

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Board for International Food and Agriculture Development, One Hundred and Thirty First Meeting; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of the one hundred and thirty first meeting of the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development (BIFAD). The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 16, 2000, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 17, 2000, in the NASULGC conference room on the first floor at 1307 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 2005.

As part of its agenda, BIFAD will look at the role of agriculture in global poverty reduction. A strong agriculture sector is the cornerstone to a strong economy and poverty reduction. In developing countries the majority of the population is engaged in agriculture. BIFAD will learn how development policies as well as activities in different geographic regions are supporting poverty reduction through improved agriculture. BIFAD will hear about university/private sector partnerships collaborating on international agriculture development in select commodities. Such collaboration is important in promoting agricultural development.

Those wishing to attend the meeting or obtain additional information about BIFAD should contact Mr. Charles Uphaus, the Acting Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD. Write him in care of the Agency for International Development, Ronald Reagan Building, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 2.11-044, Washington, DC 20523-2110

or telephone him at (202) 712-1172 or fax (202) 216BIFAD3060.

**Charles Uphaus,**

*USAID Acting Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Growth Center, Bureau for Global Programs.*

[FR Doc. 00-3953 Filed 2-17-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6116-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Office of Procurement and Property Management; Proposed Collection: Comment Request Concerning Collection of Acquisition Information

**AGENCY:** Office of Procurement and Property Management, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of approved information collection requirements.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM) intends to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of five currently approved information collections related to the award of, or performance under, USDA contracts. OPPM invites comment on these information collections. These information requirements are currently approved by OMB for use through May 31, 2000. OPPM proposes that OMB extend its approval for use through June 2, 2003.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by April 18, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: Joseph J. Daragan, Procurement Analyst, Office of Procurement and Property Management, STOP 9303, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9303. Comments may also be submitted via fax at (202) 720-8972, or through the Internet at joe.daragan@USDA.GOV.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph J. Daragan, Office of Procurement and Property Management, STOP 9303, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9303, (202) 720-5729.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** USDA is seeking OMB approval of the following information collections:

1. *Title:* Procurement: Maximum Workweek—Construction Schedule.

*OMB Number:* 0505-0011.

*Expiration Date:* 5/31/2000.

*Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Proposed use of information:*

Information about the contractor's proposed hours of work is requested prior to the start of construction so that the agency can determine when on-site representatives are needed. A contracting office will insert this clause in a construction contract when, because of the agency's staffing or budgetary constraints, it is necessary to limit the contractor's performance to a maximum number of hours per week.

*Respondents:* Businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 600.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* One (1).

*Estimate of Burden:* The information collected is the hours and days of the week the contractor proposes to carry out construction, with starting and stopping times. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average fifteen minutes per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 150 hours.

2. *Title:* Procurement: Instruction for the Preparation of Business and Technical Proposals.

*OMB Number:* 0505-0013.

*Expiration Date:* 5/31/2000.

*Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Proposed use of information:*

Technical and business proposals received from offerors, including information about offerors' organization and financial systems, are used when conducting negotiated procurement to evaluate and determine the feasibility of the prospective contractor's technical approach, management, and cost/price to accomplish the task and/or provide the supplies or services required under a resultant contract.

*Respondents:* State or local governments; businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,700.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* One (1).

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden to prepare technical and business proposals as part of a response to a solicitation is estimated to average 35 hours per response. This estimate does not include burden associated with providing information required in accordance with information collections prescribed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Only businesses submitting offers in response to a solicitation are affected by this collection.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 94,500 hours.

3. *Title:* Procurement: Brand Name or Equal Clause.

*OMB Number:* 0505-0014.

*Expiration Date:* 5/31/2000.

*Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Proposed use of information:* The Agriculture Acquisition Regulation permits the use of "brand name or equal" purchase descriptions to procure commercial products. Such descriptions require the offeror on a supply procurement to identify the "equal" item being offered and to indicate how that item meets salient characteristics stated in the purchase description. The contracting officer can determine from the descriptive information furnished whether the offered "equal" item meets the salient characteristics of the Government's requirements. The use of brand name or equal descriptions eliminates the need for bidders or offerors to read and interpret detailed specifications or purchase descriptions.

*Respondents:* Businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 51,468.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* One (1).

*Estimate of Burden:* This information collection is limited to solicitations for products for which other methods of product specification are impracticable. Only businesses wishing to submit bids or offers in response to a solicitation are affected. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimate to average one tenth of an hour per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 5,147 hours.

4. *Title:* Procurement: Key Personnel Clause.

*OMB Number:* 0505-0015.

*Expiration Date:* 5/31/2000.

*Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Proposed use of information:* The information enables the agency to determine whether the departure of a key person from the contractor's staff may have a deleterious effect upon

contract performance, and to determine what accommodations or remedies may be taken. If the agency could not obtain information about departing key personnel, it could not ensure that qualified personnel continue to perform contract work.

*Respondents:* State or local governments; businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* One (1).

*Estimate of Burden:* The information collection is required only when a contractor proposes to make changes to key personnel assigned to performance of a contract. Consequently, information collection is occasional. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per respondent.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 200 hours.

5. *Title:* Procurement: Progress Reporting Clause.

*OMB Number:* 0505-0016.

*Expiration Date:* 5/31/2000.

*Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Proposed use of information:* The information is requested monthly or quarterly from contractors performing research and development (R&D) or advisory and assistance services, including ADP system or software development. The information enables the contracting office to monitor actual progress and expenditures compared to anticipated performance and proposal representations upon which the contract award was made. The information alerts the contracting office to technical problems, to a need for additional staff resources or funding, and to the probability of timely completion within the contract cost or price. If the contracting office could not obtain a report of progress, it would have to physically monitor the contractor's operations on a day-to-day basis throughout the performance period.

*Respondents:* State or local government; businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* The frequency of progress reports varies from monthly to quarterly depending on the complexity of the contract and the risk of successful completion. Based on monthly reporting, each respondent would submit 12 responses per year.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one and one half hours per respondent.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 3,600 hours.

Comments received will be considered in order to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of USDA contracting offices, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of OPPM's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 11, 2000.

**W.R. Ashworth,**

*Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management.*

[FR Doc. 00-3877 Filed 2-17-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-TX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Research Service

#### Notice of Intent To Seek Office of Management and Budget Approval To Collect Information

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, Aug. 29, 1995 as corrected at 60 FR 96148, Sept 5, 1995), this notice announces the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) intention to request OMB approval for a new information collection from peer reviewers of ARS's research projects. The data will be used to manage the travel and stipend payments to panel reviewers and provide well organized feedback to ARS's researchers about their projects.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by April 24, 2000 to be assured of consideration.