

This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comment.

*Agency:* United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

*Title:* Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees.

*OMB Control Number:* 0651–0016.

*Needs and Uses:* Under 35 U.S.C. 41 and 37 CFR 1.20(e)–(h), 1.362, 1.363, 1.366, 1.377, and 1.378, the USPTO charges fees for maintaining in force all patents based on applications filed on or after December 12, 1980, except for plant and design patents. Furthermore, maintenance fees are required for a reissue patent unless the patent being reissued did not require maintenance fees. Payment of these maintenance fees is due at 3½, 7½, and 11½ years after the date the patent was granted. See section 2504 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (9th Edition, Rev. 07.2022, February 2023) for more information.

If the USPTO does not receive payment of the appropriate maintenance fee and any applicable surcharge within a grace period of six months following each of the above due dates (at 4, 8, or 12 years after the date of grant), the patent will expire at that time. After a patent expires, it is no longer enforceable. Payments of maintenance fees that are submitted during the 6-month grace period before patent expiration must include the appropriate surcharge as indicated by 37 CFR 1.20(h). Submissions of maintenance fee payments and surcharges must include the relevant patent number and the corresponding United States application number in order to identify the correct patent and ensure proper crediting of the fee being paid. See MPEP 2506, 2510, and 2515 for more information.

If the USPTO refuses to accept and record a maintenance fee payment that was submitted prior to the expiration of a patent, the patentee may petition the Director to accept and record the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.377. This petition must be accompanied by the fee indicated in 37 CFR 1.17(g), which may be refunded if it is determined that the refusal to accept the maintenance fee was due to an error by the USPTO.

If a patent has expired due to nonpayment of a maintenance fee, the patentee may petition the Director to accept a delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b). The Director may accept the payment of a maintenance fee after the expiration of the patent if the petitioner shows to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment was unintentional. Petitions to accept unintentionally delayed

payment must also be accompanied by the required maintenance fee and the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m). If the Director accepts the maintenance fee payment upon petition, then the patent is reinstated. If the USPTO denies a petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee in an expired patent, the patentee may petition the Director to reconsider that decision under 37 CFR 1.378(d).

This information collection covers maintenance fee petition information, including the electronic interface and form provided by the USPTO to assist the public with maintenance fee petitions. To pay a maintenance fee after patent expiration, the maintenance fee payment and the petition fee, as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m), must be filed together with a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee in an expired patent under 37 CFR 1.378(b). The USPTO offers two different versions of the form for petitions to accept unintentionally delayed payments of maintenance fees: a web-based ePetition and form PTO/SB/66 (a fillable PDF). The USPTO recommends the use of the web-based ePetition. The USPTO does not offer forms for the petitions to review the refusal to accept the payment of a maintenance fee prior to the expiration of the patent under 37 CFR 1.377 or the petitions for the reconsideration of decisions on petitions refusing to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee in an expired patent under 37 CFR 1.378(d).

The fee address indication form (PTO/AIA/47 and PTO/SB/47) available at [www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/forms](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/forms) was previously associated with this information collection. This form permits applicants, patentees, assignees, or their representatives of record to specify a “fee address” for correspondence related to maintenance fees that is separate from the correspondence address associated with a patent or application. This item is considered by OMB to be exempt from the PRA and therefore, though this item remains available, it is no longer included in this information collection.

*Forms:* (SB = Specimen Book).

- PTO/SB/66 (Petition to Accept Unintentionally Delayed Payment of Maintenance Fee in an Expired Patent (37 CFR 1.378(b))

*Type of Review:* Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

*Affected Public:* Private sector.

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

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 2,616 respondents.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 2,616 responses.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the public approximately between 1 hour and 8 hours to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 3,424 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-Hourly Cost Burden:* \$2,577,316.

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce, USPTO information collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for this information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website, [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://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 information collection or the OMB Control Number, 0651–0016.

Further information can be obtained by:

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651–0016 information request” in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

**Justin Isaac,**

*Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2024–21931 Filed 9–24–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–16–P**

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## **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Employers of National Service Form and Survey**

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Corporation for National and Community Service, operating as AmeriCorps, has submitted a public information collection request (ICR) entitled Employees of National Service Form and Survey for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the individual and office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section by October 25, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling AmeriCorps, Emily Smith, at (202) 391-1393 or by email to [emsmith@americorps.gov](mailto:emsmith@americorps.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of CNCS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose 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

A 60-day Notice requesting public comment was published in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 2024, at 89 FR 49863, with a comment period ending August 12, 2024. No public comments were received in response to the notice.

*Title of Collection:* Employers of National Service Enrollment Form and Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 3045-0175.

*Type of Review:* Renewal.  
*Respondents/Affected Public:* Businesses and organizations.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 1,180.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 492.

*Abstract:* AmeriCorps is seeking to renew its Employers of National Service Enrollment Form and Survey. Organizations from all sectors either seeking to become, or already established as, Employers of National Service will be filling out these forms. This includes businesses, nonprofits, institutions of higher education, school districts, state and local governments, and Federal agencies. The purpose of the enrollment form is to document what the organization is committing to doing as an Employer of National Service and provide its contact information to AmeriCorps. The information gathered on the enrollment form will also allow AmeriCorps to display the organization’s information accurately online, as a resource for job seekers. It will also enable AmeriCorps to speak to the diversity within the program’s membership, both for internal planning and external audience use. The purpose of the survey form is to track the actions an employer has taken in the past year, gather stories of success or impact, collect quantitative hiring data relating to AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni, and provide organizations with an opportunity to update their contact and location data. AmeriCorps also seeks to continue using the currently approved information collection until the new information collection is approved by OMB. The currently approved information collection is due to expire on September 30, 2024.

**Rhonda Taylor,**

*Director, Partnerships and Program Engagement.*

[FR Doc. 2024-21919 Filed 9-24-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6050-28-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Scientific Advisory Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)), Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal advisory committee meeting of the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) will take place.

**DATES:** SERDP SAB will hold a meeting open to the public. Day 1—Tuesday, October 15, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4:05 p.m. EDT. Day 2—Wednesday, October 16, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be accessible by videoconference. Information for accessing the videoconference is provided in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, “Meeting Accessibility.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Kimberly Spangler, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) 703-571-2477 (voice), [kimberly.y.spangler.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kimberly.y.spangler.civ@mail.mil) (email). Mailing address is SERDP Office, 3500 Defense Pentagon, Rm. 5C646, Washington, DC 20301-3500. Website: <https://serdp-estcp.org/about>. The most up-to-date changes to the meeting agenda can be found on the website.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”) and 41 CFR 102-3.140 and 102-3.150.

*Availability of Materials for the Meeting:* Additional information, including the agenda or any updates to the agenda, is available on <https://serdp-estcp.mil/about/programs?Id=b7ba8fa2-c6b0-4ae3-bdcd-50a3461ef4d9>. Purpose of the Meeting: The purpose of the meeting is for the SERDP SAB to make recommendations regarding technologies, research, projects, programs, activities, and, if appropriate, funding within the scope of SERDP Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

*Agenda:* Tuesday, October 15, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.—Convene, SAB Business, Weapons Systems and Platforms Statement of Need Overview and Proposals, Resource Conservation and Resilience Statement of Need Overview and Proposals, Voting on Fiscal Year 2026 Recommendations, Public Comment Period, and Adjourn.

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Convene, Resource Conservation and Resilience Statement of Need Overview and Proposals, Voting on Fiscal Year 2026 Recommendations, SAB Business, Public Comment Period, and Adjourn.

*Meeting Accessibility:* Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1009(a) and 41 CFR 102-3.140