

This collection is authorized under Title 13, Sections 161 and 182 of the United States Code, which allow the Secretary of Commerce to collect and disseminate "data on * * * governmental receipts, expenditures * * * of states, counties, cities, and other governmental units." Title 15, Section 1525 of the United States Code also authorizes the Secretary of Commerce "upon the request of any person, firm, organization, or others, public or private, to make special studies on matters within the authority of the Department of Commerce."

The NSF Act of 1950 includes a statutory charge to "provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies in the Federal Government." Under the aegis of this legislative mandate, NSF and its predecessors have sponsored surveys of R&D since 1953. This new survey will expand the scope of R&D collections to include state governments, for which there are no established collection efforts.

NSF currently sponsors surveys of R&D activities of Federal agencies, higher education institutions, and private industries. The results of these existing surveys provide a consistent information base for government officials, industry professionals, and researchers to use in formulating public policy and planning in science and technology. These surveys allow for the analysis of current and historical trends in research and development in the U.S., as well as comparisons with other countries.

The existing NSF surveys, however, do not canvass R&D activities at the state government department or agency level. Collection of data from state government units via this new survey instrument will fill the void that currently exists about our Nation's R&D expenditures.

The Census Bureau, serving as collection agent, will employ a methodology similar to the one used to collect information from state and local governments on established censuses and surveys. This methodology involves identifying a central coordinator in each state who will assist Census Bureau staff in identifying appropriate state departments/agencies to survey. These state contacts will also be able to verify data responses and assist with nonresponse follow-up. The collection approach using a central state contact is used successfully at the Census Bureau in surveys of local school districts,

municipal and county governments, and state government finances.

Items on the survey form will include expenditures by performer, source of funding, and type of R&D (e.g., basic research). The scope of the collection includes amounts for all science and engineering outlays, including social science research. R&D capital expenditures, such as research lab construction and the purchase of buildings, will also be collected.

Legislators, policy officials, and researchers rely on statistics to make informed decisions about R&D investment at the Federal, State, and local level. These statistics are derived from the existing NSF sponsored surveys of Federal agencies, higher education institutions, and private industry. The total picture of R&D expenditures, however, is incomplete due to the lack of relevant and timely data from state governments. This survey will fill this void that currently exists.

State government officials and policy makers are likely to garner the most benefit from the results of this survey. Governors and legislatures need a reliable, comprehensive source of data to help in evaluating how best to attract the high-tech, R&D industries to their state. Officials will be able to evaluate their investment in R&D based on comparisons with other states. These comparisons will include the sources of funding, the type of R&D being conducted, and the actual performer of the work.

The information collected from the Survey of State R&D will be used at the Federal level to assess and direct investment in technology and economic issues. Congressional committees and the Congressional Research Service use results of the current R&D surveys extensively. Inquiries made to NSF by congressional staff concerning industry and academic data are well documented. In addition, officials from several Federal agencies make use of the existing data.

NSF will also use data from this survey in various publications produced about the state of R&D in the U.S. The Science and Engineering Indicators series, for example, is a biennial report mandated by Congress and describes quantitatively the condition of the country's R&D efforts. Results will also likely be included in the National Patterns of Research and Development Resources tabulations and in the Science and Engineering Indicators report.

Private industry, either individually or through trade associations, will also find these data useful, particularly

statistics concerning funds transferred from state agencies to businesses. The current R&D surveys often receive prominent mention in industry publications such as Research and Development magazine, which recently released its "State of Global R&D" report.

The availability of state R&D data on the Internet will make this survey visible to several other users, as well. Media, university researchers, nonprofit organizations, and foreign government officials are also likely consumers of state R&D statistics. All users will utilize this information in an attempt to better understand the nation's R&D resources.

Affected Public: State, local or tribal government.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 161 and 182; Title 15 U.S.C., Section 1525; NSF Act of 1950.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: September 7, 2006.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Report of Privately-Owned Residential Building or Zoning Permits Issued (Building Permits Survey)

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information

collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynnek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Erica M. Filipek, Census Bureau, Room 2105, FOB 4, Washington, DC 20233–6900, (301) 763–5160 (or via the Internet at erica.mary.filipek@census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to request a three year extension of a currently approved collection of the Form C–404, Building Permits Survey. The Census Bureau produces statistics used to monitor activity in the large and dynamic construction industry. Given the importance of this industry, several of the statistical series are key economic indicators. Two such series are (a) Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits and (b) Housing Starts. Both are based on data from samples of permit-issuing places. These statistics help state and local governments and the Federal Government, as well as private industry, to analyze this important sector of the economy.

The Census Bureau uses Form C–404 to collect data to provide estimates of the number and valuation of new residential housing units authorized by building permits. We use the data, a component of the index of leading economic indicators, to estimate the number of housing units started, completed, and sold, if single-family, and to select samples for the Census Bureau's demographic surveys. Policymakers, planners, businessmen/women, and others use the detailed geographic data collected from state and local officials on new residential construction authorized by building permits to monitor growth and plan for local services and to develop production and marketing plans. The Building Permits Survey is the only source of statistics on residential construction for states and smaller geographic areas. Building permits are public records so

the information is not subject to disclosure restrictions.

II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau collects this information by mail and electronically through files we download or receive on diskettes or via e-mail.

The survey universe is comprised of approximately 19,450 local governments that issue building permits. Monthly, we collect this information by mail for about 8,200 permit-issuing jurisdictions and electronically for about 625 jurisdictions. Annually, we collect this information by mail for the remaining 10,625 jurisdictions.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607–0094.

Form Number: C–404.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 19,450.

Estimated Time per Response: 8 minutes for monthly respondents who report by mail, 3 minutes for monthly respondents who report electronically, and 23 minutes for annual respondents who report by mail.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 17,568.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$339,042.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Section 182.

Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 7, 2006.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–886]

Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (“the Department”) is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on polyethylene retail carrier bags (“PRCBs”) from the People's Republic of China (“PRC”) covering the period January 26, 2004, through July 31, 2005. We have preliminarily determined that sales have been made below normal value (“NV”) by Crown Polyethylene Products (International) Ltd. (“Crown”), High Den Enterprises Ltd. (“High Den”), and Dongguan Nozawa Plastic Products Co. Ltd. and United Power Packaging Ltd. (collectively, “Nozawa”).¹ If these preliminary results are adopted in our final results of this review, we will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) to assess antidumping duties on all appropriate entries of subject merchandise during the period of review (“POR”).

Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results. We intend to issue the final results no later than 120 days from the date of publication of this notice, pursuant to section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Act”).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 13, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laurel LaCivita or Matthew Quigley, AD/CVD Operations, Office 8, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution

¹ The Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews and Request for Revocation in Part, 70 FR 56634, 56635 (September 28, 2005) (“Initiation Notice”) refers to Nozawa with the following names: Dongguan Nozawa Plastics and United Power Packaging (collectively “Nozawa”), Dongguan Nozawa Plastics, Dongguan Nozawa Plastic Co., Ltd., Dong Guan (Dong Wan) Nozawa Plastic Co., Ltd., Dongguan Nozawa Plastic Products Co., Ltd., United Power Packaging, United Power Packaging Limited, United Power Packaging Ltd.