DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5683–N–02]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Neighborhood Stabilization Program Tracking Study

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal. The information is being collected by telephone and on-site interviews to assess program design, implementation, inputs and outcomes at the local level. This is the second wave of interviews for the same study and has the same structure.

DATES: *Comment Due Date:* February 11, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number (2577–XXXX) and should be sent to: HUD Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Email: *OIRA__Submission@omb.eop.gov* fax: 202–395–5806.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; email *Colette.Pollard@hud.gov;* telephone (202) 402–3400. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Pollard. email.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Housing and Urban Development will submit the proposed extension of information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Site Visit Protocols for Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) Evaluation; Second Round.

OMB Control Number: 2577–XXXX.

Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is conducting an important national study of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), with a particular focus on the round of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), known as ''NSP2.'' This information collection will constitute the second round of site visits and interviews of NSP2 grantees, as well as collection of grantees' property-level data on NSP2 activities conducted. The information collected will be used to describe how program implementation occurred in practice, gather views of what program outcomes and impacts have occurred, and explore factors that contributed to program outcomes.

Agency Form Numbers:

Members of the Affected Public: A total of 29 NSP2 grantees (25 local and 4 national) and 50 partner agencies will be part of the study. Staff of these grantees will be asked to participate in interviews with HUD's contractor and to provide HUD's contractor with access to their records for tracking program activity. Local interviews will take approximately 2 hours per person and will be administered to approximately 4 staff per NSP2 grantee and 4 additional staff among partner agencies. Interviews with national grantees will be administered to approximately 2 staff per NSP2 grantee.

Property-level data will be compiled either by grantee representatives or by a HUD contractor. Approximately one-half of the 29 grantees (or 14 grantees) and 25 partner organizations will likely chose to report the required data themselves via the study's preformatted spreadsheet. HUD estimates that each spreadsheet will take one person about 1.5 working days (12 hours) to complete, on average.

For the remaining 15 grantees and 25 partner organizations, the data will be compiled by the research team with the support of local representatives. The majority of this effort will be conducted by the researcher. HUD estimates that it will take approximately two hours per grantee and partner organization to provide access to records during this time (e.g., pulling the appropriate files).

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The following chart details the respondent burden on a quarterly and annual basis:

	Number of entities	Responses per entity	Hours per response	Total hours
Interviews: Local NSP grantees	25	4	2	200
Interviews: Local Partner agencies	50	4	2	400
Interviews: National NSP2 grantees	4	2	2	16
Providing Access to Records	40	1	2	80
Compiling Records	39	1	12	468

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 2, 2013.

Colette Pollard,

Department Reports Management Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013–00296 Filed 1–9–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5410–N–03]

Federal Housing Administration (FHA) First Look Sales Method Under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP): Increased Discount on Sales Price for Certain Properties and Clarification of Effective Dates

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On July 15, 2010, HUD published a **Federal Register** notice establishing the process by which eligible purchasers under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) are provided a preference to acquire real-estate owned (REO) properties of FHA under the temporary Federal Housing Administration (FHA) First Look Sales Method. Under the First Look Sales Method, eligible NSP purchasers have the opportunity to purchase REO properties at a discount of 10 percent below their appraised value, less the cost of any applicable listing and sales commission. This notice announces an increase in the discount to 15 percent for properties that do not meet the applicable minimum property standards to be eligible for FHA mortgage insurance. Additionally, HUD has taken the opportunity afforded by this notice to clarify that the First Look Sales Method will be in effect until the conclusion of the NSP.

DATES: The FHA First Look Sales Method shall be in effect until the conclusion of the NSP.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ivery Himes, Director, Office of Single Family Asset Management, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 9172, Washington, DC 20410; telephone number 202–708–1672 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On July 15, 2010, at 75 FR 41225, HUD published a **Federal Register** notice establishing the process by which certain governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and subrecipients participating in the NSP (eligible NSP purchasers) are provided a preference to acquire REO properties under the temporary FHA First Look Sales Method. This temporary REO sales method furthers the goals of both NSP, to aid in the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes, and of HUD's REO sales program, to expand homeownership opportunities and strengthen communities. Through the FHA First Look Sales Method, HUD provides eligible NSP purchasers with a preference (a ''first look'') to acquire FHA REO properties that are available for purchase within NSP areas. Eligible NSP purchasers may acquire such REO properties with the assistance of NSP funds for any eligible uses under the NSP, including rental or homeownership. Interested persons should refer to the July 15, 2010, notice for additional details regarding the FHA First Look Sales Method.

II. This Notice—Increased Discount on Sales Price for Certain REO Properties Purchased Under the FHA First Look Sales Method

REO properties purchased through the FHA First Look Sales Method are sold at a discount of 10 percent below the appraised value, less any applicable costs, including commissions. The minimum discounted purchase price of a property is one percent off of the appraised property value; in no case may the discounted purchase price exceed 99 percent of the appraised property value. (*See,* Section II.F. of the July 15, 2010, notice, at 75 FR 41227). The ten percent discount has proved insufficient for REO properties that do not meet the minimum property standards to be eligible for FHA mortgage insurance because the property is in need of extensive repairs.[1] The necessary rehabilitation or flood insurance expenses, coupled with the lack of FHA financing, have the potential to make the costs of acquiring these properties prohibitive to otherwise eligible home purchasers. This lack of affordability impedes the goal of the FHA First Look Sales Method to aid in the revitalization of communities through expanded homeownership. To address this concern, HUD announces an increase in the discount to 15 percent for properties that do not meet the applicable FHA minimum property standards. As is currently true, the 15 percent discount shall be subject to any applicable costs, including commissions, but in no case will the total discounted amount be less than one percent off of the appraised property value. The discount for REO properties eligible for FHA mortgage insurance remains at 10 percent of the appraised value of the home.

In addition to the increase in the sales price discount, this notice clarifies that the First Look Sales Method will be in effect until the conclusion of the NSP. HUD's July 15, 2010, notice announced that the First Look Sales Method would be in effect until May 31, 2013. This date was based on the expected conclusion of the NSP, and was not intended to provide for conclusion of the First Look Sales Method prior to the close of the NSP.

III. Findings and Certifications

Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements for the FHA First Look Sales Method have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520) and assigned OMB Control Number 2502–0589. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Environmental Impact

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the environment for the FHA First Look Sales Method was made at the time of the July 15, 2010, **Federal Register** notice in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 50, which implement section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)). The FONSI is available for public inspection between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays in the Regulation Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410–0500. Due to security measures at the HUD Headquarters building, and advance appointment to review the FONSI must be scheduled by calling the Regulations

[1] The FHA minimum property standards for existing dwellings are found in HUD Handbook 4905.1 REV 1, available at *http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/hudclips/handbooks/hsgh/4905.1.*