SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Data Collection Available for Public Comments

ACTION: 60 Day Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Small Business Administration (SBA) intends to request approval, from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collection of information described below. The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 44 U.S.C Chapter 35 requires federal agencies to publish a notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information before submission to OMB, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice complies with that requirement.

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 22, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments to Brenda Washington, Senior Program Analyst, HUBZone, Small Business Administration, 395 E Street SW., Patriot Plaza, Washington, DC 20416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Washington, Senior Analyst, HUBZone, Small Business Administration, 395 E Street SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The collected information is submitted by small business concerns seeking certification as a qualified HUBZone small business. SBA uses the information to verify a concern’s eligibility for the HUBZone programs, to complied a database of qualified small business concerns, as well as for the recertification and examination of certified HUBZone small business concerns. Finally SBA uses the information to prepare reports for the Executive and legislative branches.

Title: “HUBZone Program Electronic Application, Re-certification and Program Examination”.

Description of Respondents: Small business concerns seeking certification as a qualified HUBZone small business. SBA uses the information to verify a concern’s eligibility for the HUBZone programs, to complied a database of qualified small business concerns, as well as for the recertification and examination of certified HUBZone small business concerns. Finally SBA uses the information to prepare reports for the Executive and legislative branches.

Form Number: N/A.

Annual Responses: 5,230.

Annual Burden: 13,290.

Curtis Rich, Management Analyst.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #14503 and #14504]

Washington Disaster #WA–00060

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a Notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of Washington (FEMA–2422–DR), dated 10/15/2015.

Incident: Severe Windstorm.

Incident Period: 08/29/2015.

Effective Date: 10/15/2015.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 12/14/2015.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 07/15/2016.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Washington, Senior Analyst, HUBZone, Small Business Administration, 395 E Street SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the President’s major disaster declaration on 10/15/2015, Private Non-Profit organizations that provide essential services of governmental nature may file disaster loan applications at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Island; Jefferson; Snohomish.

The Interest Rates are:

For Physical Damage: 2.625

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Available Elsewhere</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Profit Organizations With</td>
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For Economic Injury: 2.625

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The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 14503B and for economic injury is 14504B

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #14501 and #14502]

South Carolina Disaster #SC–00032

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a Notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of South Carolina (FEMA—4241—DR), dated 10/15/2015.

Incident: Severe Storms and Flooding.

Incident Period: 10/01/2015 and continuing.

Effective Date: 10/15/2015.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 12/14/2015.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 07/14/2016.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Washington, Senior Analyst, HUBZone, Small Business Administration, 395 E Street SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the President’s major disaster declaration on 10/15/2015, Private Non-Profit organizations that provide essential services of governmental nature may file disaster loan applications at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:


The Interest Rates are:

For Physical Damage: 2.625

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

North American Free Trade Agreement; Invitation for Applications for Inclusion on the Chapter 19 Roster

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Invitation for applications.

SUMMARY: Chapter 19 of the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA") provides for the establishment of a roster of individuals to serve on binational panels convened to review final determinations in antidumping or countervailing duty ("AD/CVD") proceedings and amendments to AD/CVD statutes of a NAFTA Party. The United States annually renews its selections for the Chapter 19 roster. Applications are invited from eligible individuals wishing to be included on the roster for the period April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017.

DATES: Applications should be received no later than November 20, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted (i) electronically to www.regulations.gov, docket number USTR–2015–0017 or (ii) by fax, to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395–3640.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine Wang, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395–6214.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Binational Panel Reviews Under NAFTA Chapter 19

Article 1904 of the NAFTA provides that a party involved in an AD/CVD proceeding may obtain review by a binational panel of a final AD/CVD determination of one NAFTA Party with respect to the products of another NAFTA Party. Binational panels decide whether such AD/CVD determinations are in accordance with the domestic laws of the importing NAFTA Party, and must use the standard of review that would have been applied by a domestic court of the importing NAFTA Party. A panel may uphold the AD/CVD determination, or may remand it to the national administering authority for action not inconsistent with the panel’s decision. Panel decisions may be reviewed in specific circumstances by a three-member extraordinary challenge committee, selected from a separate roster composed of fifteen current or former judges.

Article 1903 of the NAFTA provides that a NAFTA Party may refer an amendment to the AD/CVD statutes of another NAFTA Party to a binational panel for a declaratory opinion as to whether the amendment is inconsistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ("GATT"), the GATT Antidumping or Subsidies Codes, successor agreements, or the object and purpose of the NAFTA with regard to the establishment of fair and predictable conditions for the liberalization of trade. If the panel finds that the amendment is inconsistent, the two NAFTA Parties shall consult and seek to achieve a mutually satisfactory solution.

Chapter 19 Roster and Composition of Binational Panels

Annex 1901.2 of the NAFTA provides for the maintenance of a roster of at least 75 individuals for service on Chapter 19 binational panels, with each NAFTA Party selecting at least 25 individuals. A separate five-person panel is formed for each review of a final AD/CVD determination or statutory amendment. To form a panel, the two NAFTA Parties involved each appoint two panelists, normally by drawing upon individuals from the roster. If the Parties cannot agree upon the fifth panelist, one of the Parties, decided by lot, selects the fifth panelist from the roster. The majority of individuals on each panel must consist of lawyers in good standing, and the chair of the panel must be a lawyer.

Upon each request for establishment of a panel, roster members from the two involved NAFTA Parties will be requested to complete a disclosure form, which will be used to identify possible conflicts of interest or appearances thereof. The disclosure form requests information regarding financial interests and affiliations, including information regarding the identity of clients of the roster member and, if applicable, clients of the roster member’s firm.

Criteria for Eligibility for Inclusion on Chapter 19 Roster

Section 402 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103–182, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3432)) ("Section 402") provides that selections by the United States of individuals for inclusion on the Chapter 19 roster are to be based on the eligibility criteria set out in Annex 1901.2 of the NAFTA, and without regard to political affiliation. Annex 1901.2 provides that Chapter 19 roster members must be citizens of a NAFTA Party, must be of good character and of high standing and repute, and are to be chosen strictly on the basis of their objectivity, reliability, sound judgment, and general familiarity with international trade law. Aside from judges, roster members may not be affiliated with any of the three NAFTA Parties. Section 402 also provides that, to the fullest extent practicable, judges and former judges who meet the eligibility requirements should be selected.

Adherence to the NAFTA Code of Conduct for Binational Panels

The "Code of Conduct for Dispute Settlement Procedures Under Chapters 19 and 20" (see https://www.nafta-secalena.org/Default.aspx?tabid=99&language=en-US), which was established pursuant to Article 1909 of the NAFTA, provides that current and former Chapter 19 roster members "shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety and shall observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and impartiality of the dispute settlement process is preserved." The Code of Conduct also provides that candidates to serve on chapter 19 panels, as well as those who are ultimately selected to serve as panelists, have an obligation to "disclose any interest, relationship or matter that is likely to affect [their] impartiality or independence, or that might reasonably create an appearance of impropriety or an apprehension of bias." Annex 1901.2 of the NAFTA provides that roster members may engage in other business while serving as panelists, subject to the Code of Conduct and provided that such business does not interfere with the performance of the panelist’s duties. In particular, Annex 1901.2 states that "[w]hile acting as a panelist, a panelist may not appear as counsel before another panel."

Procedures for Selection of Chapter 19 Roster Members

Section 402 establishes procedures for the selection by the Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395–6214, for inclusion on the Chapter 19 roster.