



4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Agency Information Collection Activities under OMB Review; Renewal of a Currently Approved Collection; Reclamation Rural Water Supply Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of renewal and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation has forwarded the following Information Collection Request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Reclamation Rural Water Supply Program, OMB Control Number: 1006-0029.

Title 43 CFR part 404 requires entities interested in participating in the Rural Water Supply Program (Rural Water Program) to submit information to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to evaluate and prioritize requests for financial or technical assistance.

DATES: OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove this information collection, but may respond after 30 days; therefore, public comments must be received on or before

[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, via facsimile to (202) 395-5806, or e-mail to OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov.

A copy of your comments should also be directed to the Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: 84-55000, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Perry at 303-445-2887.

You may also view the Information Collection Request at www.reginfo.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract: The purpose of the Rural Water Program is to provide assistance to small communities of 50,000 inhabitants or less, including tribes and tribal organizations, to plan the design and construction of projects to serve rural areas with industrial, municipal, and residential water. Specifically, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is authorized to provide financial and technical assistance to conduct appraisal investigations and feasibility studies for rural water supply projects. Reclamation's regulation, 43 CFR part 404, establishes criteria governing how the program will be implemented, including eligibility and prioritization criteria, and criteria to evaluate appraisal and feasibility studies. Entities interested in participating in the Rural Water Program are requested to submit information regarding proposed appraisal investigation and feasibility studies, to allow Reclamation to evaluate and prioritize requests for financial or technical assistance under the program. Reclamation will apply the program criteria to the information provided to determine whether the entity seeking assistance is eligible, whether the project is eligible for assistance, and to what extent the project meets Reclamation's prioritization criteria. Requests for assistance under the Rural Water Program will be made on a voluntary basis. There is no form associated with this information collection.

II. Data.

OMB Control Number: 1006-0029.

Title: Reclamation Rural Water Supply Program, 43 CFR part 404.

Frequency: Once annually.

Respondents: States, tribes, municipalities, water districts, and other entities created under State law with water management authority.

Estimated Annual Total Number of Respondents: 56.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Number of Annual Responses: 56.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,100 hours.

III. Request for Comments.

We invite your comments on:

(a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our functions, including whether the information will have practical use;

(b) the accuracy of our burden estimate for the proposed collection of information;

(c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. A 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published in the Federal Register (77 FR 33766) on June 7, 2012. No public comments were received.

IV. Public Disclosure.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Date: August 24, 2012

Signed: _____
Roseann Gonzales
Director, Policy and Administration
Denver Office

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