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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Generic Clearance  
for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency  
Service Delivery**

**AGENCY:** National Protection and Programs Directorate, DHS.

**ACTION:** 30-Day Notice and request for comments; Extension,  
1670-0027

**SUMMARY:** As part of a Federal Government-wide effort to streamline the process to seek feedback from the public on service delivery, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) has submitted a Generic Information Collection Request (ICR): ``Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery'' to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995. DHS previously published this information collection request (ICR) in the **Federal Register** on Friday, May 05, 2017, for a 60-day public comment period. No comments were received by DHS. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments.

**DATES:** Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.1

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. Comments should be addressed to OMB Desk Officer, Department of Homeland Security and sent via electronic mail to [dhsdeskofficer@omb.eop.gov](mailto:dhsdeskofficer@omb.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collection activity provides a means to garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration's commitment to improving service delivery. NPPD is planning to submit this collection to OMB for approval. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study.

This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes

in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between NPPD and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Directorate's services will be unavailable.

NPPD will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions: 1) The collections are voluntary; 2) The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government; 3) The collections are noncontroversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies; 4) Any

collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future; 5) Personally identifiable information is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained; 6) Information gathered is intended to be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the NPPD (if released, NPPD must indicate the qualitative nature of the information); 7) Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and 8) Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance will provide useful information, but it will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs

that address: the target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential nonresponse bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

As a general matter, information collections will not result in any new system of records containing personal information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

This is an extension of an existing information collection. The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency,

including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. 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 used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. 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, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

**ANALYSIS:**

AGENCY: National Protection and Programs Directorate, DHS

Title: Agency Information Collection Activities: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

OMB Number: 1670-0027

Frequency: On occasion

Affected Public: Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, local or tribal governments.

Number of Respondents: 49,080

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 14 minutes

Total Burden Hours: 11,130 hours

Dated: August 9, 2017.

**David Epperson,**

*Chief Information Officer.*

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