on Community Outreach Office Locations in the Southeast Region

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is seeking information to consider regarding the selection of locations for one or more community outreach offices (COOs) in the Southeast Region, which the USPTO was directed to establish under the Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022 (UAIA). This region includes Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received by 5 p.m. ET on or before March 30, 2026, and should be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the **ADDRESSES** section. No public hearing will be held.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted electronically to NewOffices@uspto.gov. Attachments will be accepted as MICROSOFT WORD® or ADOBE® PDF documents. To be considered, comments must be submitted to the email box. Information that the submitter does not desire to be publicly available, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

If submission of comments to NewOffices@uspto.gov is not feasible due to a lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please contact the USPTO using the contact information below for special instructions regarding how to submit comments by mail or by hand delivery, based on the public's ability to obtain access to USPTO facilities at the time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Shipp, Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for