



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

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SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Review and Approval of a New Information
Collection Request Package, Repowering Assistance Program
Section 9004

The Agency is requesting emergency review and approval of a new information collection.

At this time, rather than seek public comments, USDA thinks it is important to follow the direction of the President's May 5, 2009, "Biofuels and Rural Economic Development" memorandum. This memorandum requests that the Secretary of Agriculture take steps to the extent permitted by law to "... develop a comprehensive approach to accelerating the investment in and production of American biofuels ..." and for "... expedited funding to encourage biorefineries to replace the use of fossil fuels in plant operations by installing new biomass energy systems or producing new energy from renewable biomass; ..."

Under the authorities made available in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246, (2008 Farm Bill), Rural Development, Business and Cooperative Programs is publishing a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). A burden is being imposed on entities seeking payments for the collection of reporting requirements. The NOFA establishes eligibility and application requirements, the review and approval process, and administration procedures for the program.

In compliance with OMB regulations (5 CFR part 1320), which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements that may be imposed by this action are submitted to OMB for emergency review and approval. The reporting requirements would not become effective prior to OMB review and approval.

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