DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; 2017 Puerto Rico Census Test

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, 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: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before September 19, 2016.

ADDRESS: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at jessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Robin A. Pennington, Census Bureau, HQ–2K281N, Washington, DC 20233; (301) 763–8132 (or via email at robin.a.pennington@census.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau will conduct a 2017 Puerto Rico Census Test, with components designed to test new approaches or validate existing approaches and systems integration related to (1) Address Canvassing, including In-Office and In-Field components; (2) Optimizing Self-Response, including contact strategies, language support, and questionnaire content; (3) Update Enumerate, including technical and operational testing; and (4) Nonresponse Followup, including technological and operational improvements. The Address Canvassing component of the 2017 Puerto Rico Census Test is included in the Address Canvassing Testing package because the background, description, and systems to be used are the same in both the stateside and Puerto Rico operations.

Optimizing Self-Response, one of four key innovation areas for the 2020 Census, is focused on improving our methods for increasing the number of people who take advantage of self-response options and refining the questionnaire content to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of census operations, and at the same time reducing costs.

Another key innovation area for the 2020 Census is Reengineering Field Operations. Making our methods for enumerating the households that do not initially respond more efficient can contribute to a less costly census while maintaining high-quality results. Our redesigned methods need to be tested in Puerto Rico because of a number of differences from stateside operations.

A test in Puerto Rico includes a review of other innovations that are unique to this U.S. territory. Because of the unique structure of addresses in Puerto Rico, newly defined algorithms were necessary to update and maintain the address frame. These algorithms make it now possible to refresh the address frame with U.S. Postal Service data. Another innovation is the introduction of the self-response methodology that in the past has been the standard methodology used in urban and suburban areas of the States. In the 2000 and 2010 censuses, data collection throughout Puerto Rico used only the