

businesses. Grant funds under this program may be used only to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems that would qualify for funding under the REAP. Agricultural producers and rural small businesses would be required to pay at least 75 percent of the cost of the feasibility study.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.4 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 354.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 10.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 3,395.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 4,811.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0040.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of USDA, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of USDA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 22, 2011.

**Chadwick O. Parker,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 2011-33685 Filed 1-3-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance (EA/REDA) program administered under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by March 5, 2012 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Cavanaugh, Management and Program Analyst, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3252, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-3201, Telephone (202) 260-1506.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program.

*OMB Number:* 0570-0059.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2012.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The Agency anticipates publishing a proposed rule for REAP in calendar year 2012. This proposed rule will include changes to the EA/REDA program as well as combine all associated burden for REAP into one paperwork burden package. Since the current EA/REDA paperwork burden package expires July 31, 2012, the period of time between expiration and the publication of a REAP final rule would have to allow for continued operation of the program. Thus, approval for extension is needed.

This grant program, authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, makes grants to eligible entities to provide energy audits and renewable energy development assistance to enable agricultural producers and rural small businesses to become more energy efficient and to use renewable energy technologies and resources. Entities eligible to receive grants under this program are State, tribal and local governments; land-grant

colleges and universities or other institutions of higher learning; rural electric cooperatives; public power entities and instrumentalities of a State, tribal, or local government. Grant funds under this program may be used to conduct and promote energy audits; provide recommendations and information on how to improve the energy efficiency of the operations of the agricultural producers and rural small businesses; and provide recommendations and information on how to use renewable energy technologies and resources in the operations. No more than five percent of the grant can be used for administrative purposes. Agricultural producers and rural small businesses for which a grantee is conducting an energy audit must pay at least 25 percent of the cost of the energy audit.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.3 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State, tribal and local governments; land-grant colleges and universities or other institutions of higher learning; rural electric cooperatives; public power entities; and instrumentalities of a State, tribal, or local government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 53.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 16.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 865.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,161.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0040.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of USDA, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of USDA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural

Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 21, 2011.

**Judith A. Canales,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 2011-33687 Filed 1-3-12; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Geographic Partnership Programs

**AGENCY:** U.S. Census Bureau.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**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:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before March 5, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Gregory Hanks, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-7400, (301) 763-3093 (or via email at [Gregory.F.Hanks.Jr@census.gov](mailto:Gregory.F.Hanks.Jr@census.gov)).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The mission of the Geography Division within the Census Bureau is to plan, coordinate, and administer all geographic and cartographic activities needed to facilitate Census Bureau statistical programs throughout the United States and its territories. The Geography Division manages programs to continuously update features, boundaries, addresses, and geographic

entities in the Master Address File/ Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing System (MAF/TIGER) database (MTDB). The Geography Division also conducts research into geographic concepts, methods, and standards needed to facilitate Census Bureau data collection and dissemination programs.

Geographic Partnership Programs (GPPs) allow designated participants, following Census Bureau guidelines, to review, update, and suggest modifications to addresses, features, boundaries, and geographic entities to maintain the Census Bureau MTDB and to ensure the accurate reporting of data from censuses and surveys. Because tribal, state, and local governments have address data, spatial data, and current knowledge about where growth and change are occurring in their jurisdictions, their input into the overall development of a continually maintained address list for censuses and surveys makes a vital contribution. Similarly, the Census Bureau recognizes that tribal, state, and local governments usually have the most authoritative data for addresses, features, and geographic boundaries in their jurisdictions. The benefits to local jurisdictions in sharing that information as part of the Census Bureau's geographic programs are realized in more accurate results of censuses and surveys.

##### II. Method of Collection

This pre-submission notice is for a generic clearance that will cover a number of activities required for updating the MTDB with participant-provided address and other geographic information, or obtaining address and spatial data for research and evaluation purposes. The information collected in these programs in cooperation with tribal, state, and local governments and other partners is essential to the mission of the Census Bureau and directly contributes to the successful outcome of censuses and surveys conducted by the Census Bureau. The generic clearance allows the Census Bureau to focus its limited resources on actual operational planning, development of procedures, and implementation of programs to update and improve the geographic information maintained in the MTDB.

The Census Bureau will develop guidelines and procedures for tribal, state, and local government submissions of address data and geographic boundaries, and will outline the mutual roles and responsibilities of each party within each Geographic Partnership Program. The list below includes typical geographic partnership programs, but is not exhaustive of all activities that may

be performed under this generic clearance. The Census Bureau will follow the approved procedure when submitting any additional activities not specifically listed here.

##### A. Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS-I)

The GSS-I is an integrated program designed to improve address coverage, obtain continual spatial feature updates, and enhance the quality assessment and measurement for the MTDB. The GSS-I builds on the accomplishments of the last decade's MAF/TIGER Enhancement Program (the MTEP) which redesigned the MTDB, improved the positional accuracy of TIGER spatial features, and emphasized quality measurement. The Census Bureau plans on a continual update process for the MAF/TIGER throughout the decade to support current surveys, including the American Community Survey. Major participants are the U.S. Census Bureau with tribal, state, and local governments. The Census Bureau will contact tribal, state, and local governments to obtain files containing their address and spatial data, to explore data exchange opportunities, and share best practices.

##### B. Redistricting Data Program

The 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program is established in accordance with the provisions of Title 13 U.S.C. 141(C) and provides the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico the opportunity to specify the small geographic areas for which they wish to receive decennial census population totals for the purpose of reapportionment and redistricting. The law requires that the Census Bureau allow those having responsibility for apportionment or districting of each State be given the opportunity to specify geographic areas for which they wish to receive decennial census population counts. The law also requires that by April 1 of the year following the decennial census the Secretary of Commerce will furnish State officials or their designee(s) with population counts for standard census tabulation areas (e.g., counties, cities, census blocks, and Congressional districts) and if provided by the states, legislative districts and voting districts.

The States had the opportunity to verify the inclusion of their voting districts and suggested tabulation block boundary features during 2009 and early 2010, to ensure the voting district boundaries that were used by the Census Bureau are consistent with their submissions. In Phase 4 of the 2010 Redistricting Data Program, scheduled