

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 7, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Elizabeth Reinhart, Management Analyst, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20889-1710, (or via the internet at docpra@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Technology Partnerships Office, 100 Bureau Ave. MS 2200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 301-975-2522, and donald.archer@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The NIST DN-45 Invention Disclosure Form is used to collect information pertaining to inventions created by Federal employees or by non-Federally employed individuals who have created an invention using NIST laboratory facilities as NIST Associates. The collection of this information is required to protect the United States rights to inventions created using Federal resources. The information collected on the form allows the Government to determine: (1) If an invention has been created; (2) the status of any statutory bar that pertains to the potential invention or that may pertain to the invention in the future. The information collected may allow the Government to begin a patent application process.

The Inventor Information Sheet is used to collect from individuals who have been named as potential inventors on a NIST Invention Disclosure Form. The collection of this information is used for multiple purposes:

(1) Some of the information may be required to file a patent application, if NIST seeks to protect a federally owned invention, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 207.

(2) The form, in part, is a statement made by the respondent declaring whether the respondent considers herself/himself to be an inventor.

(3) Some of the information is needed for NIST to determine potential assignees with which NIST would potentially negotiate consolidation of rights and other patent related matters.

(4) Some of the information helps NIST determine under which statutory authority NIST may consolidate rights in an invention with other potential assignees.

(5) Country citizenship information is required to determine whether a Scientific and Technology agreement or treaty with the respondent's country may impact the U.S. Government's rights to the invention.

The information is collected by the Technology Partnerships Office and shared with the Office of Chief Counsel at NIST. The information may also be shared with non-Governmental entities that may have ownership rights to the potential invention. The Government collects this information to execute the policy and objective of the Congress expressed at 35 U.S.C. 200. 35 U.S.C. 207 authorizes Federal agencies to apply for, obtain, and maintain patents or other forms of protection . . . on inventions in which the Federal Government owns a right, title, or interest. 35 U.S.C. 207 also authorizes each Federal agency to undertake all other suitable and necessary steps to protect and administer rights to federally owned inventions on behalf of the Federal government. The information collected through the NIST DN-45 is necessary for NIST to execute the authority granted at 35 U.S.C. 207.

II. Method of Collection

Information is collected by completing the NIST DN-45 form which is a template created in Microsoft Word.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: New Collection 0693-XXXX.

Form Number(s): NIST DN-45.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents: Invention Disclosure Form—10 per year. Inventor Information Form—100 per year.

Estimated Time per Response:

Invention Disclosure Form: 3 hours.

Inventor Information Form: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: Invention Disclosure Form: 30 hours. Inventor Information Form: 50 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$500.

IV. Request for Comments

NIST invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will 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.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2019-16882 Filed 8-6-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Baldrige Performance Excellence Program Team Leader Consensus and Site Visit Information Collections

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 7, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Maureen O'Reilly, Management Analyst, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20889-1710, (or via the internet at docpra@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Dawn Bailey, Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1020, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, 301-975-3074, dawn.bailey@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Public Law 100–107 (The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Improvement Act of 1987), which established the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program and its Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBNQA), stipulates that organizational applicants for the award (see OMB Control #0693–0006) receive “an intensive evaluation by a competent board of examiners which shall review the evidence submitted by the organization and, through a site visit, verify the accuracy of the quality improvements claimed.”

Per the statute, “the Director of the National Bureau of Standards shall rely upon” these examiners, as they are in essence the external workforce of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. Baldrige Program staff members *manage and improve* the award and all of its processes, but the examiners actually do the objective review of MBNQA applicants.

The Team Leader Consensus and Site Visit Surveys will be one key way that Baldrige staff members can communicate with and seek feedback from the external workforce (Baldrige Examiners). To manage these voluntary examiners (some private citizens, some government and military personnel), the Baldrige Program needs the ability to ask them of their preferences for the sector in which they will do their application review (*e.g.*, do they want to review a health care applicant, manufacturing applicant), their availability to conduct reviews, their ability to travel on a site visit and about all of their logistical needs (*e.g.*, dietary restrictions, cannot review an organization from a certain state due to conflicts in that state), their ability to perform particular MBNQA roles such as technical editor or team leader, their conflicts with a particular organization, etc. The Baldrige Program also needs to survey them to obtain qualitative information on performance, as being a Baldrige Examiner is a very competitive selection.

The Baldrige Program could not perform the intensive evaluation called for in the law without surveying its own workforce about their unique needs in relation to the MBNQA process (and its subprocesses). In fact, these volunteer examiners expect to be asked their preferences, as well as given the ability to give their feedback to improve processes.

II. Method of Collection

Surveys are typically conducted via email or through a secure NIST file-sharing system if any MBNQA

organization-specific information needs to be shared. Surveys can also be conducted over the phone if the number of examiners who need to be asked about a particular role or need is less than about 20. Often, a personal phone call is the best way to survey a subset of examiners, as maintaining positive relationships with examiners is very important to the program.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693–0079.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Extension and revision of a current information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals, including private citizens. All must be U.S. citizens (proof of citizenship is required prior to Baldrige Examiner training).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 350 per year.

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 88 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

NIST invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will 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.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2019–16883 Filed 8–6–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

BroadbandUSA Webinar Series

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meetings—Monthly webinars.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), as part of its BroadbandUSA program, promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband access and meaningful use across America. BroadbandUSA serves local and state governments, industry and nonprofits that seek to expand broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion. BroadbandUSA will host a series of webinars on a monthly basis to engage the public and stakeholders with information to accelerate broadband connectivity, improve digital inclusion, strengthen policies and support local priorities. The Practical Broadband Conversations webinar series will provide an ongoing source of information on a range of topics and issues being addressed by BroadbandUSA, including but not limited to best practices for improving broadband deployment, digital inclusion, workforce skills, smart communities, and economic development.

DATES: BroadbandUSA will hold the webinars from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time on the third Wednesday of every month, beginning October 16, 2019 and continuing through September 16, 2020, with the exception of December 2019 and August 2020.

ADDRESSES: This is a virtual meeting. NTIA will post the registration information on its BroadbandUSA website, <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov> under Events.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elaine Sloan, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4872, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–8231; email: BroadbandUSAwebinars@ntia.gov. Please direct media inquiries to NTIA’s Office of Public Affairs, (202) 482–7002; email press@ntia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NTIA’s BroadbandUSA program serves as a trusted and neutral strategic advisor,