

the same as the text of § 1.41–8T(b)(2) through (b)(5) published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.]

\* \* \* \* \*

**Par. 4.** Section 1.41–9 is added to read as follows:

**§ 1.41–9 Alternative simplified credit.**

[The text of proposed § 1.41–9 is the same as the text of § 1.41–9T (a) through (d) published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.]

**Steven T. Miller,**

*Acting Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement.*

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**BILLING CODE 4830–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**36 CFR Parts 223, 228, 261, 292, and 293**

**Regulatory Flexibility Act Assessment—Locatable Minerals Operations**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service published in the **Federal Register** a proposed rule to revise the regulations for locatable minerals operations conducted on National Forest System lands. The proposed rule considered impacts to small entities under Executive Order 13272 and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA). However, the proposed rule did not make available nor seek comment on the small entities flexibility assessment. This notice allows for

review and seeks comment on the flexibility assessment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received, in writing, on or before July 17, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Forest Service, USDA, Attn: Director, Minerals and Geology Management (MGM) Staff, (2810), Mail Stop 1126, Washington, DC 20250–1125; by electronic mail to [36cfr228a@fs.fed.us](mailto:36cfr228a@fs.fed.us); by fax to (703) 605–1575. If comments are sent by electronic mail or by fax, the public is requested not to send duplicate written comments via regular mail. The public may inspect comments received on the proposed rule in the Office of the Director, MGM Staff, 5th Floor, Rosslyn Plaza Central, 1601 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia, on business days between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Those wishing to inspect comments are encouraged to call ahead at (703) 605–4646 to facilitate entry into the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mike Doran, Minerals and Geology Management Staff, (208) 373–4132. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The assessment follows.

**Description of Small Entities Affected**

The proposed rule (73 FR 15694, Mar. 25, 2008) would directly affect all exploration and mining companies. There are currently approximately 1,800 exploration and mining companies

operating on the National Forests. Seventy-five percent of these companies are considered small business with less than 500 employees. The size of these 1,260 small businesses range from one person to 499 employees. Total production ranges from zero production for exploration companies to few thousand dollars per year for very small mining to several million dollars per year for the larger mining companies. Most mining companies require at least 20–25 percent profit to survive mining’s volatile market.

**Economic Impacts on Small Entities**

Increased operating costs from the proposed rule to small exploration and mining companies is expected to be insignificant since the small entities are already working under the proposed rule through current direction and policy spelled out in the Forest Service manual and handbooks. The proposed rule codifies much of the existing direction and policy.

The most direct costs from the proposed regulations will come from how much time and money is spent on filling out and filing the required notice of intent, cessation of operations, or an operating plan. Table #1 records the 2007 annualized burden costs for an operator.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) published earnings information pertaining to locatable mineral operations. That information can be found in the *Mineral Commodity Summaries 2007*. The USGS disclosed that the estimated “Average weekly earnings of production workers” for metal mining in 2006 was \$979. Based on 40 hours a week and on an 8-hour workday, the average hourly salary in the locatable mineral arena is about \$24.48. This rate is reflected in Table #1.

TABLE #1.—2007 ANNUALIZED BURDEN COSTS

Information collection	Number of respondents	Response frequency	Hour burden per collection	Total burden hours	Annualized costs @ \$24.48/hour	Cost per respondent
Plan of operations .....	319	1	12	3,828	\$93,709	\$293.76
Notice of intent .....	1,396	1	2	2,792	20,318	14.55
Cessation of operations .....	3	1	1	3	73	24.33

Each year the Forest Service surveys the regional offices to get an estimate of how many Plans of Operations and Notices of Intent were received. The latest figures indicate that 320 Plans of

Operations and 415 Notices of Intent were received in 2007. All of these plans and notices came from small entities.

Total estimated 2007 costs for small entities to comply with the information

collection was \$114,100. The estimated additional information collection costs for the proposed bonded notice are reflected in Table #2.

TABLE #2.—2007 ANNUALIZED BURDEN COSTS FOR A BONDED NOTICE  
(Proposed Rule)

Information collection	Number of respondents	Response frequency	Hour burden per collection	Total burden hours	Annualized costs @\$24.48/hour	Cost per respondent
Bonded notice .....	100	1	6	600	\$14,688	\$146.88

The field units provided an initial estimate of 100 exploration and mining companies that would use the bonded notice instead of a plan of operation. A six hour burden per bonded notice was assumed giving a total of 600 burden hours. Annualized costs to the small entities would be \$14,688.

The economic impact on an individual respondent would be \$114,100 + \$14,688 = \$128,788 divided by 1,260 small businesses = \$102.21.

**Conclusion**

The comments will be addressed in the final rule for locatable minerals operations. The Forest Service has determined that the proposed rule will have an impact on a substantial number of small businesses. However, the economic impact of the proposed rule will not be significant. Under the proposed rule small entities will have the option of filing a bonded notice rather than a plan of operation for short-term, low impact exploration proposals rather the longer plan of operations requiring more analysis and a longer approval time. The Forest Service expects the major impact from the proposed rule to be a reduction of paperwork burden for the small entities which should be beneficial to small exploration and mining companies.

The Forest Service hereby certifies that the proposed rule will not have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined by SBRFEA.

Dated: June 9, 2008.

**Charles L. Myers,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. E8-13446 Filed 6-16-08; 8:45 am]

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**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**48 CFR Part 501**

[GSAR Case 2006-G502; Docket 2008-0007; Sequence 5]

RIN 3090-AI53

**General Services Acquisition Regulation; GSAR Case 2006-G502; Rewrite of GSAR Part 501; General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation System**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration (GSA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The General Services Administration (GSA) is proposing to amend the General Services Acquisition Regulation (GSAR) to update the text addressing the General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation System. This rule is a result of the General Services Administration Acquisition Manual (GSAM) Rewrite Initiative undertaken by GSA to revise the GSAM to maintain consistency with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and to implement streamlined and innovative acquisition procedures that contractors, offerors and GSA contracting personnel can utilize when entering into and administering contractual relationships. The GSAM incorporates the GSAR as well as internal agency acquisition policy.

GSA will rewrite each part of the GSAR and GSAM, and as each GSAR part is rewritten, will publish it in the **Federal Register**.

This rule covers the rewrite of GSAR Part 501, General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation System.

**DATES:** Interested parties should submit written comments to the Regulatory Secretariat on or before August 18, 2008 to be considered in the formulation of a final rule.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments identified by GSAR Case 2006-G502 by any of the following methods:

- Regulations.gov: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking portal by

inputting "GSAR Case 2006-G502" under the heading "Comment or Submission". Select the link "Send a Comment or Submission" that corresponds with GSAR Case 2006-G502. Follow the instructions provided to complete the "Public Comment and Submission Form". Please include your name, company name (if any), and "GSAR Case 2006-G502" on your attached document.

- Fax: 202-501-4067.

- Mail: General Services

Administration, Regulatory Secretariat (VPR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, ATTN: Laurieann Duarte, Washington, DC 20405.

*Instructions:* Please submit comments only and cite GSAR Case 2006-G502 in all correspondence related to this case. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal and/or business confidential information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For clarification of content, contact Ms. Beverly Cromer at (202) 501-1448, or by e-mail at [Beverly.Cromer@gsa.gov](mailto:Beverly.Cromer@gsa.gov). For information pertaining to the status or publication schedules, contact the Regulatory Secretariat (VPR), Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405, (202) 501-4755. Please cite GSAR Case 2006-G502.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Background**

GSA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) with request for comments in the **Federal Register** at 71 FR 7910, February 15, 2006, because GSA was beginning the review and update of the General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR). No public comments were received on GSAR Part 501.

This GSAR rewrite will—

- Change "you" to "contracting officer".
- Maintain consistency with the FAR but eliminate duplication.
- Revise GSAR sections that are out-of-date, or which imposed inappropriate burdens on the Government or contractors, especially small businesses.
- Streamline and simplify wherever possible.