



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Chief Information Officer**

Washington, D.C. 20230

APR 07 2009

Mr. Kevin Neyland  
Acting Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Neyland:

This is a request for an expedited review of an information collection under the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Construction Grant Program.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) (Public Law 111-5) appropriated \$180 million to NIST "for a competitive construction grant program for research science buildings." Consistent with the Conference Report language, NIST intends to issue grant awards for approximately \$60 million to unfunded meritorious 2008 proposals submitted under the fiscal year 2008 competition and issue grant awards for approximately \$120 million under a new fiscal year 2009 competition. The goals and objectives of the program are to provide competitively awarded grant funds for research science buildings through the construction of new buildings or expansion of existing buildings. For purposes of this program, "research science building" means a building or facility whose purpose is to conduct scientific research, including laboratories, test facilities, measurement facilities, research computing facilities, and observatories. In addition, "expansion of existing buildings" means that space to conduct scientific research is being expanded from what is currently available for the supported research activities.

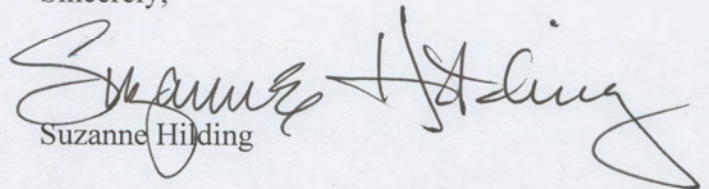
These NIST Recovery Act projects will result in the preservation of jobs and the promotion of economic recovery; the provision of investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances; and the investment in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits. Activities will be commenced as quickly as possible while ensuring prudent management.

To receive funding, applicants must submit proposals in response to NIST competition notices announcing the availability of funds and request for proposals (RFPs), which are published in the Federal Register and Grants.gov Web site. This request is for the information collection requirements associated with applying for funding. The intent of the collection is to meet

programmatic requirements, as well as compliance with 15 C.F.R. Part 14. In order to meet the intent of the Recovery Act, expedited review needs to be completed as soon as possible, but no later than April 10, 2009. Once NIST receives OMB approval, NIST will announce a competition on April 15, 2009.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Hilding