

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR  
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

**Advance Notification Form: Tourist and Other Non-Governmental  
Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area  
OMB Number 1405-0181  
DS-4131**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Collection of information on the Advance Notification Form allows the U.S. Government to meet its obligation, under Article VII(5)(a) of the Antarctic Treaty, to inform other Contracting Parties of plans by U.S. tourist and other non-governmental operators to visit the Antarctic Treaty Area.  
  
“5. Each Contracting Party shall, at the time when the present Treaty enters into force for it, inform the other Contracting Parties, and thereafter shall give them notice in advance of:  
a) all expeditions to and within Antarctica, on the part of its ships or nationals, and all expeditions to Antarctica organized in or proceeding from its territory.”
2. Information requested on the Advance Notification Form will be used by the Department of State to make a determination whether an intended tourist or other non-governmental activity is organized in or proceeding from U.S. territory and, if so, to prepare a pre-season notification to other Parties to the Treaty containing specifics of each intended expedition. Upon determination that an activity falls under U.S. jurisdiction, U.S. expeditions must comply with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that implement other obligations under the Treaty’s Protocol on Environmental Protection requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment. The content of the proposed Advance Notification Form has been cleared with both EPA and the National Science Foundation.
3. The DS-4131, Advance Notification Form, is distributed electronically and can be completed on-line. Advance copies of the form may be submitted electronically pending physical receipt of a signed original submitted by tourist and non-governmental operators to the Department of State’s Office of Oceans Affairs.
4. Information collected on the Advance Notification Form does not duplicate information otherwise collected by the U.S. Government. Information on the form supplements information separately provided by U.S. operators to the Environmental Protection Agency as part of a required Environmental Impact Assessment process.

5. No significant impact will be placed on small businesses outside of normal business practices.
6. Failure to collect information requested on the Advance Notification Form may prevent the United States from being able to comply with a Treaty obligation.
7. There are no special circumstances associated with this collection.
8. There was an emergency request to OMB for approval of this collection, published on April 16, 2008 (73 F.R. 20730). No comments were received in response to that Notice. A final 30-day *Federal Register* notice will be published to solicit public comment.
9. There are no payments or gift to respondents.
10. The Department of State provides no assurance of confidentiality regarding the information collected.
11. The Advance Notification Form does not collect any information of a sensitive nature.
12. We expect approximately 22 respondents per year to provide advance notification of a tourist or other non-governmental expedition to Antarctica organized in, or proceeding from, the United States. Notification would be made once per year, typically three to four months before travel. The form may address a number of intended activities ranging from an excursion by one private person to several voyages by each of several vessels, or aircraft, operated by a large commercial enterprise. We estimate that a single private operator may require as few as three hours to complete the form while a commercial operator, with complicated vessel subchartering issues, may require more than 50 hours to complete the form. On average, we believe that collecting information requested should take respondents about 10.5 hours. Using 22 respondents as a baseline, we project the average burden to be about 231 hours.
13. There is no additional cost to business beyond normal business practices.
14. There is no cost to the federal government for this collection.

15. There have been no changes in burden or costs since the Emergency PRA Submission.

16. The Department of State will disseminate the results of this collection of information to other USG agencies involved in implementing the Treaty, and to other Parties to the Treaty. Certain expedition information may be posted on the National Science Foundation's World Wide Web site in order to facilitate notification of and access by all Parties to the Treaty.

17. The Department will display the OMB expiration date.

18. There are no exceptions sought for this collection.

**B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

This collection does not employ statistical methods.