



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of the Chief Information Officer**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

January 21, 2009

Mr. Alex Hunt  
Chief, Information Policy Branch  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (DOC/NTIA) requests emergency review of a revision to a currently approved collection of information, entitled "Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Application, Public Computer Center Application, and Sustainable Broadband Adoption Application Requirements." We request completion of the review by January 22, 2010.

The Recovery Act, signed into law on February 17, 2009, tasked NTIA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and the Federal Communications Commission with leading the federal government's efforts to begin the process of dramatically expanding the reach and quality of broadband services.

NTIA and RUS announced the first round of funding in a Notice of Funding Availability on July 9, 2009. For the first round, NTIA allocated up to \$1.6 billion for awards. In response, NTIA received over 1,800 applications for proposed broadband projects reaching all states, five territories, and the District of Columbia.

On December 17, 2009, NTIA began announcing awards for BTOP projects and will continue to do so for the next several months. It is anticipated that the second round of funding will be announced in the *Federal Register* on January 22, 2010.

This emergency review request is needed to enable NTIA to receive and review applications, select applications under the second round of funding, and comply with the Recovery Act's deadline of September 30, 2010, for the award of BTOP funds. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Suzanne E. Hilding