

public between 5 minutes (.08 hours) and 3 hours, depending upon the complexity of the situation, to gather the necessary information, prepare for submission, and submit a single item in this collection.

*Burden Hours:* 1533.33.

*Cost Burden:* \$0.

*Needs and Uses:* This information collection is necessary so that applicants that file applications with the USPTO, Japan Patent Office, and Korean Intellectual Property Office may participate in the International Work Sharing Program. The Program enables its participants to engage in the exchange of IP documents between the patent offices of the United States, Japan, and Korea in order to facilitate efficient worldwide patent examinations.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Nicholas A. Fraser, email: [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov).

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- Email: [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "0651-0079 copy request" in the subject line of the message.
- Mail: Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before January 15, 2016 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov), or by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

**Marcie Lovett,**

*Records Management Division Director, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015-31585 Filed 12-15-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**United States Patent and Trademark Office**

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Patents External Quality Survey**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

*Title:* Patents External Quality Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 0651-0057.

*Form Number(s):*

- No forms associated

*Type of Request:* Regular.

*Number of Respondents:* 3,100.

*Average Minutes per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take the public 10 minutes (.17 hours) to gather the necessary information, prepare for submission, and submit a single item in this collection.

*Burden Hours:* 516.67.

*Cost Burden:* \$0.

*Needs and Uses:* Individuals who work at firms that file more than six patent applications a year use the Patents External Quality Survey to provide their perceptions of examination quality to the USPTO. The USPTO uses the feedback gathered from the survey to assist them in targeting key areas for examination quality improvement and to identify important areas for examiner training.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

*Frequency:* Semi-annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Nicholas A. Fraser, email: [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov). Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- Email: [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "0651-0057 copy request" in the subject line of the message.
- Mail: Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed

information collection should be sent on or before January 15, 2016 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov), or by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

**Marcie Lovett,**

*Records Management Division Director, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015-31586 Filed 12-15-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Army**

[Docket ID USA-2015-HQ-0037]

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by January 15, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Fred Licari, 571-372-0493.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title, Associated Form and OMB Number:* Army Sex Offender Information; Department of the Army Form 3975; OMB Control Number 0702-0128.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement.

*Number of Respondents:* 550.

*Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Annual Responses:* 550.

*Average Burden per Response:* 20 minutes.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 183.

*Needs and Uses:* The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain and record the sex offender registration information of those sex offenders who live, work or go to school on Army installations. Respondents are any convicted sex offender required to register pursuant to any DoD, Army, State government, law, regulation, or policy where they are employed, reside, or are a student. The information collected is used by Army law enforcement to ensure the sex offender is compliant with any court order restrictions.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; individuals or households.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Ms. Jasmeet Sehra.

Comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be emailed to Ms. Jasmeet Seehra, DoD Desk Officer, at [Oira\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Oira_submission@omb.eop.gov). Please identify the proposed information collection by DoD Desk Officer and the Docket ID number and title of the information collection.

You may also submit comments and recommendations, identified by Docket ID number and title, by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

*Instructions*: All submissions received must include the agency name, Docket ID number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

*DOD Clearance Officer*: Mr. Frederick Licari.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Licari at WHS/ESD Directives Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, East Tower, Suite 02G09, Alexandria, VA 22350-3100.

Dated: December 10, 2015.

**Aaron Siegel**,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 2015-31531 Filed 12-15-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Guidelines for Carrying Out Section 221(a)(4) of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as Amended

**AGENCY**: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

**ACTION**: Notice.

**SUMMARY**: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has updated the existing guidance for providing in-kind credit under Section 221(a)(4) of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as further amended by Section 1018 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

**DATES**: *Effective date*: December 16, 2015.

**ADDRESSES**: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20314-1000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**: Janice E. Rasgus, Planning and Policy Division, Washington, DC at 202-761-7674.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**: ER 1165-2-208 will be posted on the Corps Web site in the very near future.

#### Response to Comments

The draft ER was published in the August 28, 2015, issue of the **Federal Register** (80 FR 52258) for a 30-day comment period. The comment period was extended by 30 days (see 50 FR 60135). The regulations.gov docket number is COE-2015-0013. Sixteen comments were received.

In response to one commenter, the guidance was expanded to clarify that in-kind contributions can be provided once the feasibility cost sharing agreement is executed and the project management plan is developed.

Several commenters noted that the non-Federal sponsor's costs of Coordination Team participation and audits are no longer considered in-kind contributions that are included as a study or project cost subject to cost sharing. The guidance was expanded to clarify that likewise the Federal Government's cost of Coordination Team participation and audits are not included in study or project costs for cost sharing purposes although these costs are included in calculating any limit on Federal participation.

One commenter requested that the guidance be modified to allow the value of in-kind contributions to be accepted as cash payments toward the additional 10 percent payment required for navigation projects. This request cannot be accommodated. The law is explicit that credit for in-kind contributions shall not alter any requirement for the non-Federal sponsor to pay 5 percent cash for flood damage reduction project and pay the additional 10 percent cash for navigation projects. This requirement was also specified in the in-kind contribution authority as enacted in WRDA 2007 and identified in the implementing guidance for that earlier provision.

Additional minor, non-substantive, edits were made to provide further clarity.

Dated: December 10, 2015.

**Theodore A. Brown**,

*Chief, Planning and Policy Division, Directorate of Civil Works.*

#### ER 1165-2-208

1. *Purpose*. This regulation provides guidance on the implementation of the in-kind contribution credit provisions of Section 221(a)(4) of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as further amended by Section 1018 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b(a)(4)) (hereinafter referred to as "Section 221"). Section 221(a)(4) of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as amended, and Section 1018 of WRRDA 2014 are provided in Appendix A.

2. *Distribution Statement*. Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.

3. *Applicability*. This regulation applies to all HQUSACE elements, Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs), and district commands having Civil Works responsibility and is effective immediately.

a. The Section 221 crediting provisions apply to the study, design, and construction of water resources development projects authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 or later laws, including projects initiated after November 16, 1986 without specific authorization in law. In addition, the crediting provisions apply to the correction of design deficiencies for projects authorized prior to WRDA of 1986. Finally, these provisions are also applicable to a project under an environmental infrastructure assistance program.

(1) For a project with a project partnership agreement (PPA) that was executed on or after November 8, 2007, such PPA may be amended to include work by the non-Federal sponsor that has not yet been initiated for credit toward any remaining non-Federal cost share under that agreement.

(2) Furthermore, in general, the crediting provisions of Section 221 will be used in lieu of Section 104 of WRDA 1986 and Section 215 of the Flood Control Act of 1968. However, any eligibility for credit under Section 104 of WRDA 1986 that was approved previously by the Secretary will be honored.

b. The authority for credit under Section 221 is in addition to any other authority to provide credit for in-kind contributions. Section 221 credit may be applied in lieu of other crediting provisions if requested by the non-Federal sponsor.