

is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

EPA Dockets. Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. To access EPA's electronic public docket from the EPA Internet Home Page, select "Information Sources," "Dockets," and "EPA Dockets." Once in the system, select "search," and then key in Docket ID No. RCRA-2003-0006. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

E-mail. Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to rcra-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. RCRA-2003-0006. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

Disk or CD-ROM. You may submit comments on a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in Unit I.C.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

By Mail

Send your comments to: OSWER Docket, EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 5305T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. RCRA-2003-0006.

By Hand Delivery or Courier

Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. Attention Docket ID No. RCRA-2003-0006. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation

(8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays).

Dated: February 10, 2004.

Robert Springer,

Director, Office of Solid Waste.

[FR Doc. 04-3450 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 2004-N-03]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) is seeking public comments concerning a three-year extension by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the information collection entitled "Monthly Survey of Rates and Terms on Conventional, 1-Family, Nonfarm Loans," commonly known as the Monthly Interest Rate Survey or MIRS.

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on or before April 19, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments by e-mail to comments@fhfb.gov, by facsimile to 202/408-2580, or by regular mail to the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, ATTN: Public Comments. Comments will be available on the Finance Board Web site at http://www.fhfb.gov/pressroom/pressroom_regs.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Roderer, Financial Analyst, Risk Monitoring Division, Office of Supervision, by e-mail at rodererd@fhfb.gov, by telephone at 202/408-2540, or by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Need for and Use of Information Collection

The Finance Board's predecessor, the former Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB), first provided data concerning a survey of mortgage interest rates in 1963. No statutory or regulatory provision explicitly required the FHLBB to conduct the MIRS although references to the MIRS did appear in several federal and state statutes. Responsibility for conducting the MIRS was transferred to the Finance Board upon dissolution of the FHLBB in 1989. See Financial Institutions Reform,

Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA), Pub. L. 101-73, tit. IV, sec. 402(e)(3)-(4), 103 Stat. 183, *codified at* 12 U.S.C. 1437 note, and tit. VII, sec. 731(f)(1), (f)(2)(B), 103 Stat. 433 (Aug. 9, 1989). In 1993, the Finance Board promulgated a final rule describing the method by which it conducts the MIRS. See 58 FR 19195 (Apr. 13, 1993), *codified at* 12 CFR 906.3. Since its inception, the MIRS has provided the only consistent source of information on mortgage interest rates and terms and house prices for areas smaller than the entire country.

Statutory references to the MIRS include the following:

- Pursuant to their respective organic statutes, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac use the MIRS results as the basis for the annual adjustments to the maximum dollar limits for their purchase of conventional mortgages. See 12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2) and 1717(b)(2). The Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac limits were first tied to the MIRS by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980. See Pub. L. 96-399, tit. III, sec. 313(a)-(b), 94 Stat. 1644-1645 (Oct. 8, 1980). At that time, the nearly identical statutes required Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to base the dollar limit adjustments on "the national average one-family house price in the monthly survey of all major lenders conducted by the [FHLBB]." See 12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2) and 1717(b)(2) (1989). When Congress abolished the FHLBB in 1989, it replaced the reference to the FHLBB in the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac statutes with a reference to the Finance Board. See FIRREA, tit. VII, sec. 731(f)(1), (f)(2)(B), 103 Stat. 433.

- Also in 1989, Congress required the Chairperson of the Finance Board to take necessary actions to ensure that indices used to calculate the interest rate on adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) remain available. See FIRREA, tit. IV, sec. 402(e)(3)-(4), 103 Stat. 183, *codified at* 12 U.S.C. 1437 note. At least one ARM index, known as the National Average Contract Mortgage Rate for the Purchase of Previously Occupied Homes by Combined Lenders, is derived from the MIRS data. The statute permits the Finance Board to substitute a substantially similar ARM index after notice and comment only if the new ARM index is based upon data substantially similar to that of the original ARM index and substitution of the new ARM index will result in an interest rate substantially similar to the rate in effect at the time the new ARM index replaces the existing ARM index. See 12 U.S.C. 1437 note.

- Congress indirectly connected the high cost area limits for mortgages

insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the MIRS in 1994 when it statutorily linked these FHA insurance limits to the purchase price limitations for Fannie Mae. See Pub. L. 103-327, 108 Stat. 2314 (Sept. 28, 1994), codified at 12 U.S.C. 1709(b)(2)(A)(ii).

- The Internal Revenue Service uses the MIRS data in establishing "safe-harbor" limitations for mortgages purchased with the proceeds of mortgage revenue bond issues. See 26 CFR 6a.103A-2(f)(5).

- Statutes in several states and U.S. territories, including California, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Wisconsin and the Virgin Islands, refer to, or rely upon, the MIRS. See, e.g., Cal. Civ. Code 1916.7 and 1916.8 (mortgage rates); Iowa Code 534.205 (1995) (real estate loan practices); Mich. Comp. Laws 445.1621(d) (mortgage index rates); Minn. Stat. 92.06 (payments for state land sales); N.J. Rev. Stat. 31:1-1 (interest rates); Wis. Stat. 138.056 (variable loan rates); V.I. Code Ann. tit. 11, sec. 951 (legal rate of interest).

The Finance Board uses the information collection to produce the MIRS and for general statistical purposes and program evaluation. Economic policy makers use the MIRS data to determine trends in the mortgage markets, including interest rates, down payments, terms to maturity, terms on ARMs and initial fees and charges on mortgage loans. Other federal banking agencies use the MIRS results for research purposes. Information concerning the MIRS is regularly published on the Finance Board's Web site (<http://www.fhfb.gov/mirs>) and in press releases, in the popular trade press, and in publications of other Federal agencies.

The likely respondents include a sample of 359 savings associations, mortgage companies, commercial banks and savings banks. The information collection requires each respondent to complete FHF Form 10-91 on a monthly basis.

The OMB number for the information collection is 3069-0001. The OMB clearance for the information collection expires on June 30, 2004.

B. Burden Estimate

The Finance Board estimates the total annual number of respondents at 359, with 12 responses per respondent. The estimate for the average hours per response is 30 minutes. The estimate for the total annual hour burden is 2,154 hours (359 respondents × 12 responses × 0.5 hours).

C. Comment Request

The Finance Board requests written comments on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of Finance Board functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Finance Board's estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: February 12, 2004.

By the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Donald Demitros,

Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-3460 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 2004-N-02]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) is seeking public comments concerning a three-year extension by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the information collection entitled "Affordable Housing Program (AHP)".

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on or before April 19, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments by e-mail to comments@fhfb.gov, by facsimile to 202/408-2580, or by regular mail to the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, ATTN: Public Comments. Comments will be available on the Finance Board Web site at http://www.fhfb.gov/pressroom/pressroom_regs.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles E. McLean, Jr., Associate Director, Community Investment and Affordable Housing Division, Office of Supervision, by telephone at 202/408-2537 or by electronic mail at mclean@fhfb.gov, or Melissa L. Allen, Program Analyst, Community Investment and Affordable Housing Division, Office of Supervision, by telephone at 202/408-2524 or by electronic mail at allenm@fhfb.gov, or

by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Need for and Use of the Information Collection

Section 10(j) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) requires the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) to promulgate regulations under which the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks) must establish an Affordable Housing Program (AHP) to make subsidized advances to members engaged in lending for long term, low- and moderate-income, owner-occupied and affordable rental housing at subsidized interest rates. See 12 U.S.C. 1430(j). Section 10(j) also establishes the standards and requirements for making subsidized AHP advances to FHLBank members. Part 960 of the Finance Board regulations implements the statutory requirements and authorizes the FHLBanks to make AHP funding decisions. See 12 CFR part 951.

The information collection contained in part 951 is used by the FHLBanks to determine whether an AHP applicant satisfies the statutory and regulatory requirements to receive subsidized advances or direct subsidies under the AHP. The Finance Board requires and uses the information, through examination of the FHLBanks, to ensure that FHLBank funding decisions, and the use of the funds awarded, are consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements.

The OMB number for the information collection is 3069-0006. The OMB clearance for the information collection expires on June 30, 2004.

The likely respondents include applicants for AHP funding.

B. Burden Estimate

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of respondents at 7,720, with 1.39 responses per respondent. The estimate for the average hours per response is 6.1 hours. The estimate for the total annual hour burden is 65,461 hours (7,720 respondents × 1.39 responses per respondent × 6.1 hours per response).

C. Comment Request

The Finance Board requests written comments on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of Finance Board functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Finance Board's estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to