

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**U.S. Geological Survey****Agency Information Collection Activity; Mineral Resources External Research Program (MRERP)**

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a new information collection.

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB a new information collection request (ICR) for approval of the paperwork requirements for the Mineral Resources Program's (MRP) Mineral Resources External Research Program (MRERP). To submit a proposal for the MRERP, a project narrative must be completed and submitted via <http://Grants.gov>. For multi-year projects, an annual progress report must be completed for all projects; a final technical report is required at the end of the project period. This notice provides the public an opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these project narrative and report requirements. The narrative and report guidance is available at <http://www.usgs.gov/contracts/Minerals/index.html>.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before May 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Please submit comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior via e-mail OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov; or fax (202) 395-5806; and identify your submission as 1028-NEW. Please also submit a copy of your comments to Phadrea Ponds, USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer, 2150-C Center Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); (970) 226-9230 (fax); or pponds@usgs.gov (e-mail). Please reference Information Collection 1028-NEW, MRERP in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Jeff L. Doebrich by mail at U.S. Geological Survey, 913 National Center, Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192 or by telephone at 703-648-6103.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

Through the MRERP, the MRP of the USGS offers an annual competitive grant and/or cooperative agreement

opportunity to individuals, universities, State agencies, Tribal governments or organizations, and industry or other private sector organizations. Applicants must have the ability to conduct research in topics related to non-fuel mineral resources that meet the goals of the MRP. We will consider all research-based proposals that address one of the MRP's long-term goals. The long-term goals of the MRP, as described in its Five-Year Plan for FY 2006-2010 (http://minerals.usgs.gov/plan/2006-2010/2006-2010_plan.html), are to ensure availability of: (1) Up-to-date quantitative assessments of potential for undiscovered mineral deposits, (2) up-to-date geoenvironmental assessments of priority Federal lands, (3) reliable geologic, geochemical, geophysical, and mineral locality data for the United States, and (4) long-term data sets describing mineral production and consumption. Annual research priorities are provided as guidance for applicants to consider when submitting proposals. Annual research priorities are determined by USGS MRP management. Since the initiation of MRERP 2004, we have awarded more than \$1.8 million to 30 different research projects across the country.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: None: This is an existing collection without an OMB control number.

Title: Mineral Resources External Research Program (MRERP).

Respondent Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: 35. Individuals, universities, State agencies, Tribal governments or organizations, and industry or other private sector organizations.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 40 (35 applications and 5 reports per year).

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: 3,060. We expect to receive approximately 35 applications, each taking 81 hours to complete. This includes the time for project conception and development, proposal writing and reviewing, and submitting project narrative through Grants.gov, (2,835 burden hours). We anticipate awarding an average of 5 grants per year. Each grant recipient must complete and submit a final report. We estimate 45 hours to complete a report (totaling 225 hours).

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: There are no "non-hour cost"

burdens associated with this collection of information.

III. Request for Comments

We invite comments concerning this ICR on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: April 2, 2009.

Kathleen Johnson,

Program Coordinator, Mineral Resources External Research Program.

[FR Doc. E9-7924 Filed 4-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4311-AM-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**U.S. Geological Survey****Agency Information Collection Activities: National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP)**

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

ACTION: Notice of a new information collection.

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a new information collection request (ICR) for approval of the paperwork requirements for the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP). This notice provides the public an opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of the project

narrative and report requirements discussed below.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before May 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Please submit comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, via e-mail [*OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov*] or fax 202-395-5806; and identify your submission as 1028-NEW. Please also submit a copy of your comments to Phadrea Ponds, USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer, 2150-C Center Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); (970)226-9230 (fax); or *pponds@usgs.gov* (e-mail). Please reference Information Collection 1028-NEW, NGGDPP in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frances W. Pierce at (703) 648-6636 or by mail at U.S. Geological Survey, 912 National Center, Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This notice concerns the collection of information that is sufficient and relevant to evaluate and select proposals for funding under the NGGDPP. We will accept proposals from State geological surveys requesting funds to inventory and assess the condition of current collections and data preservation needs. Financial assistance will be awarded annually on a competitive basis following the evaluation and ranking of State proposals by a review panel composed of representatives from the Department of the Interior, State geological surveys, academic institutions, and the private sector. To submit a proposal, you must complete a project narrative and submit the application via *Grants.gov*. Grant recipients must complete a final technical report at the end of the project period. Narrative and report guidance is available through <http://datapreservation.usgs.gov/> and at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: None. This is a new collection.

Title: National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP).

Respondent Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: 62 State Geological Surveys.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 62 (34 applications and 28 reports).

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: 1,232 hours. We expect to receive approximately 34 applications. It takes each applicant approximately 35 hours to complete the narrative and to present supporting documents. This includes the time for project conception and development, proposal writing and reviewing, and submitting the proposal application through *Grants.gov* (totaling 1,190 burden hours). We anticipate awarding 28 grants per year. The award recipients must submit a final report. We estimate that it will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete the requirement for the reports (totaling 42 hours).

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: There are no "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection of information.

III. Request for Comments

On September 15, 2008, we published a **Federal Register** notice (73 FR 53265) announcing that we would submit this information collection to OMB for approval. The notice provided a 60-day public comment period ending on November 14, 2008. We did not receive any comments in response to that notice.

We again invite comments concerning this ICR on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at anytime. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: April 2, 2009.

Frances Pierce,

Acting Program Coordinator, National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation.

[FR Doc. E9-7928 Filed 4-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4311-AM-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Agency Information Collection Activity; Evaluation of USGS Southwest Biological Science Center Biennial Conferences

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Geological Survey) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before June 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your comments on the IC to Phadrea Ponds, USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer, 2150-C Center Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); (970) 226-9230 (fax); or *phadrea_ponds@usgs.gov* (e-mail). Please reference Information Collection 1028-NEW, Conference Evaluation in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE

CONTACT: To request additional information about this IC, contact Dr. Marty Lee by e-mail at *martha.lee@nau.edu* or by telephone at (928) 523-6644.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Natural area conferences aim to promote discussion and productive communication between researchers and land resource managers. This research is designed to measure the effectiveness of these conferences using importance/performance analysis to identify a set of standards that define an effective conference. An on-line survey will be sent to approximately 550 attendees of two USGS-sponsored conferences. Results will provide quantitative knowledge that will