

met other requirements noted in the COVID-19 Track One Notice.

Since the COVID-19 Track One Notice, the USPTO has modified the pilot program by removing the limit on the number of patent applications that could receive prioritized examination and extending the pilot program four times through notices published in the **Federal Register**. The most recent notice (87 FR 38714, June 29, 2022) extended the program until December 31, 2022.

As of December 6, 2022, 353 patents had issued from applications granted prioritized status under the pilot program. The average total pendency, from filing date or later submission of a request for continued examination to issue date, for those applications was 348 days. The shortest pendency from filing date to issue date for those applications was 75 days.

The USPTO is further extending the pilot program by setting the expiration date as February 15, 2023. The Office will continue to monitor the state of the current public health emergency and evaluate whether to further extend the program. If the USPTO determines that an additional extension of the pilot program is appropriate, the Agency will publish a subsequent notice to the public.

Unless the pilot program is further extended by a subsequent notice, following the expiration of this extension, the pilot program will be terminated in favor of the Office dedicating its resources to its other prioritized examination programs. Patent applicants interested in expediting the prosecution of their patent application may instead seek to use the Prioritized Examination (Track One) Program. Patent applications accorded prioritized examination under the pilot program will not lose that status merely because the application is still pending after the date the pilot program is terminated but will instead retain prioritized examination status until that status is terminated for one or more reasons, as described in the COVID-19 Track One Notice.

The Track One Program permits an applicant to have a patent application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination under 37 CFR 1.102(e) if the applicant timely files a request for prioritized (Track One) examination accompanied by the appropriate fees and meets the other conditions of 37 CFR 1.102(e). See § 708.02(b)(2) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (9th ed., rev. 10.2019, June 2020). The current USPTO fee schedule is available at www.uspto.gov/Fees.

The Track One Program does not have the restrictions of the COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program regarding the types of inventions for which special status may be sought, as the Track One Program does not require a connection to any particular technology. Moreover, under the Track One Program, an applicant can avoid delays associated with the determination of whether a patent application presents a claim that covers a product or process related to COVID-19 and whether the product or process is subject to an applicable FDA approval for COVID-19 use.

Katherine K. Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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U.S. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

[DFC-008]

Submission for OMB Review; Comments Request

AGENCY: U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, agencies are required to publish a Notice in the **Federal Register** notifying the public that the agency is modifying an existing information collection for OMB review and approval and requests public review and comment on the submission. The agencies received no comments in response to the sixty (60) day notice. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional thirty (30) days for public comments to be submitted. Comments are being solicited on the need for the information; the accuracy of the burden estimate; the quality, practical utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize reporting the burden, including automated collected techniques and uses of other forms of technology.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 23, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of the subject information collection may be sent by any of the following methods:

- *Mail:* Deborah Papadopoulos, Agency Submitting Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, 1100 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20527.

- *Email:* fedreg@dfc.gov.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and agency form number or OMB form number for this information collection. Electronic submissions must include the agency form number in the subject line to ensure proper routing. Please note that all written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Agency Submitting Officer: Deborah Papadopoulos, (202) 357-3979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agency received no comments in response to the sixty (60) day notice published in **Federal Register** volume 87 page 59065 on September 29, 2022. Upon publication of this notice, DFC will submit to OMB a request for approval of the following information collection.

SUMMARY FORM UNDER REVIEW

Title of Collection: Development Outcomes Survey.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Agency Form Number: DFC-008.

OMB Form Number: 3015-0015.

Frequency: Once per DFC project per year.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; individuals.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Number of Respondents: 650.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 2 hours.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,300 hours.

Abstract: The Development Outcomes Survey (DOS) is the principal document used by DFC to review development performance and monitor projects supported by DFC. It is a comprehensive survey that is also used to determine the project's compliance with environmental, labor, and economic policies, as consistent with DFC's authorizing legislation.

Dated December 16, 2022.

Nichole Skoyles,

Administrative Counsel, Office of the General Counsel.

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