

the information collection entitled "Advances to Nonmember Mortgagees" to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval of a three-year extension of the OMB control number, which is due to expire on November 30, 1999.

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on or before November 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Federal Housing Finance Board, Washington, DC 20503. Address requests for copies of the information collection and supporting documentation to Elaine L. Baker, Secretary to the Board, by telephone at 202/408-2837, by electronic mail at bakere@fhfb.gov, or by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan F. Curtis, Senior Financial Analyst, Policy Development and Analysis Division, Office of Policy, Research and Analysis, by telephone at 202/408-2866, by electronic mail at curtisj@fhfb.gov, or by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Need for and Use of Information Collection

Section 10b of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) authorizes the Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks) to make advances under certain circumstances to certified nonmember mortgagees. See 12 U.S.C. 1430b. In order to be certified as a nonmember mortgagee, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in section 10b of the Bank Act. Subpart B of part 935 of the Finance Board's regulations implements the statutory eligibility requirements an applicant must meet in order to be certified as a nonmember mortgagee and establishes uniform review criteria the FHLBanks must use in evaluating applications. See 12 CFR 935.20-935.24. More specifically, § 935.22 of the rule implements the statutory eligibility requirements and provides guidance to an applicant on how it may satisfy the requirements. 12 CFR 935.22. Under § 935.23, the FHLBanks have authority to approve or deny all applications for certification as a nonmember mortgagee, subject to the statutory and regulatory requirements. 12 CFR 935.23. Section 935.23 also permits an applicant to appeal a FHLBank's decision to deny

certification to the Finance Board. Section 935.24 of the rule establishes the terms and conditions under which a FHLBank may make advances to a nonmember mortgagee. 12 CFR 935.24. Section 935.24 also imposes on a certified nonmember mortgagee a continuing obligation to provide information necessary to determine if it remains in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

The information collection contained in § 935.22 through § 935.24 of the rule is necessary to enable, and is used by the FHLBanks to determine whether a respondent satisfies the statutory and regulatory requirements to be certified initially and maintain its status as a nonmember mortgagee eligible to receive FHLBank advances. The Finance Board requires and uses the information collection to determine whether to uphold or overrule a FHLBank's decision to deny nonmember mortgagee certification to an applicant.

The OMB number for the information collection is 3069-005. The OMB clearance for the information collection expires on November 30, 1999.

The likely respondents include applicants for nonmember mortgagee certification and certified nonmember mortgagees.

B. Burden Estimate

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of applicants at six, with one response per applicant. The estimate for the average hours per application is ten hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for applicants is 60 hours (6 applicants × 1 response per applicant × approximately 10 hours).

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of certified nonmember mortgagees at 43, with 1 response per mortgagee. The estimate for the average hours per certified nonmember mortgagee response is 0.5 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for certified nonmember mortgagees is 21.5 hours (43 certified nonmember mortgagees × 1 response per mortgagee × approximately 0.5 hours).

The Finance Board estimates that the total annual hour burden for all respondents is 81.5 hours (6 applicants × 1 response per applicant × approximately 10 hours + 43 certified nonmember mortgagees × 1 response per mortgagee × approximately 0.5 hours).

C. Comment Request

In accordance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.8(d), the Finance Board published a request for public comments regarding this information collection in the **Federal Register** on

June 16, 1999. See 64 FR 32235 (June 16, 1999). The 60-day comment period closed on August 16, 1999. The Finance Board received no public comments. Written comments are requested on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of Finance Board functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) The accuracy of the Finance Board's estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be submitted to OMB in writing at the address listed above.

By the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

William W Ginsberg,

Managing Director.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 12, 1999.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: October 1, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-26098 Filed 10-1-99; 3:51 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Notice of Publication of the Executive Summary of the Report, Research Involving Human Biological Materials: Ethical Issues and Policy Guidance, by the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President established the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) on October 3, 1995 by Executive Order 12975 as amended. The functions of NBAC are as follows:

(a) Provide advice and make recommendations to the National Science and Technology Council and to other appropriate government entities regarding the following matters:

(1) The appropriateness of departmental, agency or other governmental programs, policies, assignments, missions, guidelines, and regulations as they relate to bioethical issues arising from research on human biology and behavior; and (2) applications, including the clinical applications, of that research.

(b) Identify broad principles to govern the ethical conduct of research, citing

specific projects only as illustrations for such principles.

(c) Shall not be responsible for the review and approval of specific projects.

(d) In addition to responding to requests for advice and recommendations from the National Science and Technology Council, NBAC also may accept suggestions of issues for consideration from both the Congress and the public. NBAC may also identify other bioethical issues for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations, subject to the approval of the National Science and Technology Council. The members of NBAC are as follows:

Harold T. Shapiro, Ph.D., Chair
Patricia Backlar
Arturo Brito, M.D.
Alexander Morgan Capron, LL.B.
Eric J. Cassell, M.D., M.A.C.P.
R. Alta Charo, J.D.
James F. Childress, Ph.D.
David R. Cox, M.D., Ph.D.
Rhetaugh G. Dumas, Ph.D., R.N.
Laurie M. Flynn
Carol W. Greider, Ph.D.
Steven H. Holtzman
Bernard Lo, M.D.
Lawrence H. Muike, M.D., J.D.
Thomas H. Murray, Ph.D.
William C. Oldaker, LL.B.
Diane Scott-Jones, Ph.D.

Research Involving Human Biological Materials: Ethical Issues and Policy Guidance; Executive Summary

Introduction

Biomedical researchers have long studied human biological materials—

such as cells collected in research projects, biopsy specimens obtained for diagnostic purposes, and organs and tissues removed during surgery—to increase knowledge about human diseases and to develop better means of preventing, diagnosing, and treating these diseases. Today, new technologies and advances in biology provide even more effective tools for using such resources to improve medicine's diagnostic and therapeutic potential. Yet, the very power of these new technologies raises a number of important ethical issues.

Is it appropriate to use stored biological materials in ways that originally were not contemplated either by the people from whom the materials came or by those who collected the materials? Does such use harm anyone's interest? Does it matter whether the material is identified, or identifiable, as to its source, or is linked, or linkable, to other medical or personal data regarding the source? The extent to which a research sample can be linked with the identity of its source is a significant determination in assessing the risks and potential benefits that might occur to human subjects. For this reason, the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) has developed a schema to describe the character of the personal information associated with particular samples of human biological materials as they exist in clinical facilities or other repositories and in the hands of researchers. (See Table 1.)

TABLE 1.—CATEGORIES OF HUMAN BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Repository Collections.

Unidentified specimens: For these specimens, identifiable personal information was not collected or, if collected, was not maintained and cannot be retrieved by the repository.

Identified specimens: These specimens are linked to personal information in such a way that the person from whom the material was obtained could be identified by name, patient number, or clear pedigree location (i.e., his or her relationship to a family member whose identity is known).

Research Samples:

Unidentified samples: Sometimes termed "anonymous," these samples are supplied by repositories to investigators from a collection of unidentified human biological specimens.

Unlinked samples: Sometimes termed "anonymized," these samples lack identifiers or codes that can link a particular sample to an identified specimen or a particular human being.

Coded samples: Sometimes termed "linked" or "identifiable," these samples are supplied by repositories to investigators from identified specimens with a code rather than with personally identifying information, such as a name or Social Security number.

Identified samples: These samples are supplied by repositories from identified specimens with a personal identifier (such as a name or patient number) that would allow the researcher to link the biological information derived from the research directly to the individual from whom the material was obtained.

Ethical researchers must pursue their scientific aims without compromising the rights and welfare of human subjects. However, achieving such a balance is a particular challenge in rapidly advancing fields, such as human genetics, in which the tantalizing potential for major advances can make

research activities seem especially important and compelling. At the same time, the novelty of many of these fields can mean that potential harms to individuals who are the subjects of such research are poorly understood and hence can be over- or underestimated. This is particularly true of nonphysical

harms, which can occur in research conducted on previously collected human biological materials when investigators do not directly interact with the persons whose tissues, cells, or DNA they are studying.

Increasing concerns about the use of genetic and other medical information