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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

Agency Information Collection Activities:

Information Collection Renewal; Submission for OMB Review;

Community Reinvestment Act Regulations

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The OCC, 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 a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

In accordance with the requirements of the PRA, the OCC may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OCC is soliciting comment concerning its information collection titled, "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations." The OCC is also giving notice that it has sent the collection to OMB for review.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before [INSERT 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Because paper mail in the Washington, DC area and at the OCC is subject to delay, commenters are encouraged to submit comments by e-mail if possible. Comments may be sent to: Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the

Currency, Attention: 1557-0160, 400 7th Street, SW., Suite 3E-218, Mail Stop 9W-11, Washington, DC 20219. In addition, comments may be sent by fax to (571) 465-4326 or by electronic mail to regs.comments@occ.treas.gov. You may personally inspect and photocopy comments at the OCC, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219. For security reasons, the OCC requires that visitors make an appointment to inspect comments. You may do so by calling (202) 649-6700. Upon arrival, visitors will be required to present valid government-issued photo identification and to submit to security screening in order to inspect and photocopy comments.

All comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not enclose any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

Additionally, please send a copy of your comments by mail to: OCC Desk Officer, 1557-0320, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., #10235, Washington, DC 20503, or by email to: oira_submission@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Johnny Vilela or Mary H. Gottlieb, OCC Clearance Officers, (202) 649-5490, for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, TTY, (202) 649-5597, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW., Suite 3E-218, Mail Stop 9W-11, Washington, DC 20219.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) to

include agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party.

The OCC is proposing to extend OMB approval of the following information collection:

Title: Community Reinvestment Act Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 1557-0160.

Description: The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) requires the Federal banking agencies (Agencies) to assess the record of banks and savings associations in helping to meet the credit needs of their entire communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound operations; and to take this record into account in evaluating applications for mergers, branches, and certain other corporate activities.¹ The CRA statute requires the Agencies to issue regulations to carry out its purposes.²

Each Agency must provide written CRA evaluations of the institutions they supervise. The public portion of each written evaluation must present the Agency's conclusions with respect to the CRA performance standards identified in its regulations; include the facts and data supporting those conclusions; and contain the institution's CRA rating and the basis for that rating.

The data collection requirements in the CRA regulations are necessary for the Agencies to examine, assess, and assign a rating to an institution's CRA performance and to prepare the public section of the written CRA performance evaluation.

Type of Review: Regular review.

¹ 12 U.S.C. 2903.

² 12 U.S.C. 2905.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,693.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 142,463 hours.

Comments: The OCC issued a 60-day notice regarding this collection on April 25, 2014. 79 FR 23058. One comment was received. The commenter made a number of recommendations related to the OCC's supervisory uses of data in connection with the CRA regulation's service test.³ However, the commenter's recommendations do not relate to the CRA regulation's data collection requirements, which are the subject of this continuing information collection.

In general, the commenter stated that using more data in the service test would make bank evaluations easier for banks and examiners. The commenter recommended that bank examiners consider additional information for the service test that would assist with the evaluation of: the distribution of bank branches and products; opening and closing of bank branches; accessibility and use of alternative financial services; and the impact of banking services on customers and communities. The commenter also suggested that, in addition to a qualitative evaluation, that examiners use quantitative data to evaluate a bank's programs and determine if, and to what degree, a bank's services benefit the community.

The OCC is carefully considering the recommendations made by the commenter in connection with the possible issuance of future CRA-related guidance addressing the service test.

Comments continue to be invited on:

³ The service test evaluates a bank or Federal savings association's record of helping to meet the credit needs of its assessment area(s) by analyzing both the availability and effectiveness of a bank's systems for delivering retail banking services and the extent and innovativeness of its community development services. 12 CFR 25.24 and 195.24.

- (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the OCC, including whether the information has practical utility;
- (b) The accuracy of the OCC's estimate of the burden of the information collection;
- (c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
- (d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and
- (e) Estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: July 22, 2014.

Stuart E. Feldstein,
Assistant Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division.

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