

project. The EA was distributed for public and agency review. Comments were received from two entities: the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5. The MNDOT commented that the project would not impact the local trunk highway system. The EPA commented that: (1) The natural gas pipeline to be installed, owned and operated by a third party was not adequately addressed in the EA, and (2) there should be stronger protective measures, including the consideration of third party oversight/inspection, where the proposal's transmission lines involve environmentally sensitive areas identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR). Construction of the natural gas pipeline must follow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) National Environmental Policy Act requirements. RUS believes that adequate protective measures for the construction of the pipeline will be implemented through the FERC requirements. GRE has agreed to follow the recommendations of the MNDNR; therefore, RUS believes that adequate protective measures will be implemented in the environmentally sensitive areas. Since the MNDNR recommendations are being followed and the MNDNR did not suggest that third party oversight was necessary, RUS believes that third party oversight is not warranted.

GRE published notices of the availability of the EA and solicited public comments per 7 CFR 1794.42. The 30-day comment period on the EA for the proposal ended January 6, 2006.

Based on the EA, RUS has concluded that the proposal will not have a significant effect to various resources, including important farmland, floodplains, wetlands, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat, air, water quality and noise. RUS has also determined that there would be no negative impacts of the proposal on minority communities and low-income communities as a result of the proposal's construction.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposal will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by the 7 CFR part 1794, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

Dated: January 11, 2006.

James R. Newby,

*Assistant Administrator, Electric Program,
Rural Utilities Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: 2004 Panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 8 Topical Module.

Form Number(s): SIPP/CAP Automated Instrument; SIPP 24805(L) Director's Letter; SIPP 24003 Reminder Card.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0905.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 148,028 hours.

Number of Respondents: 97,650.

Avg Hours per Response: 30 Minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to conduct the Wave 8 topical module interview for the 2004 Panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). We also request approval for a few replacement questions in the reinterview instrument. The core SIPP and reinterview instruments were cleared under Authorization No. 0607-0905.

The SIPP is designed as a continuing series of national panels of interviewed households that are introduced every few years, with each panel having durations of 3 to 5 years. The 2004 Panel is scheduled for five years and will include fifteen waves of interviewing. All household members 15 years old or over are interviewed a total of fifteen times (fifteen waves), at 4-month intervals, making the SIPP a longitudinal survey.

The survey is molded around a central "core" of labor force and income questions that remain fixed throughout the life of a panel. The core is supplemented with questions designed to answer specific needs. These supplemental questions are included with the core and are referred to as "topical modules." The topical module for the 2004 Panel Wave 8 is Welfare Reform. The Welfare Reform topical

module was last conducted in the SIPP 2001 Panel Wave 8 instrument. Wave 8 interviews will be conducted from June 2006 through September 2006.

Data provided by the SIPP are being used by economic policymakers, the Congress, State and local governments, and Federal agencies that administer social welfare or transfer payment programs, such as the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture. The SIPP represents a source of information for a wide variety of topics and allows information for separate topics to be integrated to form a single and unified database so that the interaction between tax, transfer, and other government and private policies can be examined. Government domestic policy formulators depend heavily upon the SIPP information concerning the distribution of income received directly as money or indirectly as in-kind benefits and the effect of tax and transfer programs on this distribution. They also need improved and expanded data on the income and general economic and financial situation of the U.S. population. The SIPP has provided these kinds of data on a continuing basis since 1983, permitting levels of economic well-being and changes in these levels to be measured over time. Monetary incentives to encourage non-respondents to participate is planned for all waves of the 2004 SIPP Panel.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Every 4 months.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: January 12, 2006.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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