Platt, Christine

From: Jennifer Oberlin [joberlin@kyhousing.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2010 11:25 AM

To: Platt, Christine

Subject: Public Comments regarding NHPA compliance

Importance: High September 30, 2010

Christine Platt Patrick, EE-2K U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20585

Fax: (202) 586-1233

Email: Christine.Platt@ee.doe.gov

Dear Mrs. Patrick,

In response to the proposed reporting requirements for the WAP and NHPA compliance we have the following comments to make.

We feel that the additional work that will be required in order to track the data necessary to answer the questions requested on the report will be a huge burden on the staff tasked with administering the program.

In the Memorandum of Agreement that we had in place prior to the example Programmatic Agreement issued for the Department of Energy programs, there is the requirement that we provide the address of each property assisted with Weatherization dollars on an annual basis to our local State Historic Preservation Office. Furthermore, if we are proposing work on a unit that can not be considered an exempt activity, per the MOA we have in place, than the SHPO office would be very involved to ensure that the unit is properly addressed according to Section 106 protocol.

It is unclear to me what knowledge is to be gained by the various questions. It seems that the data to be gathered, from the questions as they now appear, is not necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, and in fact could interfere with the our ability to efficiently function as it would be an additional level of work and reporting. Furthermore, I am unsure how the information that is proposed to be collected would be utilized and it does not appear to be practical.

Each state is administering the WAP, SEP and EECBG programs in differing manners. In our state in particular the WAP is being administered by a different state agency. As the reporting requirements are now proposed it seems that you are requesting that the questions be answered regarding all three of these programs combined. As we are unsure of how the other agencies tasked with administering the SEP and EECBG programs are implementing the Section 106 process, and being unfamiliar with these agencies and programs, the task of trying to pull all these facets together for the sake of reporting would be very onerous.

It is unclear to me what is trying to be interpreted from the data that is being collected but I would be more than willing to work with you to develop a more proper procedure for meeting that intent. In closing I must admit that these opinions are coming from the perspective of the agency that is administering the Weatherization program, which as you know means dealing with thousands of units monthly and that adds to why this requirement would be so burdensome. The data collection you are requesting might be easier for the SEP and EECBG

programs than for Weatherization.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Jennifer Oberlin Program Analyst/Environmental Specialist **Kentucky Housing Corporation** 1231 Louisville Road Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-7630 Ext. 214 (800) 633-8896 Ext. 214 (In-State Only) (502) 564-9866 (Fax) TTY 711

email: joberlin@kyhousing.org

www.kyhousing.org

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