

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**Performance Review Board**

As required by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-454), Chairman William E. Kennard appointed the following executives to the Performance Review Board: Ruth Milkman, Michelle Oppenheimer, Mary Beth Richards, Gerald Vaughan, Douglas Webbink.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32448 Filed 12-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA-97-2567 CC Docket No. 90-571]

Notice of Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Applications for State Certification Accepted

Released: December 8, 1997.

Notice is hereby given that the state listed below has applied to the Commission for State Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Certification. Current state certifications expire July 25, 1998. Applications for certification, covering the five year period of July 26, 1998 to July 25, 2003, must demonstrate that the state TRS program complies with the Commission's rules for the provision of TRS, pursuant to Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 47 U.S.C. 225. These rules are codified at 47 CFR 64.601-605.

Copies of applications for certification are available for public inspection at the Commission's Common Carrier Bureau, Network Services Division, Room 235, 2000 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM (closed 12:30 to 1:30 PM) and the FCC Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., daily, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Interested persons may file comments on or before January 12, 1997. Comments should reference the relevant state file number of the state application that is being commented upon. One original and five copies of all comments must be sent to William F. Caton, Acting Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Two copies also should be sent to the Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, 2000 M Street, N.W., Room 235, Washington, D.C. 20554.

A number of state TRS programs currently holding FCC certification have failed to apply for recertification. Applications received after October 1, 1997, for which no extension has been requested before October 1, 1997, must be accompanied by a petition explaining the circumstances of the late-filing and requesting acceptance of the late-filed application.

File No: TRS-97-52.

Applicant: Arkansas Deaf and Hearing Impaired Telecommunications Services Corporation State of Arkansas.

For further information, contact Al McCloud, (202) 418-2499, amcloud@fcc.gov, or Andy Firth, (202) 418-2224 (TTY), afirth@fcc.gov, at the Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1190-DR]

Nebraska; Amendment to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of Nebraska, (FEMA-1190-DR), dated November 1, 1997, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 20, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Nebraska dated November 1, 1997, is hereby amended to include Category F under the Public Assistance program for the following areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of November 1, 1997.

The counties of Cass, Clay, Douglas, Fillmore, Kimball, Lancaster, Nuckolls, Otoe, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, and Washington for Category F, Utilities, under the Public Assistance program (already designated for Categories A and B).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance.)

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 97-32433 Filed 12-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 97-N-9]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) hereby gives notice that it is seeking public comments concerning a three-year extension by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the previously approved information collection entitled "Monthly Survey of Rates and Terms on Conventional, 1-Family, Nonfarm Loans," usually referred to as the "Monthly Interest Rate Survey" or "MIRS."

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on or before February 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address written comments and requests for copies of the information collection to Elaine L. Baker, Secretary to the Board, 202/408-2837, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy D. Forsberg, Financial Analyst, 202/408-2968, Financial Research Division, Office of Policy, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**A. Need For and Use of Information Collection**

The Finance Board's predecessor, the former Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB), first provided survey data on mortgage interest rates in 1963. No statutory or regulatory provision explicitly required the FHLBB to conduct the MIRS although references to the MIRS did appear in several Federal and State statutes.

Responsibility for conducting the MIRS was transferred to the Finance Board upon dissolution of the FHLBB in 1989. See Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989

(FIRREA), Pub. L. 101-73, Title IV, sec. 402(e)(3)-(4), 103 Stat. 183, codified at 12 U.S.C. 1437 note, and Title VII, sec. 731(f)(1), (f)(2)(B), 103 Stat. 433 (Aug. 9, 1989). In 1993, the Finance Board promulgated a final rule describing the method by which it conducts the MIRS. See 58 FR 19195 (Apr. 13, 1993), codified at 12 CFR 902.3. Since its inception, the MIRS has provided the only consistent source of information on mortgage interest rates and terms and house prices for areas smaller than the entire country.

Statutory references to the MIRS include the following:

- Pursuant to their respective organic statutes, the Federal National Mortgage Association (also known as Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (also known as Freddie Mac) use the MIRS results as the basis for allowable annual adjustments to the maximum dollar limits for their purchase of conventional mortgages. See 12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2), 1717(b)(2). The Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac limits were first tied to the MIRS by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980. See Public Law 96-399, Title III, section 313(a)-(b), 94 Stat. 1644-1645 (Oct. 8, 1980). At that time, the nearly identical statutes required Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to base the dollar limit adjustments on "the national average one-family house price in the monthly survey of all major lenders conducted by the [FHLBB]." See 12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2), 1717(b)(2) (1989). When Congress abolished the FHLBB in 1989, it replaced the reference to the FHLBB in the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac statutes with a reference to the Finance Board. See FIRREA, Title VII, sec. 731(f)(1), (f)(2)(B), 103 Stat. 433.

- Also in 1989, Congress required the Chairperson of the Finance Board to take necessary actions to ensure that indices used to calculate the interest rate on adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) remain available. See *id.* Title IV, section 402(e)(3)-(4), 103 Stat. 183, codified at 12 U.S.C. 1437 note. At least one ARM index, known as the National Average Contract Mortgage Rate for the Purchase of Previously Occupied Homes by Combined Lenders, is derived from the MIRS data. The statute permits the Finance Board to substitute a substantially similar ARM index after notice and comment only if the new ARM index is based upon data substantially similar to that of the original ARM index and substitution of the new ARM index will result in an interest rate substantially similar to the rate in effect at the time the new ARM index replaces the existing ARM index. See 12 U.S.C. 1437 note.

- Congress indirectly connected the high cost area limits for mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the MIRS in 1994 when it statutorily linked these FHA insurance limits to the purchase price limitations for Fannie Mae. See Public Law 103-327, 108 Stat. 2314 (Sept. 28, 1994), codified at 12 U.S.C. 1709(b)(2)(A)(ii).

- The Internal Revenue Service uses the MIRS data in establishing "safe-harbor" limitations for mortgages purchased with the proceeds of mortgage revenue bond issues. See 26 CFR 6a.103A-2(f)(5).

- Statutes in several states and U.S. territories, including California, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and the Virgin Islands, refer to, or rely upon, the MIRS. See, e.g., Cal. Rev. & Tax 439.2 (Deering 1996) (value of owner-occupied single family dwellings for tax purposes); Cal. Civ. 1916.7, 1916.8 (mortgage rates); Ind. Code Ann. 28-1-21.5-1 (Burns 1996) (mortgage instruments); Iowa Code 534.205 (1995) (real estate loan practices); Mich. Stat. Ann. 23.1125(21) (1996) (enforcement of mortgages); Minn. Stat. 92.06 (1996) (payments for state land sales); N.J. Rev. Stat. 31:1-1 (1996) (interest rates); Wis. Stat. 138.056 (1996) (variable loan rates); V.I. Code Ann. tit. 11, section 951 (1996) (legal rate of interest).

The Finance Board uses the information collection to produce the MIRS and for general statistical purposes and program evaluation. Economic policy makers use the MIRS data to determine trends in the mortgage markets, including interest rates, down payments, terms to maturity, terms on ARMs, and initial fees and charges on mortgage loans. Other federal banking agencies use the MIRS results for research purposes. Information concerning the MIRS is regularly published in the popular trade press, in Finance Board releases and on its web-site, and in publications of other federal agencies.

The likely respondents include a sample of 390 savings associations, mortgage companies, commercial banks, and savings banks. The information collection requires each respondent to complete FHFB Form 10-91 or an equivalent electronic submission on a monthly basis.

The OMB number for the information collection is 3069-0001. The OMB clearance for the information collection expires on April 30, 1998.

B. Burden Estimate

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of respondents at 390, with twelve annual responses per respondent. The estimate for the average hours per response is 1.0 hours. The estimate for the total annual hour burden is 4,680 hours (390 respondents x 12 responses/respondent x approximately 1.0 hour).

C. Comment Request

The Finance Board requests written comments on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of Finance Board functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Finance Board's estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) 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.

Dated: December 3, 1997.

By the Federal Housing Finance Board.

William W Ginsberg,

Managing Director.

[FR Doc. 97-32395 Filed 12-10-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Ocean Freight Forwarder License; Revocations

The Federal Maritime Commission hereby gives notice that the following freight forwarder licenses have been revoked pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718) and the regulations of the Commission pertaining to the licensing of ocean freight forwarders, effective on the corresponding revocation dates shown below:

License Number: 3791.

Name: Air-Sea International, Inc.

Address: 218 Marsh Island Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320-9246.

Date Revoked: November 17, 1997.

Reason: Surrendered license voluntarily.

License Number: 3159.

Name: Artpak Transport, Ltd.

Address: c/o Judson, 50 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019.

Date Revoked: November 25, 1997.

Reason: Surrendered license voluntarily.

License Number: 3593.

Name: Caliber Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders, Inc.