

applies to areas that do not currently meet old-growth definitional conditions but that have been identified in the *Adaptive Strategy for Old-Growth Forest Conservation* as a priority for the future contribution of the development of those conditions over time.

For the purposes of fostering an increasing trend in the amount, representativeness, redundancy, and connectivity of old-growth forest conditions such that future conditions will be resilient and adaptable to stressors and likely future environments, landscape-level proactive stewardship activities should, within the scope of meeting other desired conditions, and characteristic of the ecosystem, be developed for the following priorities and purposes:

(a) To provide landscape-level redundancy and representation of old-growth conditions such that loss due to natural disturbance events does not result in a loss or isolation of the old-growth conditions at the landscape scale.

(b) To retain and promote the development of resilient old-growth conditions adjacent to existing old-growth forest conditions, including for the purposes of reducing fire hazard, altering potential fire spread or fire severity, or reducing potential insect or disease outbreak that may spread to adjacent old-growth forest.

(c) To enhance landscape and patch connectivity in forest conditions between old-growth condition patches where connectivity is poor or old-growth patches are isolated.

(d) To retain and promote the development of old-growth conditions where current conditions are likely to provide old-growth conditions in the shortest timeframe possible.

(e) To retain and promote the development of old-growth conditions in watersheds, firesheds, or other relevant landscape units where existing amounts and distributions of old-growth conditions lack resilience and adaptability to stressors and likely future environments.

(f) To retain and promote the development of old-growth conditions in areas of likely climate refugia that are projected to have the inherent capability to sustain old-growth conditions.

(g) To promote climate adapted species assemblages in areas where changing climatic conditions are likely to alter current conditions and change species assemblages over time.

Plan Monitoring—

The Chief of the Forest Service is responsible for establishing a National Old-Growth Monitoring Network for the

purposes of informing the continued implementation and evaluating the effectiveness of this amendment, based on the initial inventory and remote sensing data and other sources of finer scale information. The National Old-Growth Monitoring Network will adapt to emerging inventory methods, regularly update the national inventory of mature and old-growth conditions, develop analytical processes to interpret trend information, and convey findings to the field as they relate to implementation of the amendment. Regions and units will collaborate with the Chief's Office on the development of approaches to identify old-growth forest conditions and for effectively verifying estimated abundances and distributions.

For plan-level monitoring:

1. Within two years, identify initial criteria indicating where these plan components will apply and include such identification in the biennial monitoring report or the broader scale monitoring strategy to be updated as conditions change.

2. Within biennial monitoring evaluation reports, provide regular updates on actions taken pursuant to this amendment and provide updates on measurable changes in unit-level old-growth forest conditions when new information is available.

3. Add the following questions and indicators to plan-level monitoring programs:

a. *Question:* Are retention, development, and proactive stewardship activities implemented under the *Adaptive Old-Growth Conservation and Management Strategy* fostering an increasing trend in the amount, representativeness, redundancy, and connectivity of old-growth forest conditions on the unit?

i. *Indicator:* Changes in trends in amounts and distributions of old-growth forest conditions on the unit.

b. *Question:* Are vegetation management activities within old-growth forest promoting the desired composition, structure, pattern, and ecological conditions?

i. *Indicator:* Changes in composition, structure, and patterns related to desired ecological conditions in areas affected by vegetation management.

This proposed action and other related documents are available for comment on the project website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356>. Additional information can be found on the Forest Service website for mature and old-growth

forests at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/old-growth-forests>.

Thomas J. Vilsack,

Secretary of Agriculture.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Internet Panel Pretesting and Qualitative Survey Methods Testing

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on October 17, 2023 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

Title: Generic Clearance for internet Panel Pretesting and Qualitative Survey Methods Testing.

OMB Control Number: 0607-0978.

Form Number(s): TBD.

Type of Request: Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without Change, of a Currently Approved Collection.

Number of Respondents: 67,600.

Average Hours per Response: 0.25 hours.

Burden Hours: 16,900.

Needs and Uses: The information collected in this program of developing and testing questionnaires will be used by staff from the Census Bureau and sponsoring agencies to evaluate and improve the quality of the data in the surveys and censuses that are ultimately conducted. Because the questionnaires being tested under this clearance are still in the process of development, the data that result from these collections are not considered official statistics of the Census Bureau or other Federal agencies. Data will be included in

research reports prepared for sponsors inside and outside of the Census Bureau. The results may also be prepared for presentations related to survey methodology at professional meetings or publications in professional journals.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Once.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Data collection for this project is authorized under the authorizing legislation for the questionnaire being tested. This may be Title 13, Sections 131, 141, 161, 181, 182, 193, and 301 for Census Bureau-sponsored surveys, and Title 13, Section 8(b) and Title 15 for surveys sponsored by other Federal agencies. We do not now know what other titles will be referenced, since we do not know what survey questionnaires will be pretested during the course of the clearance.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0607–0978.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

[Docket No. 231208–0291]

RIN 0694–XC103

Impact of the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on Legitimate Commercial Chemical, Biotechnology, and Pharmaceutical Activities Involving "Schedule 1" Chemicals (Including "Schedule 1" Chemicals Produced as Intermediates) During Calendar Year 2023

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Industry and Security is seeking public comments on the impact that the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, through the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998 and the Chemical Weapons Convention Regulations, has had on commercial activities involving "Schedule 1" chemicals during calendar year 2023. The purpose of this notice of inquiry is to collect information to assist BIS in its preparation of the annual certification to the Congress on whether the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms are harmed by such implementation. This certification is required under Condition 9 of Senate Resolution 75 (April 24, 1997), in which the Senate gave its advice and consent to the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 19, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this rule may be submitted to the Federal rulemaking portal <https://www.regulations.gov>. The [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) ID for this rule is: BIS–2023–0039. Please refer to RIN 0694–XC103 in all comments.

All filers using the portal should use the name of the person or entity submitting the comments as the name of their files, in accordance with the instructions below. Anyone submitting business confidential information should clearly identify the business confidential portion at the time of submission, file a statement justifying nondisclosure and referring to the specific legal authority claimed, and provide a non-confidential version of the submission.

For comments submitted electronically containing business confidential information, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC." Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" on the top of that page. The corresponding non-confidential version of those comments must be clearly marked "PUBLIC." The file name of the non-confidential version should begin with the character "P." Any submissions with file names that do not begin with either a "BC" or a "P" will be assumed to be public and will be made publicly available through <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Commenters submitting business confidential information are encouraged to scan a hard copy of the non-confidential version to create an image of the file, rather than submitting a

digital copy with redactions applied, to avoid inadvertent redaction errors which could enable the public to read business confidential information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on the Chemical Weapons Convention requirements for "Schedule 1" chemicals, contact James Truske, Treaty Compliance Division, (202) 482–2509, Email: james.truske@bis.doc.gov. For questions on the submission of comments, contact Logan Norton, Regulatory Policy Division, Email: RPD2@bis.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction, commonly called the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC or "the Convention") is an international arms control treaty that seeks to eliminate chemical weapons through requiring ratifying countries (States Parties) to prohibit the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, and transfer of chemical weapons. The CWC imposes certain obligations on States Parties, among which are the enactment of legislation to implement the treaty's prohibitions. In the United States, the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998, 22 U.S.C. 6701 *et seq.*, implements the provisions of the CWC. In providing its advice and consent to the ratification of the CWC, the Senate included, in Senate Resolution 75 (S. Res. 75, April 24, 1997), several conditions to its ratification. Condition 9, titled "Protection of Advanced Biotechnology," calls for the President to certify to Congress on an annual basis that "the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms in the United States are not being significantly harmed by the limitations of the Convention on access to, and production of, those chemicals and toxins listed in Schedule 1." On July 8, 2004, President George W. Bush, by Executive Order 13346, delegated his authority to make the annual certification to the Secretary of Commerce.

"Schedule 1" chemicals consist of those toxic chemicals and precursors set forth in the CWC "Annex on Chemicals" and in "Supplement No. 1 to part 712—SCHEDULE 1 CHEMICALS" of the Chemical Weapons Convention Regulations (CWCR) (15 CFR parts 710–722). The CWC identified these toxic chemicals and