




UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

Management Services  
Division

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** BRENDA AGUILAR  
OPM Desk Officer  
Office of Management and Budget

JAN 17/ 2008

**FROM:** JANET L. BARNES   
Deputy Associate Director  
Center for Information Services and Chief Information Officer

**SUBJECT:** Request for Emergency Clearance for Retirement Systems Modernization

This is to request an emergency clearance for the Defined Benefit Technology Solution (DBTS) in support of the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Retirement Systems Modernization (RSM) program. In addition to the emergency clearance, OPM also will complete the normal OMB review process and post the 60-Day Federal Register Notice with the Emergency Federal Register Notice.

OPM is requesting an emergency clearance due to the timing of the planned deployment of the DBTS in February 2008. An emergency clearance is essential to the mission of OPM as it will ensure consistent administration of benefits to active Federal employees, annuitants, and their respective dependents, as well as other members of the general public.

OPM cannot reasonably comply with normal clearance procedures due to the iterative development approach of the DBTS solution with the timing of the launch of the tool in February 2008. Screenshots, forms, and other required evidence for clearance were not available in time for the normal clearance process; adherence to normal procedures would likely result in delays or disruptions to administration of retirement benefits and launch of the DBTS in February 2008.

OPM requests that OMB approve the information collection no later than February 8, 2008. The implementation of the DBTS represents a modern, web-based approach to information collections that will significantly minimize burdens placed on the public. In addition, OPM has consulted with its customer agencies and shared service centers during the development and implementation of the DBTS to ensure all practical steps have been taken to minimize burdens placed on the public.