

requirements specified in the Act, including that: (i) at least three members have served as public safety professionals; (ii) at least three members represent the collective interests of states, localities, tribes, and territories; and (iii) its members reflect geographic and regional, as well as rural and urban, representation.<sup>4</sup> An individual Board member may satisfy more than one of these requirements. The current non-permanent FirstNet Authority Board members are (noting expiration of term):

- Vacant, formerly filled by Keisha Lance Bottoms, resigned (Term expires: September 2027)
- Vice Chair Renee Gordon, Director, Department of Emergency and Customer Communications, Alexandria, VA (Term expires: September 2025)
- Michael Adkinson Jr., Sheriff, Walton County, FL (Term expires: September 2027)
- Damon Darsey, Medical Director, Mississippi Department of Public Safety | CEO, Paladin Emergency Services Consulting (Term expires: September 2027)
- Eric Gaull, Emergency Manager, First Responder, Technology Consultant (Term expires: September 2027)
- Sean McDevitt, Partner, Arthur D. Little (Term expires: September 2027)
- Warren Mickens, Retired Technology Executive (Term expires: September 2027)
- Jocelyn Moore, Board Member for Omaze, OppFi, and DraftKings (Term expires: September 2027)
- Alexandra Fernandez Navarro, Former Associate Member, Puerto Rico Public Service Regulatory Board (Term expires: September 2027)
- Jeffrey Norman, Chief of Police, Milwaukee, WI (Term expires: September 2027)
- Rasheid Scarlett, CEO, NetAesthetics (Term expires: September 2027)
- Trisha Wolford, Fire Chief, Anne Arundel County Fire Department, MD (Term expires: September 2027)

Any Board member whose term has expired may serve until such member's successor has taken office, or until the end of the calendar year when such member's term has expired, whichever is earlier.<sup>5</sup> Board members will be appointed for a term of three years. They may not serve more than two consecutive full three-year terms.<sup>6</sup> More information about the FirstNet Authority Board is available at [www.firstnet.gov/about/Board](http://www.firstnet.gov/about/Board). Since one appointment in 2025 will be filling

a mid-term vacancy, that newly appointed member will complete the existing term as a board member until September 2027.

### III. Compensation and Status as Government Employees

FirstNet Authority Board members are appointed as government employees. FirstNet Authority Board members are compensated at the daily rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule (approximately \$195,200 per year) for each day worked (\$748.24 per day) on the FirstNet Authority Board.<sup>7</sup> Board members work intermittent schedules and may not work more than 130 days per year during their term. Each Board member must be a United States citizen, cannot be a registered lobbyist, and cannot be a registered agent of, employed by, or receive payments from, a foreign government.<sup>8</sup>

### IV. Financial Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

FirstNet Authority Board members must comply with certain federal conflict of interest statutes and ethics regulations, including some financial disclosure requirements. A FirstNet Authority Board member will generally be prohibited from participating in any FirstNet Authority matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on his or her personal financial interests or on the interests of the appointee's spouse, minor children, or non-federal employer.

### V. Selection Process

At the direction of the Secretary, NTIA will conduct outreach to the public safety community, state and local organizations, and industry to solicit nominations for candidates to the Board who satisfy the statutory requirements for membership. In addition, through NTIA, the Secretary will accept expressions of interest from any individual or organization proposing a candidate who satisfies the statutory requirements for membership on the FirstNet Authority Board. To be considered for a calendar year 2025 appointment, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before June 2, 2025.

All parties submitting an expression of interest should submit the candidate's: (i) full name, title, organization, address, telephone number, and email address; (ii) current resume; (iii) brief biography; (iv)

statement of qualifications that references how the candidate satisfies the Act's expertise, representational, and geographic requirements for FirstNet Authority Board membership, as described in this Notice; and (v) a statement describing why the candidate wants to serve on the FirstNet Authority Board, affirming their ability and availability to take a regular and active role in the Board's work.

The Secretary will select FirstNet Authority Board candidates based on the Act's eligibility requirements and NTIA's recommendations. NTIA will recommend candidates based on an assessment of qualifications and demonstrated ability to work collaboratively to achieve the goals and objectives of the FirstNet Authority as set forth in the Act. NTIA may consult with FirstNet Authority Board members or executives to make its recommendation. Board candidates will be vetted through the Department of Commerce and are subject to an appropriate background check for security clearance.

Dated: April 28, 2025.

**David Brodian,**

*Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2025-07599 Filed 4-30-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-WL-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Patents External Quality Survey**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0057 (Patents External Quality Survey). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comments preceding submission of the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before June 30, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(b)(2)(A).

<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(c)(2)(B).

<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(c)(2)(A)(ii).

<sup>7</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(g).

<sup>8</sup> See Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions, Office of Management and Budget, 79 FR 47482 (Aug. 13, 2014).

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

- *Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov.* Include “0651–0057 comment” in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.*
- *Mail: Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Request for additional information should be directed to David Fitzpatrick, Management Analyst, Chief Patent Statistician, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; 571–272–0525; or *David.Fitzpatrick@uspto.gov* with “0651–0057 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this information collection is also

available at *http://www.reginfo.gov* under “Information Collection Review.”

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The USPTO Quality Survey is designed to measure opinions about the services the USPTO provides to its patent application customers. This information collection contains a survey that the USPTO uses to gauge customer satisfaction with patent examination quality.

The results from this voluntary survey will assist the USPTO in guiding improvements and enhancements in the future. The USPTO conducts the Patents External Quality Survey as part of its quality improvement efforts. This survey narrows the focus of customer satisfaction to examination quality and uses a longitudinal, rotating panel design to assess changes in customer perceptions and to identify key areas for examiner training and opportunities for improvement. The USPTO uses this survey to identify problems with examination quality and works to resolve these issues in a timely manner.

The USPTO surveys patent agents, attorneys, and other individuals from large domestic corporations (including those with 500+ employees), small and medium-sized businesses, independent inventors, and universities and other non-profit research organizations. This survey does not include foreign entities.

The random sample used in this survey is drawn from One Patent Service Gateway. The sample population is drawn from the top filing firms, which are entities that have filed more than five patent applications in a 12-month period. This ongoing survey is generally conducted twice a year. The USPTO uses a rotating panel design where participants take the survey twice in back-to-back survey periods (waves). Half the participants in each survey period are new and complete the survey for the first time and half return to complete the same survey for a second time. This design allows a precise measurement of changes in customer experience over time. The rotating panels and their impact on respondents are described in more detail in the table below.

TABLE 1—THE ROTATING PANEL

Panel 1 .....	Holdover panel from the previous year, respondents are surveyed once in Wave 1.
Panel 2 .....	Wave 1 and Wave 2 in the current year, respondents are surveyed in both waves.
Panel 3 .....	New panel in the current year, respondents are only surveyed once in Wave 2.

The Patents External Quality Survey is primarily a web-based survey, although respondents can also complete the survey via paper and mail if they prefer. Both versions are identical. The USPTO sends potential respondents either an email or mailed pre-survey letter, depending on the respondent’s preferred method of contact. At the beginning of each survey period, the USPTO provides respondents with instructions for accessing and completing the survey electronically. After a specified response period, the USPTO sends a survey packet to all sample members who have not yet submitted a response. The packet contains the questionnaire, a separate cover letter, and a postage-paid pre-

addressed return envelope. Sampled members receiving a paper survey can still complete the survey electronically if they prefer. The USPTO also uses reminder/thank-you postcards and telephone calls to encourage a response from sample members.

**II. Method of Collection**

The survey may be submitted electronically or in paper form via mail.

**III. Data**

- *OMB Control Number:* 0651–0057.
- *Forms:*
  - PTO/2535 (External Quality Survey)
- *Type of Review:* Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.
- *Affected Public:* Private sector.

- *Respondent’s Obligation:* Voluntary.
- *Frequency:* On occasion.
- *Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 750 respondents.
- *Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 1,000 responses.
- *Estimated Time per Response:* The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the public approximately 10 minutes (0.17 hours) to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item to the USPTO.
- *Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 171 hours.
- *Estimated Total Annual Respondent Hourly Cost Burden:* \$76,437.

TABLE 2—TOTAL BURDEN HOURS AND HOURLY COSTS TO PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONDENTS

Item No.	Item	Estimated annual respondents	Responses per respondent	Estimated annual responses	Estimated time for response (hours)	Estimated burden (hour/year)	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Estimated annual respondent cost burden
		(a)	(b)	(a) × (b) = (c)	(d)	(c) × (d) = (e)	(f)	(e) × (f) = (g)
1 .....	Patents External Quality Survey (Holdover panel from the previous year, surveyed once in Wave 1).	250	1	250	0.17 (10 minutes).	43	\$447	\$19,221

TABLE 2—TOTAL BURDEN HOURS AND HOURLY COSTS TO PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONDENTS—Continued

Item No.	Item	Estimated annual respondents (a)	Responses per respondent (b)	Estimated annual responses (a) × (b) = (c)	Estimated time for response (hours) (d)	Estimated burden (hour/year) (c) × (d) = (e)	Rate <sup>1</sup> (f)	Estimated annual respondent cost burden (e) × (f) = (g)
2	Patents External Quality Survey (Present in Wave 1 and Wave 2 in the current year).	250	2	500	0.17 (10 minutes).	85	447	37,995
3	Patents External Quality Survey (New panel in the current year, surveyed once in Wave 2).	250	1	250	0.17 (10 minutes).	43	447	19,221
	Totals	750		1,000		171		76,437

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden:* \$0. There are no capital start-up costs, maintenance costs, recordkeeping costs, filing fees, or postage costs associated with this information collection. The USPTO covers the costs of all survey materials and provides postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for the surveys that are returned by mail.

**IV. Request for Comments**

The USPTO is soliciting public comments to:

- (a) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (d) 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.

All comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. The USPTO will include or summarize each comment in the request to OMB to approve this information collection. Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in a comment, be aware that the entire

<sup>1</sup> 2023 Report of the Economic Survey, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association; pg. F-41. The USPTO uses the average billing rate for intellectual property work in all firms which is \$447 per hour (<https://www.aipla.org/home/news-publications/economic-survey>).

comment—including PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask in your comment to withhold PII from public view, the USPTO cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

**Justin Isaac,**

*Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2025–07524 Filed 4–30–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–16–P**

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**

**Notice of Designation of Policy-Making Positions; Withdrawal**

**AGENCY:** Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

**ACTION:** Notice; withdrawal.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) is announcing the withdrawal of a notice that was published in the **Federal Register** of April 24, 2025.

**DATES:** The notice published on April 24, 2025, at 90 FR 17248, is withdrawn as of April 28, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** 625 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph Gilman, Office of General Counsel, 625 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20004, (202) 694–7000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In a notice published in the **Federal Register** of April 24, 2025, at 90 FR 17248, “Notice of determination of policy-making positions”, the DNFSB announced its determination that the Deputy General Counsel position is of a policy-determining and policy-advocating character and is not normally subject to change as a result of a Presidential transition. Accordingly, the notice further announced that the position is designated as a Schedule Policy/Career position.

The **Federal Register** notice announcing this determination and designation is withdrawn. No positions have been designated as Schedule Policy/Career.

Dated: April 25, 2025.

On behalf of the Board.

**Thomas A. Summers,**

*Acting Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.*

[FR Doc. 2025–07532 Filed 4–30–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3670–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2373–016]

**Midwest Hydro, LLC; Notice of Reasonable Period of Time for Water Quality Certification Application**

On April 15, 2025, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) notice that it received a request for a Clean Water Act section 401(a)(1) water quality certification as defined in 40 CFR 121.5, from Midwest Hydro, LLC, in conjunction with the above captioned project on April 1, 2025. Pursuant to the Commission’s regulations,<sup>1</sup> we hereby notify Illinois EPA of the following:

*Date of Receipt of the Certification Request:* April 1, 2025.

*Reasonable Period of Time to Act on the Certification Request:* One year, April 1, 2026.

If Illinois EPA fails or refuses to act on the water quality certification request on or before the above date, then the certifying authority is deemed waived pursuant to section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341(a)(1).

<sup>1</sup> 18 CFR 4.34(b)(5)(iii).