

Aroostook, Knox, Lincoln,
Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo.
The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
Other (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.250
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 11254.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. E8-11757 Filed 5-23-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #11252 and #11253]

North Carolina Disaster #NC-00012

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of an Administrative declaration of a disaster for the State of North Carolina dated 05/20/2008.

Incident: Severe Storms and Tornadoes.

Incident Period: 05/11/2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/20/2008.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 07/21/2008.

Economic Injury (Eidl) Loan Application Deadline Date: 02/20/2009.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's disaster declaration, applications for disaster loans may be filed at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties:

Bertie, Onslow.

Contiguous Counties:

North Carolina:

Carteret, Chowan, Duplin, Halifax,
Hertford, Jones, Martin,
Northampton, Pender, Washington.

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.375
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.687
Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere	8.000
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000
Other (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.250
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 11252 C and for economic injury is 11253 O.

The State which received an EIDL Declaration # is North Carolina.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

Dated: May 20, 2008.

Steven C. Preston,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8-11760 Filed 5-23-08; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Small Business Size Standards: Public Meetings on a Comprehensive Review of Small Business Size Standards

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will hold two public meetings to inform the public about one of the Agency's top priorities—a comprehensive review of all of its small business size standards. Of fundamental importance in assisting the nation's small businesses is appropriately defining which business entities qualify as small businesses. SBA is responsible to the public for ensuring that size standards levels are sound and rational. Therefore, SBA is undertaking a 2-year across-the-board examination of its size standards. This notice discusses SBA's reasons for and its approach to the comprehensive review and provides information about registering to attend a public meeting.

DATES: The size standards meetings will be held on June 3, 2008, at 10 a.m. Eastern Time and 2 p.m. Eastern Time

in Washington, DC. Attendees must pre-register by May 30, 2008.

ADDRESSES: 1. The size standards meeting address is U.S. Small Business Administration, Eisenhower Conference Room, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

2. Send pre-registration requests to attend to SBA's Office of Size Standards at sizestandards@sba.gov or call (202) 205-6618.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fay E. Ott, Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development, at (202) 205-6459, sizestandards@sba.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

To carry out its mission of assisting small businesses, SBA must identify which businesses are small and, therefore, eligible for Federal assistance programs intended for small businesses. Congress granted SBA broad discretion in establishing detailed small business definitions, or size standards (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)). The Small Business Act generally defines a small business as one that is independently owned and operated, not dominant in its field of operation, and meets a numerical size standard established by the SBA Administrator. SBA's size standards are promulgated in 13 CFR Part 121, "Small Business Size Regulations," and may be found at <http://www.sba.gov/size>.

Over the years, SBA has reviewed size standards on an ad hoc basis. That is, SBA has reviewed specific industries that it believed warranted modification either in response to requests from the public or a Federal agency or through its own independent analysis. In addition, SBA has periodically increased the monetary-based size standards to keep them in line with inflation between individual adjustments. The last increase for inflation was on December 6, 2005 (70 FR 72577).

SBA has undertaken a few broad reviews of size standards in the past. With the inception of the Agency in 1953, SBA examined the initial configuration of size standards and established the basic framework for today's size standards. The last comprehensive review of size standards was in the early 1980s. That review resulted in several important changes. The two most important of those were (1) replacing two sets of size standards, one for procurement programs and one for financial programs, with a single set for all programs and (2) formalizing the methodology for evaluating size standards. In 2004, SBA proposed to restructure and simplify size standards

by determining the size of a small business based only on number of employees and reducing the number of different size standards levels (69 FR 13130, March 19, 2004). That effort received mixed support from the public and was subsequently withdrawn (69 FR 39874, July 1, 2004).

SBA is concerned that since the last comprehensive size standards review, not all of its size standards may now adequately define small businesses in the U.S. economy, which has seen industry consolidations, technological advances, emerging new industries, shifting societal preferences, and other significant industrial changes. SBA's approach to scrutinizing the limited number of specific industries during a year, while worthwhile, leaves unexamined many deserving industries for updating and may create over time a set of illogical size standards.

Accordingly, SBA has initiated this across-the-board review of all size standards, and will proceed over the next two years with this examination to ensure that the established levels reflect today's small business segment of the various industries.

Beginning later this year, SBA will start publishing a series of proposed rules to update specific size standards; in two years this review will culminate in the complete evaluation of all size standards. SBA will organize this review by examining a group of industries within the Sectors of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). A Sector is a group of related industries, such as retail trade, manufacturing, construction, etc. Upon completion of an analysis of the industries within a Sector, SBA will publish a proposed rule for those industries where its assessment

supports changing the current size standards.

SBA believes that a size standard review spread over time is a more manageable and expeditious process than attempting to update all size standards at one time. First, SBA is able to begin the review much sooner rather than wait until it completes an analysis of more than 1,100 industries. Second, the public can focus on and limit their comments to a limited number of related size standard revisions in SBA's proposal. Similarly, evaluating fewer and closely related comments enables SBA to understand and better consider the issues and concerns raised by the public.

The table below lists order of the size standards comprehensive review by NAICS Sector:

NAICS sector	Title	Number of industries
44–45	Retail Trade	75
72	Accommodations and Food Services	15
81	Other Services	49
54	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	48
51	Information	32
61	Education	17
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	24
71	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	25
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	62
42	Wholesale Trade	71
56	Administrative Support and Waste Management	44
23	Construction	31
52	Finance and Investment	41
11	Agriculture	64
49	Transportation and Warehousing	57
55	Management of Companies	3
22	Utilities	10
21	Mining	29
31–33	Manufacturing	472

SBA considered several criteria in deciding the order of the NAICS Sectors. Priority was given to Sectors that have had fewer size standard revisions over the past 20 years, less variation of size standards within the Sector, a lower share of Federal contracts awarded to small businesses, and a higher quality of industry data. SBA decided to conduct the review for the Manufacturing Sector last because of the time needed to evaluate the large number of industries.

SBA encourages the public's participation in the process of updating its size standards. As discussed above,

a proposed rule will be developed for each NAICS Sector over the next two years. Each proposed rule will explain how SBA analyzes an industry size standard, the latest data on an industry, and the basis for its decision to either retain or revise the current size standard. The public will have an opportunity to comment on SBA's analysis. SBA will carefully consider the public's comments on its proposals before making a final decision. The outcome of this comprehensive review will produce a more consistent,

supportable, and equitable set of size standards designed to achieve SBA's mission of assisting the small business community.

II. Public Meetings

SBA will discuss in greater detail its approach to a comprehensive review of size standards at two public meetings and provide the attendees time to ask questions or provide advice on the size standards review. The public meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Eastern Time on June 3, 2008.

Location	Address	Registration closing date
Washington, DC	U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., 2nd Floor Eisenhower Conference Room, Washington, DC 20416.	May 30, 2008.

To help focus the discussions on common areas of interest for the attendees, it is requested that registrants sign-up for the public meetings according to the type of size standard of most interest to them, as follows:

10 a.m.—Industries with receipts-based size standards (generally, the construction, information, retail trade, and services industries).

2 p.m.—Industries with employee-based size standards (generally, the manufacturing, mining, and wholesale trade industries).

III. Registration and Attendance

SBA respectfully requests that anyone interested in attending one of the public meetings pre-register in advance with SBA. In addition, because SBA only has space for up to 150 attendees per meeting, we request that each organization register only one or two representatives. Registration requests should be received by May 30, 2008. Please contact the Office of Size Standards at sizestandards@sba.gov or by calling (202) 205-6618. Please provide the following information: Name, Title, Organization Affiliation, Address, Telephone Number, E-mail Address, and Fax Number. SBA will attempt to accommodate all interested parties who wish to be heard. Based on the number of registrants it may be necessary to impose time limits to ensure that everyone who wishes to be heard has an opportunity to do so.

Please plan to arrive early. Upon arrival at SBA Headquarters, you must sign-in and pick-up a building pass at the Information Center located in the lobby. Afterwards, you may proceed through the security check and to the conference room on the 2nd floor.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 634.

Fay E. Ott,

Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6235]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: DS Form 4502, DS Form 7003, DS Form 7004, Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program Application Package, OMB No.1405-0114

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the

information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. We are conducting this process in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

- **Title of Information Collection:** Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program Application Package.

- **OMB Control Number:** 1405-0114.

- **Type of Request:** Revision of a currently approved collection.

- **Originating Office:** Office of Global Educational Programs (ECA/A/S).

- **Form Number:** DS-4502, DS-7003, DS-7004.

- **Respondents:** Educators desiring to participate in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program and/or host and international participant.

- **Estimated Number of Respondents:** DS-4502 (U.S. Application)—800. DS-7003 (International Application)—300.

- **DS-7004 (Hosting Application)—100.**

- **Estimated Number of Responses:**

- **DS-4502 (U.S. Application)—800.**

- **DS-7003 (International**

- **Application)—300.**

- **DS-7004 (Hosting Application)—100.**

- **Average Hours per Response:**

- **DS-4502 (U.S. Application)—2 hours.**

- **DS-7003 (International**

- **Application)—2 hours.**

- **DS-7004 (Hosting Application)—1.5**

- **hours.**

- **Total Estimated Burden:** 2350

- **hours.**

- **Frequency:** On occasion.

- **Obligation to Respond:** Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to 60 days from May 27, 2008.

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

- **E-mail:** ChagnonRX@state.gov.

- **Mail (paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions):** Teacher Exchange Branch (ECA/A/S/X), Department of State, SA-44, Room 349, 301 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

- **Fax:** 202.453.8890.

- **Hand Delivery or Courier:** Same as mail address.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and OMB control number in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed information collection and supporting documents, to Ruta Chagnon, Program Officer (ECA/A/S/X); Department of State, SA-44, Room

349, 301 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, who may be reached on 202.453.8645 or at ChagnonRX@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of our functions.

- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

Under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange (Fulbright-Hays) Act of 1961, as amended, the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program offers academic year exchanges and seminar opportunities to U.S. educators. The data collected is used to determine whether prospective candidates are qualified for participation in and/or eligible to host international participants of the program.

Methodology

Applicants submit either a paper or electronic application to ECA. The receiving office enters the data for retention and program use as appropriate.

Dated: April 30, 2008.

Sheldon Yuspeh,

Executive Director, ECA/IIP, Department of State.

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