

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Office of the Comptroller of Currency****FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

[Docket No. OP-1465]

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION****SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION****Agency Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review; Joint Comment Request; Joint Standards for Assessing the Diversity Policies and Practices of Entities Regulated by the Agencies**

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC); Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board); Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB); and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

ACTION: Joint notice, request for comment, and notice of information collection to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

SUMMARY: The OCC, FDIC, CFPB, and SEC (each, an Agency and collectively, the Agencies) have submitted to OMB a request for approval under the PRA of the collection of information discussed below. The Board (also an Agency and included in Agencies) reviewed the joint notice under the authority delegated to the Board by OMB. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 7, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to any or all of the Agencies. All comments received will be shared among the Agencies.

OCC: Because paper mail in the Washington, DC area and at the OCC is subject to delay, commenters are encouraged to submit comments by email, if possible. Comments may be sent to: Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Attention: 1557-NEW, 400 7th Street SW., Suite 3E-218, Mail Stop 9W-11, Washington,

DC 20219. In addition, comments may be sent by fax to (571) 465-4326 or by electronic mail to prainfo@occ.treas.gov.

In general, OCC will enter all comments received into the docket and publish them on the www.reginfo.gov Web site without change, including any business or personal information that you provide such as name and address information, email addresses, or phone numbers. Comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not include any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

You may personally inspect and photocopy comments by visiting the OCC at 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20219. For security reasons, the OCC requires that visitors make an appointment to inspect comments. You may make an appointment by calling (202) 649-6700 or, for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, TTY (202) 649-5597. Upon arrival, visitors will be required to present valid government-issued photo identification and submit to a security screening, prior to inspecting and photocopying comments.

Board: You may submit comments, identified by "OMWI Policy Statement," by any of the following methods:

- *Agency Web site:* <http://www.federalreserve.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/foia/proposedregs.aspx>.
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Email:* regs.comments@federalreserve.gov.
- *FAX:* (202) 452-3819 or (202) 452-3102.
- *Mail:* Robert deV. Frierson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20551.

All public comments are available from the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/foia/proposedregs.aspx> as submitted, unless modified for technical reasons. Accordingly, your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Public comments may also be viewed electronically or in paper form in Room MP-500 of the Board's Martin Building (20th and C Streets NW.) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

FDIC: You may submit comments on this information collection, which should refer to "Joint Standards for Assessing Diversity Policies and Practices," by any of the following methods:

• *Agency Web site:* <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/federal/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the FDIC Web site.

• *Email:* comments@FDIC.gov. Include "Joint Standards for Assessing Diversity Policies and Practices" in the subject line of the message.

• *Mail:* Gary A. Kuiper, Counsel, MB-3074, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20429.

CFPB: You may submit comments, identified by the title of the information collection, "Joint Standards for Assessing the Diversity Policies and Practices of Entities Regulated by the Agencies," or by the docket number (see below) using any of the following methods:

- *Electronic:* <http://www.regulations.gov> (Docket Number: CFPB-2015-0042). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Attention: PRA Office), 1700 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20552.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Attention: PRA Office), 1275 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20002.

Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. In general, all comments received will become public records, including any personal information provided. Sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or social security numbers, should not be included.

SEC: Please direct your written comments to Pamela Dyson, Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549, or send an email to PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov with "SEC File 270-664 OMWI Policy Statement" in the subject line of the message.

Additionally, commenters may send a copy of their comments to the OMB desk officer for the Agencies by mail to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503; By fax to (202) 395-6974; or by email to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about the information collection discussed in this notice, please contact any Agency clearance officer named below. In addition, background documentation for

this information collection may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov or at the following locations:

OCC: Shaquita Merritt or Mary H. Gottlieb, (202) 649-5490 or, for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, TTY (202) 649-5597, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20219.

Board: Nuha Elmaghrabi: Federal Reserve Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Data Officer, Mail Stop K1-148, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

FDIC: Gary A. Kuiper, Counsel, MB-3074, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20429, or send an email to gkuiper@fdic.gov.

CFPB: Darrin A. King, Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, 1700 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20552, (202) 435-9575, or email: PRA@cfpb.gov. Please do not submit comments to this email box.

SEC: Pamela Dyson, Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 342 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act) required each Agency to establish an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI) to be responsible for all matters of the Agency relating to diversity in management, employment, and business activities. The Dodd-Frank Act also instructed the OMWI Directors to develop standards for assessing the diversity policies and practices of entities regulated by their Agencies. The Agencies worked together to develop joint standards and, on June 10, 2015, they published a **Federal Register** notice (80 FR 33016) entitled “Final Interagency Policy Statement Establishing Joint Standards for Assessing the Diversity Policies and Practices of Entities Regulated by the Agencies” (Policy Statement).¹ The Policy Statement contains a collection of information within the meaning of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

A. Overview of the Collection of Information

1. Description of the Collection of Information and Proposed Use

The title for this proposed collection of information is:

- Joint Standards for Assessing Diversity Policies and Practices.

The Policy Statement includes Joint Standards that cover “Practices to Promote Transparency of Organizational Diversity and Inclusion.” These standards contemplate that a regulated entity is transparent about its diversity and inclusion activities by making certain information available to the public annually on its Web site or in other appropriate communications, in a manner reflective of the entity’s size and other characteristics. The information noted in these standards is the entity’s diversity and inclusion strategic plan; its policy on its commitment to diversity and inclusion; progress toward achieving diversity and inclusion in its workforce and procurement activities (which may include the entity’s current workforce and supplier demographic profiles); and employment and procurement opportunities available at the entity that promote diversity.

In addition, the Policy Statement includes standards that address “Entities’ Self-Assessment.” These standards envision that the regulated entity conducts a voluntary self-assessment of its diversity policies and practices at least annually, provides information pertaining to this self-assessment to its primary federal financial regulator, and publishes information pertaining to its efforts with respect to the Joint Standards. The information provided to the Agencies will be used to monitor progress and trends among regulated entities with regard to diversity and inclusion in employment and contracting activities, as well as to identify and publicize leading diversity policies and practices.

2. Description of Likely Respondents and Estimate of Annual Burden

The collections of information contemplated by the Joint Standards will impose no new recordkeeping burdens as regulated entities will only publish or provide information pertaining to diversity policies and practices that they maintain during the normal course of business. The Agencies estimate that, on average, it will take a regulated entity approximately 12 burden hours annually to publish information pertaining to its diversity policies and practices on its Web site or in other appropriate communications and to retrieve and submit information pertaining to its self-assessment to its primary federal financial regulator.

The Agencies estimate the total burden for all regulated entities as follows:

Information Collection: Joint Standards for Assessing Diversity Policies and Practices.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

OCC: 215.

Board: 488.

FDIC: 398.

CFPB: 750.

SEC: 1,250.

Frequency of Collection: Annual.

Average Response Time per

Respondent: 12 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours:

OCC: 2,580 hours.

Board: 5,856 hours.

FDIC: 4,776 hours.

CFPB: 9,000 hours.

SEC: 15,000 hours.

Obligation to respond: Voluntary.

B. Solicitation of Public Comments

The Policy Statement included a 60-day notice requesting public comments on the collection of information. During the comment period, the Agencies collectively received four comment letters: Two from industry trade associations, one from an advocacy organization, and one from an individual.² The comments, which are described below, addressed the collection of information under the “Entities Self-Assessment” Joint Standards. (As noted above, these Joint Standards envision that a regulated entity provides self-assessment information to the OMWI Director of the entity’s primary federal financial regulator.) The commenters also commented on aspects of the Policy Statement unrelated to the collection of information; these views are not relevant to this notice or the paperwork burden analysis and, accordingly, they are not addressed below.

After reviewing and considering the comments related to the collection of information, the Agencies have decided not to make any changes to the collection of information described in the 60-day notice.

1. Practical Utility of Information Collection

Two commenters addressed whether the collection of information pertaining to self-assessments will have practical utility. One commenter asserted that it is premature to gauge how useful information will be without knowing precisely what information the Agencies will request. The other commenter maintained that the information collection request in the Policy

¹ The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) joined the Agencies in issuing the Policy Statement. However, the NCUA is issuing a separate **Federal Register** notice for PRA clearance.

² Separately, the NCUA received a comment letter from an industry trade association. The Agencies considered this comment and have included it in the discussion of comments below.

Statement will yield large variations in the information submitted and predicted that the information received will have little practical utility. This commenter argued that the Agencies should standardize the information they request so they are able to assess accurately the state of diversity and inclusion across the industry. The commenter's view is that standardization of the data request would enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information.

Although the Agencies have not specified the content or format for the information collection described in the Policy Statement, they anticipate that the information submitted to them will be similar in content, if not in form. They contemplate that regulated entities will organize their information collection around the categories in the Joint Standards. The Agencies also expect that the information they receive will help achieve the purpose of the collection, which is to allow the Agencies to identify trends in the financial services industry regarding diversity and inclusion in employment and contracting and to identify leading diversity policies and practices.

2. Specific Collection Instrument

Three commenters requested that the Agencies be more specific about the information collection. One commenter asked the Agencies to send questions that "comport with how its member firms operate" and that the information collection request allow entities to submit qualitative information to add context to quantitative submissions. Another commenter asked the Agencies to provide a "robust" example or template of the information the entities should submit. This commenter also recommended that the Agencies provide a non-exhaustive list of materials that respondents can use to compare against what they are planning to submit. The third commenter recommended that the Agencies develop a standardized collection instrument. This commenter noted that it had recommended standardized survey questions when it commented on the proposed Policy Statement. The commenter urged the Agencies to adopt a thorough framework for collecting specific and consistent data.

The Agencies appreciate the collection instrument recommendations and the offers to assist in developing an instrument. At this time, however, the Agencies have not developed a joint information collection instrument. The Agencies believe that the Policy Statement encourages regulated entities to provide information regarding their

self-assessments in a manner reflective of the Joint Standards and that any such information received will be useful.

3. Assurance of Confidentiality

The Joint Standards addressing Self-Assessments provide that the entities submitting information may designate such information as confidential commercial information, where appropriate. Three commenters expressed concerns about whether the information submitted would remain confidential. One commenter indicated that its members are concerned that information submitted to their primary federal financial regulator might be provided, without context, to other regulators or to the U.S. Congress, leading to confusion or to the disclosure of competitive information. This commenter asked the Agencies to provide a clearer confidentiality policy and clarify that submissions will remain confidential unless the submitting entity expressly waives confidentiality. Similarly, another commenter stated that its members are concerned that third parties may have access to the information submitted and could use this information to the submitter's disadvantage. This commenter requested additional clarification regarding how the Agencies will use and protect submitted information, as well as a written statement providing assurance that the Agencies will not share the information with third parties.

The remaining commenter expressed concern that designating information as confidential will not guarantee protection from disclosure. The commenter observed that, if the public requests information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the regulated entity will be notified of the request and provided an opportunity to argue against disclosure. In the event that the regulated entity's argument does not prevail, the voluntarily submitted information could be released to the public.

Two of these commenters recommended that regulated entities be allowed to submit information anonymously. One commenter said its members might support the use of a third-party vendor that could capture and potentially anonymize submissions as a way to minimize information collection burden. The other commenter asserted that giving respondents the option to submit information anonymously would enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information, minimize burden, and address confidentiality concerns. This commenter also recommended that the Agencies allow submitters to classify

themselves into general categories, such as by approximate asset size, number of employees, and geographic location.

The Agencies understand that regulated entities want assurances that the Agencies will treat the submitted information as confidential and will not disclose the information unless the submitter expressly waives confidentiality. To the extent that a submission includes confidential information, the Agencies will keep such information confidential to the extent allowed by law. The Agencies advise regulated entities submitting private information to follow their primary federal financial regulator's FOIA regulations with respect to designating information as confidential or seeking confidential treatment.

Finally, with respect to anonymity, the Agencies are concerned that anonymous submissions would be less useful than submissions in which the submitting entity is identified. As indicated in the Policy Statement, the OMWI Directors plan to reach out to regulated entities to discuss diversity and inclusion practices and methods of assessment, and these contacts will be more informative for both the Agencies and the entities if the Agencies know which submission came from which entity. However, the Agencies will reassess this matter over time.

4. Accuracy of Burden Estimate

The Agencies estimated that, annually, it would take an entity 12 burden hours, on average, to publish information pertaining to its diversity policies and practices on its Web site and to retrieve and submit self-assessment information to its primary federal financial regulator. One commenter stated that the Agencies grossly underestimated the time it would take to collect, categorize, and submit this information. The commenter asserted that retrieving diversity data is a time-consuming and labor-intensive task, particularly for entities with hundreds or thousands of employees located throughout U.S. and the world. In addition, the commenter maintained that an entity's submission would have to undergo a time-consuming review by legal counsel and others to assure accuracy and clarity before the entity could submit the information.

The Agencies note that the commenter did not provide an alternative estimate or formula for calculating this burden and that 12 hours is an estimated average. In the absence of more specific information, the Agencies do not have a basis for changing their burden estimate at this time. If, however, future feedback

indicates that the current estimate needs further refinement, the Agencies will consider adjusting their estimates accordingly.

5. Estimate of Start-Up Costs

One commenter asserted that it would take substantial IT, legal, and operational resources to put diversity data into a format appropriate for submission to a regulator. The commenter said that it could not provide an exact estimate of capital or start-up costs for submitting this information until an actual information request was available. In response, the Agencies note that there are no start-up costs associated with the collection of information contained in the Joint Standards. Furthermore, any costs incurred by a regulated entity, aside from the 12 burden hours discussed above to publish information pertaining to its diversity policies and practices on its Web site and to retrieve and submit self-assessment information to its primary federal financial regulator, will be incurred in the normal course of its business activities.

Written comments continue to be invited on:

(a) The necessity of the collection of information for the proper performance of the Agencies' functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the Agencies' estimate of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methods and the assumptions used;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information proposed to be collected;

(d) Ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

(e) Estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

The Agencies encourage interested parties to submit comments in response to these questions. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be shared among the Agencies. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 8, 2015.

Stuart E. Feldstein,

Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 2, 2015.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Secretary of the Board.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 29th day of September, 2015.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Robert E. Feldman,

Executive Secretary.

Dated: October 27, 2015.

Christopher D'Angelo,

Chief of Staff, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Date: October 1, 2015.

Brent J. Fields,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-28369 Filed 11-5-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-33-P; 6310-01-P; 6714-01-P; 4810-AM-P; 8011-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Revenue Procedure 2003-37; Correction

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains a correction to the Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments are still being accepted and should be received on or before December 28, 2015, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Christie Preston, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6129, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Need for Correction

As published, Revenue Procedure 2003-37 contains an error that may prove to be misleading and is in need of clarification.

On page 66618, in the preamble, first column, under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**, in the seventh line, the language "internet at *Lanita.VanDyke@irs.ov*" is corrected to

read "internet at *Lanita.VanDyke@irs.gov*".

Martin V. Franks,

Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Legal Processing Division, Associate Chief Counsel, (Procedure and Administration).

[FR Doc. 2015-28343 Filed 11-5-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee: National Academic Affiliations Council Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 that the National Academic Affiliations Council will be held December 8, 2015–December 9, 2015 in the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) Conference Room, 1800 G Street NW., Suite 870, Washington, DC. The December 8th sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. On December 9th, 2015, sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates.

On December 8, the Council will receive an update on the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation formula for education support; discuss strategies for continued Graduate Medical Education (GME) expansion authorized by the 2014 Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability (VACAA) Act; review the consolidation of non-VA provider programs directed by Public Law 114-41; and examine potential new joint ventures with academic affiliates. On December 9, the Council will explore the revised ethics rules for special government employees serving on Federal advisory committees; and discuss future possibilities for VA academic affiliations that strengthen the 70 year legacy of VA Policy memorandum No. 2. The Council will receive public comments from 12:30 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. on December 9, 2015.

Interested persons may attend and present oral statements to the Council. A sign-in sheet for those who want to give comments will be available at the meeting. Individuals who speak are invited to submit a 1-2 page summary of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official meeting record. Oral presentations will be limited to five minutes or less, depending on the number of participants. Interested parties may also