

These important data are used by the Federal Reserve Board to track the public sector portion of the flow of funds accounts. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the data on corporate stock holdings to estimate dividends received by State and local government public employee retirement systems. These estimates, in turn, are used as a component in developing the national income and product accounts.

II. Method of Collection

This a mail canvass survey. Responses are screened manually and then entered on a microcomputer. No statistical methods are used to calculate the data. If those rare instances do occur when we are not able to obtain a response, estimates are made for nonrespondents by using:

- A. Historical data for the same system
- B. Latest available annual data
- C. Estimates received by telephone calls to respondents

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0143.

Form Number: F-10.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 104.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 416 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: The estimated cost to the respondents is \$6,252.48. The estimated cost to the Federal Government is contained in the Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finance. In total, these cost an estimated \$2.8 million during FY 1996.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

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

IV. Request for Comments

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, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or

included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 2, 1996.

Linda Engelmeier,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 96-25669 Filed 10-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

1997 Census of Governments

ACTION: Proposed Agency Information Collection Activity; Comment Request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Henry Wulf or Donna Hirsch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Governments Division, Washington, DC 20233-6800, 800-242-2184 (telephone), hwulf@census.gov or dhirsch@census.gov (Internet e-mail address).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This census provides government organization, employment and finance data for state and local governments. The data are used to calculate the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to monitor the government sector of the economy, and to formulate, develop, and review public policy.

The organization phase provides statistics on the number of local governments by type and by selected characteristics. The employment phase collects data on employment and payrolls of state and local governments. In the finance phase, the information relates to several aspects of state and

local government public finance: revenues, including related property tax bases; expenditures by function and character; indebtedness and debt transactions; and cash and security holdings.

The 1997 Census of Governments excludes two portions of information collected in the 1992 quinquennial census; There will not be a taxable property value phase and the organization phase will exclude data relating to elected officials. In addition, there are two significant methodological changes; The reference date for the Employment phase will be March 12, 1997 instead of October 12, 1997 and all organization phase mail data will be obtained on joint employment/organization forms (EGO-forms).

II. Method of Collection

Canvass methodology consists of a mail out/mail back questionnaire. Responses will be screened manually, then put into an electronic format. Other methods used to collect data and maximize response include central data collection, electronic reporting, solicitation of printed reports in lieu of a completed questionnaire, and use of the Census Bureau's Federal Single Audit Clearinghouse. The organization phase includes, in addition, extensive legal research to determine the existence and organizational ties of governmental entities.

III. Data

OMB Number: Not available.

Form Number: F-1, F-5, F-5A, F-11, F-12, F-13, F-21, F-22, F-25, F-28, F-29, F-32, F-42, E-1, E-2, E-3, E-6, E-7, E-9, EGO-3, EGO-4, EGO-6, EGO-7.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: State, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 134,119.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1.27.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 170,017.

Estimated Total Cost: The estimated cost to respondents for all phases of the Census of Governments is \$2,261,226. The estimated cost to the Federal government is contained in the budgetary plans of the 1997 Census of Governments. In total, these amounts are projected to be about \$13.4 million.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 USC, Section 161.

IV. Request for Comments

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, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: October 2, 1996.

Linda Engelmeier,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 96-25801 Filed 10-7-96; 8:45 am]

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Space-Based Data Collection and Location Systems

AGENCY: National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services (NESDIS), NOAA and Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing and change in administrative policy.

SUMMARY: NESDIS of NOAA is changing its policy concerning non-environmental use of the Argos space-based data collection and location system. As of this date, NESDIS will no longer promote the use of the Argos system for commercial non-environmental applications.

Furthermore, NESDIS, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce Office of Air and Space Commercialization, is hosting a public meeting on December 12 and 13, 1996, to bring together current and planned space-based data collection and location service providers and users to present, discuss and document pertinent information necessary to reevaluate and redefine overall government policy and practice. This meeting is being held in recognition of the emerging market in commercial data collection and location services (e.g., Mobile Space Services), which motivated the recent change in Argos system use policy.

DATES: This public meeting will take place December 12 and December 13, 1996. There will be a technical session on December 12, 1996, from 9:30 a.m. to

5:00 p.m. The policy session will be held on December 13, 1996, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the United States Department of Commerce, NOAA Silver Spring Metro Campus Auditorium, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland. Parties interested in participating in the December 12 technical session, particularly service providers who would like to present current and future capabilities and display materials in the exhibit hall, and users who would like to present current and future requirements, should contact Mr. Dane Clark (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by close of business November 1, 1996. Parties interested in participating in the December 13 policy session, particularly those that would like to give oral and/or written presentations, should also contact Mr. Dane Clark by close of business November 1, 1996. Due to time constraints, oral presentations may be limited.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dane Clark, NOAA, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, Direct Services Division, Federal Building 4, Room 0160, 4401 Suitland Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746; (301) 457-5678, e-mail: satinfo@nesdis.noaa.gov. NOAA plans to provide further information about this meeting, and other Argos and GOES Data Collection System-related information, on the Public Meeting homepage; which can be accessed via <http://www.nnnc.noaa.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA operates an environmental data collection system on its Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) and an environmental data collection and location system on its Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (POES).

The data collection and location service on POES is provided through a cooperative program with the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), the French national space agency, wherein a French instrument, Argos, flies aboard U.S. spacecraft. The Argos Data Collection and Location System, managed by NOAA and CNES jointly, consists of: (1) Instruments provided by CNES, which, as noted above, are flown aboard NOAA polar orbiting satellites, and are scheduled to also fly on Japanese and European polar-orbiting satellites starting in 1999 and 2002, respectively; (2) user platforms equipped with sensors and a transmitter terminal; (3) global data receipt and data processing centers. The GOES Data

Collection System (DCS) consists of: (1) U.S. Government instruments on NOAA geostationary satellites; (2) user platforms; (3) data receipt and data dissemination systems. The GOES DCS is managed solely by NOAA.

Both the GOES DCS and the Argos system are operated to support environmental applications, e.g. meteorology, oceanography, hydrology, ecology, and remote sensing of earth resources. In addition, the Argos system supports those applications which protect the environment, e.g. hazardous material tracking, fishing vessel tracking for treaty enforcement, animal tracking, and oil and gas pipeline monitoring to prevent leakage. The majority of users are government agencies and researchers, and in fact, much of the data collected by both the GOES DCS and the Argos system are provided to the World Meteorological Organization via the Global Telecommunications System for inclusion in the World Weather Watch Program.

On October 2, 1981 NOAA published regulations at 15 CFR 911 (46 FR 48634) that made the extra capacity of the GOES DCS available to non-NOAA users. Such use of the GOES DCS by other government and private users to collect environmental data was contingent upon: (1) All required conditions for access to the GOES DCS being met; (2) NOAA, another Federal agency, or a state or local agency being interested in or having a requirement to collect such data; and (3) no alternative commercial service existing that could provide this service.

No regulations have been published concerning the Argos system. However, in March 1992, NESDIS published a notice in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD) noting that a small portion, i.e., less than 5 percent of the Argos system capacity could be used for non-environmental purposes. The CBD notice explained:

Potential users interested in utilizing the Argos System for innovative experiments or demonstrations of non-environmental applications may request admission by submitting a program application. Programs admitted under this provision will normally be limited for periods not to exceed one year. However, program extensions may be requested.

The impetus for encouraging non-environmental uses of the Argos system was the U.S. Commercial Space Guidelines of 1991 which encouraged government agencies to promote commercial entities access to excess U.S. space-based assets in order to encourage the growth of the emerging U.S. commercial space industry. This 5 percent non-environmental system use