

automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Margaret Batko, Assistant Branch Chief, Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be faxed to the attention of Ms. Batko at (703) 305-2486. The internet address is: Margaret.Batko@FNS.USDA.GOV. All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, Room 720.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Ms. Batko at (703) 305-2516.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Emergency Food Stamp Assistance for Victims of Disasters.

*OMB Number:* 0584-0336.

*Form Number:* Not a form.

*Expiration Date:* 1/31/2000.

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

*Abstract:* Pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the temporary food needs of families following a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required to be provided by households in order to determine eligibility for emergency food stamp benefits as the result of a disaster.

The number of disasters that occur annually and the average number of households affected by disasters cannot be accurately predicted. In reviewing the number of disasters for the last four fiscal years, we found that although the number of disasters remained relatively constant, most disasters covered small geographic areas and affected small populations resulting in a decreased reporting burden. In 1996, there were six disasters with the number of disaster-affected households ranging from 143 to 186,488. In 1997 there were six disasters and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 108 to 2,361. In 1998, there were eight

disasters and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 15 to 4,254. In 1999, there were three disasters, and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 495 to 2,610. Based on this data we calculated an estimated burden of 26,401 hours. We wish to emphasize that although this estimate of burden hours represents a significant decline from our prior estimate of 48,114 hours, the number and magnitude of disasters cannot be accurately estimated, and that although the annual number of affected households (respondents) averaged 63,362 per year over the last four years, in 1992 and 1994, there were single disasters with 206,735 and 242,834 applicant households, respectively. We anticipate that disasters of this magnitude will occur in the future.

*Affected Public:* Food Stamp recipients; State and local governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 63,362.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 25 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 26,401 hours.

Dated: November 23, 1999.

**George A. Braley,**

*Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-551 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-30-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Form FNS-209, Status of Claims Against Households

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. Sections 11, 13, and 16 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) are the bases for the information collected on Form FNS-209, Status of Claims Against Households. Section 11 of the Act requires that State agencies submit reports and other information that are necessary to determine compliance with the Act and its implementing regulations. Section 13 of the Act requires State agencies to establish claims and collect overpayments to households. Section 16 of the Act authorizes State agencies to retain a

portion of what is collected. The FNS-209 is used as the mechanism for State agencies to report the claim establishment, collection and retention amounts.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before March 13, 2000 to be assured consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Barbara Hallman, Chief, State Administration Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA, 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency'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.

All comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel Wilusz, (703) 305-2391.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Status of Claims Against Households.

*OMB Number:* 0584-0069.

*Form Number:* FNS-209.

*Expiration Date:* December 31, 1999.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection with no change in burden hours.

*Abstract:* The Food Stamp Program regulations at 7 CFR 273.18 require that State agencies establish, collect and efficiently manage food stamp recipient claims. Section 273.18(i) requires State agencies to submit at the end of every quarter the completed Form FNS-209, Status of Claims Against Households. The information required for the FNS-209 report is obtained from a State accounting system responsible for establishing claims, sending demand letters, collecting claims, and managing other claim activity. In general, State agencies must report the following information on the FNS-209: the current outstanding aggregate claim balance; claims established; collections; any balance and collection adjustments;

and the amount to be retained for collecting non-agency error claims. The burden associated with establishing claims (demand letters) and the Treasury Offset Program, both of which are also used to complete the FNS-209, are already approved under OMB burden numbers 0584-0492 and 0584-0446 respectively.

The estimated annual burden is 742 hours. This is the same as the currently approved burden. This estimate includes the time it takes each State agency to accumulate and tabulate the data necessary to complete the report four times per year.

*Affected Public:* State governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 53.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 3.5 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 742 hours.

Dated: January 3, 2000.

**Samuel Chambers, Jr.,**

*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-587 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

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

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by March 13, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Program Development & Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-0736. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* 7 CFR 1717, Subpart Y, Settlement of Debt Owed by Electric Borrowers.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0116.

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

*Abstract:* The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to electric systems to provide and improve electric service in rural areas pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). This information collection requirement stems from passage of P. L. 104-127, on April 4, 1996, which amended section 331(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*) to extend to RUS the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to settle debts with respect to loans made or guaranteed by RUS. Only those electric borrowers that are unable to fully repay their debts to the government and who apply to RUS for relief will be affected by this information collection.

The collection will require only that information which is essential for determining: the need for debt settlement; the amount of relief that is needed; the amount of debt that can be repaid; the scheduling of debt repayment; and, the range of opportunities for enhancing the amount of debt that can be recovered. The information to be collected will be similar to that which any prudent lender would require to determine whether debt settlement is required and the amount of relief that is needed. Since the need for relief is expected to vary substantially from case to case, so will the required information collection.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3,000 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Not-for-profit institutions and other businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 6,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Bob Turner, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service at (202) 720-0696.

Comments are invited on (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 assumption 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 F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Stop 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-1522.

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: January 5, 2000.

**Christopher A. McLean,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-588 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of Export Administration

#### President's Export Council Subcommittee on Export Administration; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The President's Export Council Subcommittee on Export Administration (PECSEA) will meet on January 26, 2000, 2 p.m., at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3407, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW., Washington, DC. The PECSEA provides advice on matters pertinent to those portions of the Export Administration Act, as amended, that deal with United States policies of encouraging trade with all countries with which the United States has diplomatic or trading relations and of controlling trade for national security and foreign policy reasons.

#### General Session

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman.
2. Presentation of papers or comments by the public.
3. Update on Administration export control initiatives.
4. Task Force reports.

#### Closed Session

5. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

The General Session of the meeting is open to the public and a limited number of seats will be available. Reservations are not required. To the extent time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the PECSEA. Written statements may be submitted at