

[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html).

### Universal Identifier

All applicants (nonprofit, state, local government, universities, and tribal organizations) will be required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66177) and April 8, 2003 (68 FR 17000) **Federal Register** notices for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line 1-866-705-5711 or via the Internet ([www.dunandbradstreet.com](http://www.dunandbradstreet.com)).

### The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification of Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this solicitation.

### Limitation of Liability

In no event will the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige the agency to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

### Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The PTFP application form has been approved under OMB Control No. 0660-0003.

### Executive Order 12866

It has been determined that this notice is a "not significant" rule under Executive Order 12866.

### Executive Order 13132

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

### Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

Prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

**Bernadette McGuire-Rivera,**

*Associate Administrator, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications.*

[FR Doc. 04-10538 Filed 5-7-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Patent Customer Transactional Survey

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), 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 July 9, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division, 703-308-7400, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, Attn: CPK 3 Suite 310; by e-mail at [susan.brown@uspto.gov](mailto:susan.brown@uspto.gov); or by facsimile at 703-308-7407.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Martin Rater, Statistician, Office of Corporate Planning, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone 703-305-4220; by facsimile at 703-305-8138; or by e-mail at [martin.rater@uspto.gov](mailto:martin.rater@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Abstract

For over the past 10 years, the USPTO has used surveys to obtain customer feedback regarding the products, services, and related service standards of the USPTO. The USPTO uses the results from these surveys to measure how well the agency is meeting established customer service standards, to identify any disjoints between customer expectations and USPTO performance, and to develop customer satisfaction improvement strategies. Typically, these surveys ask customers to express their satisfaction with the USPTO's products and services based upon their interactions with the agency as a whole over a 12 month period.

To obtain further data concerning customer satisfaction with the USPTO's customer services, service standards, and the agency's performance, the USPTO has drafted the proposed Patent Customer Transactional Survey. This proposed survey allows the USPTO to further explore customer satisfaction with the legal positions of the examiners, the search functions of the various Automated Information Systems, and problem resolution at the USPTO. From past surveys, the USPTO has noted that these areas are key drivers of overall customer satisfaction. Additionally, the USPTO has found that approximately 70% of its customers prosecute more than 15 patent applications per year. With this volume of applications per customer, it is not practical for the USPTO to survey customers about anything beyond general satisfaction with a particular product or service. The Patent Customer Transactional Survey will allow the USPTO to gather more detailed information about these key drivers of customer satisfaction. This in turn enables the USPTO to develop efficient and cost-effective customer satisfaction improvement strategies.

The Patent Customer Transactional Survey is a mail survey, although respondents also have the option to complete the survey electronically. A survey packet, containing a one-page questionnaire (with a cover letter prepared by the Commissioner of Patents printed on the reverse side), and a postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelope will be mailed to respondents with the patent allowance. Instructions for completing the survey electronically will also be included. The survey packets will be mailed to randomly selected customers who were granted a patent from one of the eight technology centers during a six week period to commence with the start of the survey enumeration period.

The USPTO does not plan to pre-notify respondents about this survey or follow-up with those respondents who do not respond to this survey. This is a voluntary survey and all responses will remain confidential. The data that is collected will not be linked to the respondent and contact information that is used for sampling purposes will be maintained in a separate file from the quantitative data. Respondents are not required to provide any identifying information such as their name, address, or Social Security Number. In order to access and complete the online survey, respondents will need to use the username, password, and activation code provided by the USPTO.

These surveys do not have USPTO form numbers associated with them and once they are approved, they will carry

the OMB Control Number and the expiration date.

## II. Method of Collection

By mail or electronically over the Internet when respondents elect the online option to complete the survey.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0651-00XX.

*Form Number(s):* N/A.

*Type of Review:* New information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for profit; not-for-profit institutions; Federal government; and State, local or tribal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,400 total responses per year. Of this total, the USPTO estimates that 1,680

surveys will be mailed and that 720 surveys will be completed using the online option.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take approximately five minutes (0.08 hours) to complete both the paper and online versions of this survey.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 192 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$54,912. The USPTO believes that the patent attorneys of record will complete these surveys since they are being mailed to respondents with the patent allowance. Using a typical professional hourly rate of \$286 for associate attorneys in private firms, the USPTO estimates that the salary costs for the respondents completing these surveys will be \$54,912 per year.

Item	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Patent Customer Transactional Survey .....	5 minutes	1,680	134
Electronic Patent Customer Transactional Survey .....	5 minutes	720	58
Totals .....	.....	2,400	192

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

## 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, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: May 4, 2004.

**Susan K. Brown,**

*Records Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division.*

[FR Doc. 04-10526 Filed 5-7-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request.

**SUMMARY:** The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed revision to Form EIA-910, "Monthly Natural Gas Marketer Survey". EIA is requesting a revision to add seven States and the District of Columbia to the survey frame, which consists of natural gas marketers.

**DATES:** Comments must be filed by July 9, 2004. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Elizabeth Campbell, Director of the Natural Gas Division. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by FAX at (202) 586-4420 or e-mail at [elizabeth.campbell@eia.doe.gov](mailto:elizabeth.campbell@eia.doe.gov) is recommended. The mailing address is: Elizabeth Campbell, Director, Natural Gas Division, Forrestal Building, EI-44, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Ms. Campbell may be contacted by telephone at (202) 586-5590.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of any forms and instructions should be directed to Ms. Campbell at the address listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

#### I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information