

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; Comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Office of Community Development's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR part 25 Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 13, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Norman P. Brown, Management Analyst, Office of Community Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3203, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3203, or by email: nbrown@ocdx.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC).

OMB Number: 0570-0027.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension for a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: USDA Rural Development's Office of Community Development administers the rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) program, an initiative designed to provide economically depressed rural areas and communities with real opportunities for growth and revitalization. Its mission: to create self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas of pervasive

poverty, unemployment, and general distress, and to demonstrate how distressed communities can achieve self-sufficiency through innovative and comprehensive strategic plans developed and implemented by alliances among private, public, and nonprofit entities.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 21 hours per response.

Respondents: Rural Empowerment Zones, rural Enterprise Communities and Champion Communities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 178.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Number of Responses: 356.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,762.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Office of the Secretary, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Office of the Secretary's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions 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 may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 28, 2002.

Michael E. Neruda,

Deputy Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 02-28718 Filed 11-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

November 6, 2002.

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), Washington, DC 20503 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.