

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-24712 Filed 9-17-99; 3:48 pm]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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 revised information collections. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks comments concerning the application for grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP) was created with the passage of the Stafford Act in November 1988. The Program, authorized by Section 404 of the Act, provides States and local governments financial assistance to implement measures that will permanently reduce or eliminate future damages and losses from natural hazards.

In December 1993 the President signed the Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act that amended Section 404. This amendment increased the Federal cost share of the HGMP to a maximum 75 percent, and the amount of funds available to 15 percent of all other disaster grants. The amendment also imposed new implementing requirements on acquisition and relocation projects funded under the Program. FEMA published an interim rule in the **Federal Register** on May 11, 1994, amending the original program regulations published in May 1989, to implement the changes.

The statutory changes combined with the Administration's National Performance Review initiative provided an opportunity for FEMA to evaluate the overall program and make improvements. The 1993 increase in program funding significantly heightened public interest in the Program and have served to underscore the need to clarify Program eligibility, simplify program administration, and

expedite grant award and implementation.

The changes are only a first step in the ongoing process to enhance the program. FEMA is working with its customers to improve training and guidance to accompany the regulations. Successful implementation of the changes requires clear guidance for both FEMA staff and State grantees.

Collection of Information

Title: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application.

Type of Information Collection: Reinstatement of a previously approved collection.

OMB Number: 3067-0207.

Form Numbers. SF-424—Application for Federal Assistance; FEMA Forms 20-16, 20-16a, 20-16b, 20-16c & SF-LLL—Summary Sheet for Assurances and Certifications and Lobbying Disclosure; FEMA Form 20-10—Financial Status Report; 20-15—Budget Information (Construction Programs); FEMA Form 20-20—Budget Information (Nonconstruction Programs); and FEMA Form 20-17—Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs.

Abstract. HMGP Application Package. Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act authorizes FEMA to provide financial assistance to communities and States to implement measures that will permanently reduce or eliminate future damages and losses from natural hazards. Grantees will no longer be asked to create distinctive application forms for the program in their State. This change is intended to make HMGP procedures more consistent with OMB guidance and requirements, particularly OMB Circular A-102 (revised October 7, 1994).

The application package consists of the SF-424 facesheet; the budget form; project narrative with detailed descriptions; and assurances and certifications. Applications with detailed descriptions include the following:

(1) SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance (facesheet). This is a standard form used by applicants to accompany applications for Federal assistance. It provides the agency summary information about applicant organization and the type of assistance requested. Local governments may use the SF-424 to provide pertinent applicant profile information with their application. States may submit amendments to their original application by submitting an additional SF-424 that requests a revision to the original (block 8).

(2) Budget form. This is a standardized form which applicants submit with the application detailing the proposed budget for the grant. For construction projects, applicants complete FEMA Form 20-15. For nonconstruction projects, applicants complete FEMA Form 20-20. FEMA will use this information to determine if the requested funding is reasonable and to perform a benefit-cost analysis on the proposed project (construction projects only).

(3) Project Narrative. The narrative statement, more commonly referred to as the project application, identifies the proposed measure to be funded and provides information supporting the projects eligibility. The narrative contains the following twelve essential elements: (a) General Project Information: Indicate the FEMA disaster declaration number, the date the application was submitted to the State, and the title of the project. Applicant should note whether the application provides additional information requested from the State or FEMA. (b) Name of Subgrantee: Indicate whether the applicant is a town, county, or city; State agency, eligible private non-profit organization or institution; or Indian tribe. (c) State and Local contact: Identify the name, agency, address, and phone number of a contract person. If there is an alternate contact, include information for that person as well. (d) Location of the Project: Describe the project location by street, address, road intersections, geographic landmarks, legal description, or other methods, if appropriate. Maps or drawings of the area should be provided indicating the project location. If the project is located within an identified flood hazard area, the National Flood Insurance Program map should be attached with the project location identified. It is also important to note whether the project is located inside or outside of the disaster area. (e) Description of the Project: To assist State and local officials in reviewing and prioritizing project applications, the applicant should include as much detail as possible. This may include: Description of problem the proposed project is intended to solve; primary objectives of the project; appropriate maps and diagrams; description of the damage caused by the current disaster or previous disasters, and/or the potential for future damage based on the area's exposure to hazards; how the project is intended to reduce hazard effects and risks; the number of people and/or the amount of property that will be protected with the proposed project; and description of how the proposed

project meets or exceeds minimum project criteria.

The emphasis of the description will vary depending on whether the applicant is seeking a grant for construction or nonconstruction projects. Because the criteria for HMGP grants are very specific, the narrative for construction grants will be more extensive than those for nonconstruction. For example, narratives for a construction project will not only describe the proposed approach, but also other approaches considered to meet the objective. Also, construction projects are more likely to have a potential effect on the environment, so the narrative for project construction grants will include a detailed description of the surrounding environment. FEMA will use the environmental information to meet its requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act.

(f) Cost-estimate for the Project: Applicant should be accurate as possible in computing project costs. Total estimate project costs should be indicated. A breakdown should also be provided that includes the following categories: Federal share (HGMP funds); other Federal funding (Community Development Block Grant); State share; Applicant share; and other non-Federal share. If appropriate, costs for the following services should also be included: project management; comprehensive study; engineering and design; site acquisition; construction; labor; equipment; staffing; transportation; and materials/supplies. (g) Analysis of cost-effectiveness and substantial risk reduction: applicant should explain how the cost of the project compares with the anticipated value of future damage reduction. This will help document that the benefits are greater than the costs. Other factors that

should be addressed in analyzing the cost-effectiveness of a project include: the cost and useful life of the project; frequency of the disaster event; an estimate of the dollar amount of damage that would be prevented as a direct result of the proposed project; and an estimate of the subsequent negative impacts to the area if the measure were not implemented. The cost-effective analysis should include a narrative statement, describing the costs and expected damages, and a numerical analysis, justifying the findings. (h) Work Schedule: A work schedule should be provided that details, at a minimum, the start date, completion date, and project milestones, including dates for submittal or quarterly progress reports. If the project is detailed, it may be helpful to separate the activities into phases and perhaps tasks within those phases. If deliverables are required, deadlines for submission should be included. A maintenance schedule should also be submitted indicating the maintenance activities that will need to be performed by the applicant for the life of the project. (i) Justification for Selection: Applicant should discuss why the project is required and how the project will solve the problem. This may involve a discussion of the other alternatives examined and the reason this specific approach was chosen. If the project is a recommendation from a post-disaster team report or state hazard mitigation plan, it may be appropriate to include supporting data from either the report or the plan. (j) Alternatives Considered: A discussion of the alternatives examined in selecting this project should be included. The narrative should address the reason(s) why they were determined not to be the most appropriate option. Issues such as effectiveness, cost, and affect on the

environment should be examined. (k) Environmental Information: HGMP projects must comply with appropriate environmental requirements. FEMA is ultimately responsible for preparing an environmental document describing the potential environmental impacts on all potential projects, although FEMA and the state may rely on the applicant to provide much of this information. The applicant is responsible for meeting all State and local environmental requirements and initiating the application process for environmental permits or approvals, as necessary. (l) Project Compliance Assurances: These are standardized forms that are completed by the State. FEMA Form 20-16 summarizes all assurances and certifications that the State must sign in order to receive grant assistance. FEMA Form 20-16a is a list of assurances that the State must provide in order to receive assistance for nonconstruction programs. FEMA Form 20-16b is a list of assurances that the State must provide in order to receive assistance for construction programs. FEMA Form 20-16c lists three certifications that the State must make in order to receive Federal assistance: Lobbying; debarment, suspension, and other responsibility matters; and drug free workplace requirements. The SF-LLL is a standard form disclosing lobbying activity on the part of grant recipients. These assurances are an integral element of the grant agreement between FEMA and the State, ensuring compliance with all applicable Federal statutes, executive orders, and regulations.

Affected Public: State, Local or Tribal government, and not for profit institutions.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 20,263.

FEMA forms	No. of respondents (A)	Frequency of response (B)	Hours per response (C)	Annual burden hours (A × B × C)
SF-424	25	¹ 46	.75	862.50
Narrative	25	46	15	17,250
Assurances and Certifications	25	46	2.2	2,530
Total	25	46	≈ 18	≈ 20,643

¹ Average based on number of declared disasters per yr.

² Rounded.

Estimated Cost. Estimated cost of the collection of information to the Federal government is \$200,000.

Comments

Written comments are solicited to:

(a) Evaluate whether the proposed data collections and reporting requirements are necessary for the proper performance of FEMA's functions and program activities, including whether the data have practical utility;

(b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed data collections and reporting requirements;

(c) determine the estimated cost of the proposed data collections and reporting requirements to the respondents;

(d) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,

(e) 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 submission of responses. Comments should be received within 60 days of the date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit written comments to Muriel B. Anderson, FEMA Information Collections Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Room 316, Washington, DC 20472. Telephone number (202) 646-2625, FAX number (202) 646-3524, or email address: muriel.anderson@fema.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Catherine Young, Mitigation Directorate at (202) 646-4541 for additional information. Contact Ms. Anderson at (202) 646-2625 for copies of the proposed collection of information.

Dated: August 25, 1999.

Reginald Trujillo,

Director, Program Services Division, Operations Support Directorate.

[FR Doc. 99-24563 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-01-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1291-DR]

North Carolina; Amendment No. 1 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of North Carolina (FEMA-1291-DR), dated September 9, 1999, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 11, 1999

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3772.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the incident period for this disaster is closed effective September 11, 1999.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537,

Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 99-24557 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-3141-EM]

North Carolina; Amendment No. 2 to Notice of an Emergency

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of an emergency for the State of North Carolina (FEMA-3141-EM), dated September 1, 1999, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 11, 1999

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3772.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the incident period for this disaster is closed effective September 11, 1999.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537, Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 99-24558 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1290-DR]

Virginia; Amendment No. 1 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia (FEMA-1290-DR), dated September 6, 1999, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 13, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3772.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the incident period for this disaster is closed effective September 13, 1999.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537, Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

Laurence W. Zensinger,

Division Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 99-24556 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

SUMMARY:

Background: On June 15, 1984, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) its approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act, as per 5 CFR 1320.16, to approve of and assign OMB control numbers to collection of information requests and requirements conducted or sponsored by the Board under conditions set forth in 5 CFR 1320 Appendix A.1. Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB