



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PO Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007

IN REPLY REFER TO:

84-52000
PRJ - 15.00

OCT 31 2008

Mr. Nathan Frey
Office of Management and Budget
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Docket Library, Room 10102
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

Under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines at 5 CFR 1320.13, we request emergency processing of the information collection request (ICR) associated with the Interim Final Rule (1006-AA54) for the Bureau of Reclamation's Rural Water Supply Program (Rural Water Program). The ICR has been uploaded into the Regulatory Information Service Center and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Consolidated Information System (ROCIS).

The Rural Water Program will address rural water needs in the western United States by assisting small communities to plan the design and construction of rural water projects. Eligible entities interested in participating in the program will be requested to submit information to allow Reclamation to evaluate and prioritize requests for financial or technical assistance. There are no forms associated with the ICR.

In accordance with the emergency processing procedures,

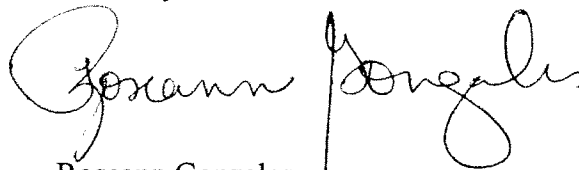
(a) We have determined that:

- (1) This information collection, which is associated with a new Interim Final Rule (1006-AA54), will be published in the Federal Register concurrent with the rulemaking. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the rule, including the requirements related to this information collection, when it is published in the Federal Register.
- (2) Delaying the enactment of this rule would delay the implementation of a critical program to provide water to many rural communities who are currently without safe drinking water. Additionally, the information collected is general information about the water supply needs of the applicants and is, therefore, readily available to the applicants.

- (b) We request that OMB make a decision on this emergency ICR during the processing of the Interim Final Rule.
- (c) We have not formally consulted with potential respondents on the impact of this burden due to time constraints. Our estimate of the annual burden hours is based on Reclamation's experience with similar application processes for other programs.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call Ms. Avra Morgan, Policy and Program Services, at 303-445-2906.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roseann Gonzales". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "G".

Roseann Gonzales
Director, Policy and Program Services