

V. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2018-00263 Filed 1-9-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

National Summer Teacher Institute

ACTION: Revision of a currently approved collection.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on a proposed extension of an existing information collection.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 12, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651-0077 comment” in the subject line of the message.
- **Federal Rulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- **Mail:** Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division Director, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Joyce Ward, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-8424; or by email

to Joyce.Ward@uspto.gov with “0651-0077 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

Since 2014, the USPTO has sponsored a program entitled “National Summer Teacher Institute”. This program accepts applicants for a summer teaching workshop. Interested individuals are required to submit an application requesting to participate in the program. In the application, applicants are required to certify that they are educators with at least 3 years’ experience; identify STEM-related fields they have taught in the last year; identify STEM related fields they plan to teach in the upcoming year; and acknowledge their commitment to incorporate the learnings from the Summer Teacher Institute into their curriculum, where applicable, and cooperate with sharing lessons and outcomes with teachers and PTO.

The USPTO seeks committed educators in science fields who will learn about innovative strategies to help increase student learning and achievement in these fields together with elements of invention and IP. Outside scientists and inventors will among the presenters and workshop leads. Educators will also participate in field trips (*i.e.* to NASA) and have opportunities for networking with other educators and invited experts. The USPTO may various host webinars in conjunction with the Summer Institute. USPTO plans to conduct surveys of both

the Institute and the webinars in order to gain useful feedback from program participants.

II. Method of Collection

Applications and corresponding surveys will be submitted electronically through the www.uspto.gov/education website.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0077.

Form Numbers: NSTI 1-3.

Type of Review: Revision of a Previously Existing Information Collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits; not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 900 responses per year.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 5 (0.08 hours) to 30 minutes (0.5 hours) to submit the information in this collection, including the time to gather the necessary information, prepare the appropriate form or document, and submit the completed request to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 291.67 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent (Hourly) Cost Burden: \$8,613.02. The USPTO expects that secondary school teachers will complete the applications and surveys. The professional hourly rate for secondary school teachers is \$29.53, based upon the May 2016 Occupational Labor Statistics Report for secondary school teachers (25-2031). Using this hourly rate, the USPTO estimates that the total respondent cost burden for this collection is \$8,613.02 per year.

Item number	Estimated time for response (hours)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours	Rate (\$/hr)	Total cost
	(a)	(b)	(a) × (b)/60 = (c)	(d)	(c) × (d) = (e)
1. Summer Teacher Institute Application (NSTI 1)	0.50	500	250	\$29.53	\$7,382.50
2. Summer Teacher Institute Participant Survey (NSTI 2)	0.17	100	16.67	29.53	492.27
3. Summer Teacher Institute Webinar Survey (NSTI 3)	0.08	300	25	29.53	738.25
Total		900	291.67		\$8,613.02

Estimated Total Annual (Non-hour) Respondent Cost Burden: \$0. There are no capital start-up, maintenance, postage, or recordkeeping costs. All applications and surveys will be received electronically.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information;

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

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Marcie Lovett,

*Records and Information Governance
Division Director, OCTO, United States Patent
and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2018-00265 Filed 1-9-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2017-0052]

Extension of the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) implemented a pilot program (Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program) in which an applicant, under certain conditions, can request a 12-month time period to pay the search fee, the examination fee, any excess claim fees, and the surcharge (for the late submission of the search fee and the examination fee) in a nonprovisional application. The Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program benefits applicants by providing additional time to determine if patent protection should be sought—at a relatively low cost—and by permitting applicants to focus efforts on commercialization during this period. The Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program benefits the USPTO and the public by adding publications to the body of prior art, and by removing from the USPTO's workload those nonprovisional applications for which applicants later decide not to pursue examination. The USPTO is extending the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program until January 2, 2019, to allow the USPTO to continue its evaluation of the pilot program. The requirements of the program have not changed.

DATES: *Duration:* The Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program will run through January 2, 2019. Therefore, any certification and request to participate

in the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program must be filed on or before January 2, 2019. In addition, any certification and request to participate in the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program filed between January 2, 2018, and the publication date of this notice will be considered timely. The USPTO intends to make a decision before January 2, 2019, on whether the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program offers sufficient benefits to the patent community for it to be made permanent or whether the USPTO should permit the program to expire.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eugenia A. Jones, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at (571) 272-7727, or Erin M. Harriman, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at (571) 272-7747.

Inquiries regarding this notice may be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration, by telephone at (571) 272-7701, or by electronic mail at PatentPractice@uspto.gov. Alternatively, mail may be addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Eugenia A. Jones.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 8, 2010, after considering written comments from the public, the USPTO changed the missing parts examination procedures in certain nonprovisional applications by implementing a pilot program (i.e., Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program). See *Pilot Program for Extended Time Period To Reply to a Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application*, 75 FR 76401 (Dec. 8, 2010), 1362 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 44 (Jan. 4, 2011). Over the course of the pilot program, the USPTO provided extensions of the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program through notices published in the **Federal Register**. The most recent notice extended the program until January 2, 2018. See *Extension of Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program*, 81 FR 93669 (Dec. 21, 2016), 1434 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 187 (Jan. 17, 2017).

The requirements of the program, which have not been modified, are reiterated below. Applicants are strongly advised to review the pilot program requirements before making a request to participate in the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program. See *Pilot*

Program for Extended Time Period To Reply to a Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application, 75 FR 76401 (Dec. 8, 2010), 1362 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 44 (Jan. 4, 2011). The USPTO cautions all applicants that, in order to claim the benefit of a prior provisional application, the statute requires a nonprovisional application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) to be filed within 12 months after the date on which the corresponding provisional application was filed. See 35 U.S.C. 119(e). It is essential that applicants understand that the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program cannot and does not change this statutory requirement. Title II of the Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2012 (PLTIA) amended the provisions of title 35, United States Code, including 35 U.S.C. 119(e), to implement the Patent Law Treaty (PLT). See Public Law 112-211, §§ 20-203, 126 Stat. 1527, 1533-37 (2012). In the rulemaking to implement the PLT and title II of the PLTIA, the USPTO provided that an applicant may file a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(b) to restore the benefit of a provisional application filed up to fourteen months earlier. See *Changes To Implement the Patent Law Treaty*, 78 FR 62367, 62368-69 (Oct. 21, 2013) (final rule). Any petition to restore the benefit of a provisional application must include the benefit claim, the petition fee, and a statement that the delay in filing the subsequent application was unintentional. This change was effective on December 18, 2013, and applies to any application filed before, on, or after December 18, 2013. However, if a nonprovisional application is filed outside the 12-month period from the date on which the corresponding provisional application was filed, the nonprovisional application is not eligible for participation in the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program, even though the applicant may be able to restore the benefit of the provisional application by submitting a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(b).

I. Requirements: In order for an applicant to be provided a 12-month (non-extendable) time period to pay the search and examination fees and any required excess claims fees in response to a Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application under the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program, the applicant must satisfy the following conditions: (1) The applicant must submit a certification and request to participate in the Extended Missing Parts Pilot Program with the nonprovisional application on filing, preferably by using Form PTO/AIA/421,