

the levied river channels into the Atchafalaya River Basin. The Atchafalaya River Basin Floodway is 65 miles long, 15 miles wide, and lies on either side of the Atchafalaya River from Krotz Springs, Louisiana, to Morgan City, Louisiana. This floodway is a southern extension of the Morganza and West Atchafalaya Floodways at the lower end of the Atchafalaya River Basin. Flow is discharged into the Atchafalaya Bay and Gulf of Mexico through the lower Atchafalaya River at Morgan City and through an artificial channel (known as the Wax Lake Outlet) about 10 miles west of Morgan City.

The Atchafalaya River Basin has been described as the greatest river swamp in the United States. It encompasses more than one-half million acres of wetlands that may produce as much wildlife as any area in the country. The basin provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Its waters also support a tremendous sport and commercial fisheries' resource.

For years there was dispute over the conservation of the basin. Flood control, agriculture, energy development, recreation, and other interests in the basin were difficult to reconcile. All parties involved developed an agreement to resolve the major disputes. The agreement, which is incorporated in a feasibility study developed by the Corps for the basin, calls for specific flood control measures, water flow rates, and the purchase of flowage and conservation easements designed to keep the basin in a natural state, while providing navigation and flood protection for surrounding communities.

The agreement also calls for the acquisition and management of 90,000 acres within the basin for public access. The Dow Chemical Company donated 40,000 acres. The acquisition of the remaining 50,000 acres is to be split between the State of Louisiana and the Federal Government.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) purchased 11,780 acres on September 13, 1983, and created the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area. In the 1984 Supplemental Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 98-396) passed by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan, a total of \$10 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund was appropriated to the Service to acquire lands and waters in the Atchafalaya River Basin in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956. The land was purchased from the Iberville Land Company.

Atchafalaya NWR was established in 1986, when 15,220 acres in the basin, as directed by Public Law 98-548, were purchased. Since 1989, the Corps has purchased 37,000 acres of fee title land adjacent to and within the Atchafalaya NWR, which brought the current acreage among all three agencies to 64,000. The Corps is in the process of purchasing more land to add to the system.

Under the Cooperative Agreement (Contract No. 14-16-0004-86-946), all of the public access lands are managed by the LDWF. Since the Federal and State lands share common boundaries, LDWF technical and field personnel manage the wildlife on both the wildlife management area and the refuge. Service personnel are responsible for all forest management and issuance of special use permits.

Approximately 12 percent of the refuge is inundated open water, with isolated cypress trees and willow stands. Bottomland hardwood forest is the primary habitat. Self-guided tours can be accessed by auto, boat, or foot. Traditional use of the area is hunting, which follows the State's annual season dates and specific regulations. Camping is allowed nearby on the State's Sherburne Wildlife Management Area.

#### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: December 5, 2008.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of a proposed new information collection and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB a new information collection request (ICR) for approval of the paperwork requirements for the Study on Arsenic and Uranium in Bedrock Wells of East Central Massachusetts (MASSWELL).

**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before February 9, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of Interior via e-mail [*OIRA\_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov*]; or fax (202)395-6566; and identify your submission as 1028-NEW. Please also submit a copy of your comments to Phadrea Ponds, USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer, 2150-C Center Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); (970)226-9230 (fax); or *pponds@usgs.gov* (e-mail). Please reference Information Collection 1028-NEW, MASSWELL in the subject line.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE

**CONTACT:** John A. Colman, U.S. Geological Survey, 10 Bearfoot Road, Northborough, Massachusetts 01532 (mail); at 508-490-5027 (telephone); or *jacolman@usgs.gov* (e-mail).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Title:* Study on Arsenic and Uranium in Bedrock Wells of East Central Massachusetts.

*OMB Control Number:* 1028-NEW.

*Abstract:* The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) are conducting the study with assistance of staff from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health (MDPH/BEH) to assess: (1) The number of private wells containing raw-water concentrations of arsenic or uranium that are greater than the current drinking water standards and (2) the degree to which bedrock units can be associated with concentrations of uranium and arsenic. This information will help guide future water-supply development and well-water testing. It will tell local health officials where the areas of concern are in their communities, and provide background concentrations by rock type for use in identifying contamination from human sources.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary

under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 2), and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.197, "Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection." Responses are voluntary. No questions of a "sensitive" nature are asked.

*Affected Public:* Individual and household residents.

*Respondent Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* One-time collection.

*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* 1000 private well owners in East Central Massachusetts.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 800.

*Estimated Annual Burden Hours:* Approximately 133 hours.

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:* In the August 27, 2008 FR Notice (73 FR 50641) we estimated that the time to take the survey and collect the water sample would be 30 minutes. Based on peer-reviewer comments we have revised the estimated burden for this collection to be approximately 5 minutes to take the survey and 5 minutes to locate and collect the water needed for the sample. The total estimate is now 10 minutes per response.

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden:* There are no "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection of information.

*Public Disclosure Statement:* The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

*Comments:* We are soliciting comments as to: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) how to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer:* Phadrea D. Ponds 970-226-9445.

Dated: December 3, 2008.

**Peter K. Weiskel,**

*Associate Director, USGS Massachusetts-Rhode Island Water Science Center.*

[FR Doc. E9-180 Filed 1-8-09; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Notice of Renewal of Information Collection for Tribal Self-Governance, 25 CFR Part 1000

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed renewal of information collection.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is seeking comments from the public on a renewal of an information collection from Indian tribes participating in and Indian tribes seeking to participate in the Tribal Self-Governance, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collected under OMB Clearance Number, 1076-0143, will be used to meet reporting requirements of the Tribal Self-Governance Act and implement requirements for entry into a pool of qualified applicants to be selected to begin participation in Tribal Self-Governance. The information collection requirements are periodically reviewed because the number of Indian tribes participating in Tribal Self-Governance increases over time and the number of Indian tribes requesting to be selected to begin participation in Tribal Self-Governance may vary over time. This action is being taken to make sure that the requirements are not burdensome.

**DATE:** Submit comments on or before March 10, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Sharee M. Freeman, Director, Office of Self-Governance, Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 355-G-SIB, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may request further information or obtain copies of the proposed information collection request from Dr. Kenneth D. Reinfeld, Office of Self-Governance, Telephone 202-208-5734.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The collection is required by 25 U.S.C. 458dd, which requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a written report to Congress regarding the administration of Title IV, Tribal Self-Governance, under Public Law 93-638, as amended. The report is required to: (1) Identify the relative costs and benefits of Self-

Governance; (2) identify, with particularity, all funds that are specifically or functionally related to the provision by the Secretary of services and benefits to Self-Governance tribes and their members; (3) identify the funds transferred to each Self-Governance tribe and the corresponding reduction in the Federal bureaucracy; (4) include the separate views of the tribes; and (5) include the funding formula for individual tribal shares of Central Office funds, together with the comments of affected Indian tribes. Respondents are asked to respond to the annual request for information in 90 days.

In addition, the collection is required for tribes who request to be placed in a pool of qualified applicants and selected to participate in Tribal Self-Governance under 25 U.S.C. 458bb. The Act authorizes the Director, Office of Self-Governance to select up to 50 new tribes per year from an applicant pool to participate in Tribal Self-Governance. The qualified applicant pool consists of each tribe that: (1) Successfully completes a planning phase; (2) has requested participation in Tribal Self-Governance by resolution or other official action by the tribal governing body; and (3) has demonstrated, for the previous three fiscal years, financial stability and financial management capability as evidenced by the tribe having no material audit exceptions in the required annual audit of the self-determination contracts of the tribe.

*Request for Comments:* The Bureau of Indian Affairs requests your comments on this collection concerning: (a) The necessity of this information collection 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 (hours and cost) of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways we could enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways we could minimize the burden of the collection of the information on the respondents, such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that an agency may not sponsor or request, and an individual need not respond to, a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB Control Number.

It is our policy to make all comments available to the public for review at the location listed in the **ADDRESSES** section, room 355-G, during the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m., EST Monday through Friday