

OPIC 168

OPIC EXPEDITED SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE - DOWNSTREAM INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR APPROVAL

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. **Circumstances necessitating information collection:** The information requested is required to determine the expected effects of proposed downstream projects on the U.S. economy and employment, as well as the effects on the environment, economic development, and worker rights abroad.
2. **Use of the information:** This application will be sent to OPIC's fund managers. The fund managers will complete the information for companies in which the Fund proposes to invest. The information collected will be reviewed by Investment Development officers to determine the expected effects of the projects on the U.S. economy and employment, as well as on the environment, economic development, and worker rights abroad.
3. **Advanced Information Technology:** The use of advanced information technology is not applicable in this information collection.
4. **Efforts to avoid Duplication:** This information would not be requested by any other Federal agency, since it relates specifically to OPIC's programs. No duplication is foreseen.
5. **Burden of Collecting Information:** The burden of collecting information does not vary with the size of the business applying for financing. OPIC fund managers make a special effort, either in person or by telephone, to assist small businesses in completing the questionnaire.
6. **Consequences to Federal Program if Collection Not Conducted:** OPIC would not be able to fulfill its mandate to screen projects if this information were not collected. If the information were not collected, OPIC could not assess the expected effects of proposed downstream projects on the U.S. economy and employment, as well as the effects on the environment, economic development, and worker rights abroad.
7. **Special Circumstances:** Not applicable. Information is collected in a manner consistent with the guidelines of the Paperwork Reduction Act and OMB's implementing regulations.
8. **Federal Register Notice:** The first Federal Register Notice was published on 2/1/2006, FR Doc. 06-931. The second Federal Register Notice will be published on 6/15/2006.

9. **Confidentiality:** OPIC provides respondents the assurance of confidentiality by labeling the top and bottom of each page of the OPIC 168 form with the phrase, "Privileged Business Information." Client information is treated as Confidential and protected per 22 CFR Chapter VII, Part 706.

10. **Sensitive Questions:** No questions on the application are of a sensitive nature.

11. **Burden on Respondents:**

Total respondents: 6 on-lending facilities per year
Frequency of response: 90 (6 on-lending facilities x 15 applications per on-lending facilities)
Annual burden: 90 hours (90 x 1 hour/application)

This estimate is based on the number of downstream projects expected to be assisted in Fiscal Year 2004.

13. **Estimated Annualized Cost to Respondents:**

\$0 Total capital and start-up costs
\$0 Total operation and maintenance

All costs associated with the form are part of the normal cost of doing business.

14. **Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government:**

\$140.00 Developmental: 8 hours @ \$17.50/Hr.
\$315.00 Review/Analysis: 20 Minutes x 90 Applications @ \$17.50/Hr.
\$455.00 TOTAL COST

15. **Reasons for Changes in Burden:** OPIC is required to assess the effects of the projects it may assist. The use of an investor questionnaire enables OPIC to assess the effects of its proposed projects without traveling overseas. The burden on the Federal Government will be increased because OPIC is supporting several new on-lending facilities.

16. **Publication of Information:** Information provided in the applications will not be published, except in aggregate form. Aggregate figures will be reported to Congress in OPIC's Annual Report.

17. **Not applicable:** The OMB expiration date will be printed on each copy of the form.

18. **Not applicable:** No exceptions are being requested on the certification statement.

B. STATISTICAL METHODS

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.