

Materials to be discussed at the meetings have been properly classified and are specifically authorized under criteria established by Executive Order 12958, 60 FR 19,825 (1995), to be kept secret in the interests of national defense and foreign policy.

Therefore, in accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law No. 92-463, 86 Stat 770 (1972) (codified at 5 U.S.C. App. 2 510(a)(1)(1996)), I have determined that, because of the need to protect the secrecy of such national security matters, the meetings should be closed to the public.

This notice is being published less than 15 days before the first meeting day, in order to enable more Committee members to attend.

John D. Holum,

Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs and Director, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

[FR Doc. 98-1657 Filed 1-20-98; 3:38 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 971231318-7318-01]

Establishing New Research Data Centers (RDCs)

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of program and request for proposals.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public about the process and selection criteria available for establishing a limited number of new Research Data Centers (RDCs) at nonprofit organizations around the United States. Such organizations could include universities, nongovernmental research centers, and certain government facilities. The Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies has developed and put into practice the concept of RDCs. At RDCs, qualified researchers may have access to microdata from Census Bureau economic (business establishment and firm) and demographic (household and individual) surveys with appropriate safeguards to protect data confidentiality.

DATES: Proposals can be submitted for the National Science Foundation (NSF) winter 1998 proposal review cycle, with a proposal submission deadline of March 1, 1998. Thereafter, proposals will be accepted for the August 15 and

January 15 review cycles until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Written proposals to establish new RDCs should be submitted formally to the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (SBER) at the NSF. Detailed information on proposal guidelines and review procedures is available on the NSF web site <<http://www.nsf.gov>>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arnold Reznick at (301) 457-1856 (areznick@census.gov), John Haltiwanger at (301) 457-1848 (jhaltiwa@census.gov), Cheryl Eavey (ceavey@nsf.gov), or Daniel Newlon (dnewlon@nsf.gov). Also see the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov/ces/ces.html>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of the Census is prepared to enter into partnerships with universities, nongovernmental research centers, and certain government facilities to establish a limited number of new RDCs around the United States. Written proposals to establish new RDCs will be reviewed and evaluated jointly by the Census Bureau and the NSF.

The RDC program now operates pilot RDCs in Boston (in partnership with the National Bureau of Economic Research) and in Pittsburgh (in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University). The Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics also plan to establish a narrowly-focused RDC concerned with research using health data.

The RDC program has two major goals: (1) To use the results of the research carried out at the RDCs, and the contact between the Census Bureau and RDC researchers, to improve Census Bureau data programs, including data collection methodology and the underlying research microdatabases (benefit to the Census Bureau is required by the law authorizing the Census Bureau to enter into RDC arrangements, Title 15, United States Code, Section 1525); and (2) to promote academic research using microdata collected by the Census Bureau as part of its ongoing survey and census operations.

The Census Bureau data available at the RDCs would include both economic (business establishment and firm) data and demographic (household and individual) data collected in the Census Bureau's surveys and censuses. In particular cases, it may be possible to supplement these data with similar data from other governmental agencies.

A successful proposal from a research organization or a consortium of such

organizations would have to demonstrate (1) the ability to work along with the Census Bureau to provide fair and objective access to researchers while protecting the confidentiality of the underlying microdata, (2) the existence of a regional research community of sufficient size and quality to yield high-quality research output, and (3) a sound plan for long-term funding that provides access to data users on a low-cost basis. The NSF's evaluation of the potential research output of proposed RDCs will be a key element in selection decisions.

The Census Bureau will enter into joint project Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with those organizations chosen by the evaluation process. The authority for the Census Bureau to enter into these MOUs is found in Title 15, United States Code, Section 1525.

Any MOU entered into under the authority of Title 15, United States Code, Section 1525 will include information relating to the mutual interest of the Census Bureau and its MOU partner(s) in establishing an RDC; the equitable apportionment of costs by the Census Bureau and its partner(s); the nonprofit status of the partner(s); and the mutuality of the benefit to be derived from the joint project.

RDC operations will emphasize the following elements: (1) A secure research computer laboratory (as certified by the Census Bureau) in which to store and use the data, (2) a research project selection and approval process carried out jointly with the Census Bureau, (3) at least one Census Bureau employee on-site to provide support and to help instill the Census Bureau's "culture of confidentiality" into the researchers at the RDC, (4) an executive director (or senior "faculty advisor") to act as a liaison between the local research community and the Census Bureau, and (5) an RDC review and oversight board to ensure efficient operation of the RDC, as well as fair and objective choice of projects at the RDC.

An overriding consideration in providing researchers with access to these data will be the need to protect the confidentiality of the underlying data pursuant to Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. In particular, prospective researchers will be required to submit detailed project descriptions that must be approved by both the RDC board and the Census Bureau. It is important to remember that RDCs are reserved for projects that involve statistical or econometric modeling using economic and demographic microdata. RDCs are neither equipped nor designed to supplement the Census

Bureau's existing data program operations by producing large-scale special tabulations from confidential Census Bureau microdata.

Once projects are approved, project researchers will be required to obtain Special Sworn Status from the Census Bureau. Obtaining this status requires researchers to undergo a security check, including fingerprinting. Researchers holding Special Sworn Status will be subject to the same criminal penalties as regular Census Bureau employees for disclosure of confidential information. (The penalties are a fine of up to \$5,000, imprisonment for up to five years, or both.) Only persons with Special Sworn Status are allowed access to the RDC facility. Moreover, all research findings must be submitted to Census Bureau personnel for disclosure review prior to release to the public.

The estimate of the annual operating costs is \$250,000 per year, with higher initial costs in the first year to equip the RDC. This estimate is based upon experience at the pilot RDCs and includes (1) costs at the RDC of equipment, software, space, and the salary of the Census Bureau employee stationed at the RDC, and (2) costs of supporting the RDC at Census Bureau headquarters.

RDCs must be self-financing, with funding coming from institutions, foundations, or state support. The NSF is prepared to provide seed money to assist in covering start-up costs associated with establishing RDCs. An organization proposing to establish an RDC can request from the NSF up to \$100,000 per year for a three-year term to cover part of the start-up costs and annual operating costs associated with establishing the RDC. Determinations on these requests will be made by NSF.

RDCs may charge fees to researchers not supported by the NSF to help defray facilities costs. It is the goal of the NSF and the Census Bureau in establishing these centers that these fees will be kept low in order to promote widespread access to the data by the academic community, contingent on sufficient funding to cover annual operating costs. The NSF will continue to provide support through its regular grant competition for faculty time and graduate student assistance on individual research projects that use RDC facilities. NSF-funded individual research projects can be charged access fees once NSF institutional support has been phased out.

Proposals to establish RDCs must follow the standard NSF proposal format. They can be submitted for the NSF winter 1998 proposal review cycle, with a proposal submission deadline of

March 1, 1998. Thereafter, proposals will be accepted for the August 15 and January 15 review cycles until further notice. The pace of expansion of RDCs will be limited by the capacity of the Census Bureau to provide adequate support and oversight. It is anticipated that up to four additional RDCs can be supported in the next two to three years.

Proposals should be formally submitted to the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (SBER) at the NSF. Detailed information on proposal guidelines and review procedures is available on the NSF web site <<http://www.nsf.gov>>. Proposals will be reviewed jointly by relevant peer review panels, including Economics; Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics; and Sociology. Final decisions will be made jointly by the Census Bureau and the NSF.

A detailed prospectus is available on the Census Bureau World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov/ces/ces.html>). The prospectus gives more information on the expected contents of the proposal and the expected roles of both the Census Bureau and its partners in RDC operations, including costs. For more information, contact Arnold Reznick at (301) 457-1856 (areznick@census.gov), John Haltiwanger at (301) 457-1848 (jhaltiwa@census.gov), Cheryl Eavey (ceavey@nsf.gov), or Daniel Newlon (dnewlon@nsf.gov). Those who do not have web access may contact Kim Austin at (301) 457-1848 (kaustin@census.gov) to obtain a paper copy of the prospectus.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The collection of information contained in the Notice is cleared under OMB Control Number 3145-0058.

It has been determined that this notice is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

Dated: January 12, 1998.

Bradford R. Huther,

*Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer,
Bureau of the Census.*

[FR Doc. 98-1504 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Notice of Approval of Guidance Document on Lead in Consumer Products

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of approval of guidance document on lead in consumer products.

SUMMARY: The Commission announces that it has approved a statement that provides guidance for manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products that may contain lead.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Washburn, Office of Compliance, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504-0400, ext. 1452.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The text of the guidance document is as follows:

Guidance for Lead (Pb) in Consumer Products

Summary

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issues this guidance to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers to protect children from hazardous exposure to lead in consumer products.¹ The Commission identifies the major factors that it considers when evaluating products that contain lead, and informs the public of its experience with products that have exposed children to potentially hazardous amounts of lead.

To reduce the risk of hazardous exposure to lead, the Commission requests manufacturers to eliminate the use of lead that may be accessible to children from products used in or around households, schools, or in recreation. The Commission also recommends that, before purchasing products for resale, importers, distributors, and retailers obtain assurances from manufacturers that those products do not contain lead that may be accessible to children.

Hazard

Young children are most commonly exposed to lead in consumer products from the direct mouthing of objects, or from handling such objects and subsequent hand-to-mouth activity. The

¹ This guidance is not a rule. It is intended to highlight certain obligations under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Companies should read that Act and the accompanying regulations at 16 CFR part 1500 for more detailed information.