





Homeland Security

August 28, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Neomi Rao
Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Stephen Rice  08/28/17
Chief Information Officer (Acting)
Department of Homeland Security

FROM: Tracey L. Showman 
Chief Administrative Officer
Mission Support
DHS Federal Emergency Management Agency

SUBJECT: Emergency Approval for Reinstatement without change of OMB
Collection 1660-0002 Disaster Assistance Registration

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeks emergency approval for the reinstatement without change of OMB Collection 1660-0002 Disaster Assistance Registration. As discussed below, it is vital that this collection be reinstated and implemented by **August 28, 2017**. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) implementing regulations at 5 C.F.R. § 1320.13: (1) this information is necessary to the mission of the agency, (2) this information is necessary prior to the expiration of time periods established under PRA, (3) public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed, and (4) an unanticipated event has occurred.

1. Information is Essential to the Mission of the Agency

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288) (the Stafford Act), as amended, is the legal basis for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide disaster related assistance, financial assistance, and services to individuals who apply for disaster assistance benefits in the event of a federally declared disaster. Regulations in title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subpart D, "Federal Assistance to Individuals

and Households,” implement the policy and procedures set forth in section 408 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5174, as amended. This program provides financial assistance and, if necessary, direct assistance to eligible individuals and households who, as a direct result of a major disaster or emergency, have uninsured or under-insured, damage, necessary expenses, and serious needs which are not covered through other means. The “Other Needs Assistance” (ONA) provision of IHP provides financial assistance to address disaster related medical, dental, funeral, child care, personal property, transportation, and other necessary expenses or serious needs resulting from a major disaster.

OMB Collection 1660-0002 Disaster Assistance Registration covers forms that are used to collect pertinent information to provide financial assistance. Also, if necessary, it provides direct assistance to eligible individuals and households who, as a direct result of a disaster or emergency, have uninsured or under-insured, necessary expenses and serious needs that they are unable to meet through other means.

The reinstatement of this information collection is necessary to the mission of FEMA because FEMA cannot provide disaster assistance to individuals without approval of these information collections. Specifically, the associated forms that a disaster survivor uses is necessary to provide pertinent information to FEMA in order to determine whether the disaster survivor is eligible for disaster assistance. It will be impossible for FEMA to determine the eligibility of disaster survivors without completion of the required forms in OMB 1660-0002. In addition, President Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Texas on August 25, 2017, and these forms will be necessary to implement the declaration and to determine eligibility.

2. The Information is needed Prior to Expiration of Time Periods Established under PRA

President Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Texas on August 25, 2017, so the reinstatement of these information collections are necessary in order for FEMA to assist disaster survivors who are impacted by Hurricane Harvey. FEMA cannot comply with the regular 30- and 60-day notice requirements established under PRA before August 28, 2017 or when disaster survivors from Hurricane Harvey will begin to apply for assistance.

3. Public Harm is Reasonably Likely to Result if Normal Clearance Procedures are Followed

Public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed because it may lead to delays in disaster survivors being able to complete their applications for assistance or receive disaster assistance from FEMA in a timely manner.

4. An Unanticipated Event has Occurred

Hurricane Harvey is currently impacting Texas and Louisiana and is the first Category 4 hurricane to hit the United States in the past 12 years. The National Weather Service has issued

a warning that “Widespread destructive winds of 115 to 145 mph will produce swaths of tornado-like damage” for portions of the Texas coast. In addition, the National Hurricane Center said it expects “catastrophic and life-threatening” flash flooding along the middle and upper Texas coast. An incredible amount of rain, 15 to 30 inches with isolated amounts of up to 40 inches, is predicted because the storm is expected to stall and unload torrents for four to six straight days. As a result, President Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Texas on August 25, 2017, permitting emergency aid to Texas. Without this emergency approval, FEMA will not be able to collect information from disaster survivors who are impacted by the unanticipated category 4 hurricane.

FEMA is requesting an emergency approval of this collection so that it can accept disaster survivors’ applications as quickly as possible after the hurricane has passed. Delay in approval of this information collection will disrupt FEMA’s ability to comply with other provisions of the law and its overall mission.

5. Conclusion

Following the normal clearance procedures for approval of the reinstatement for this information collection would delay FEMA’s ability to comply with the requirements of the law. As discussed, FEMA certifies that the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13(a) are met and it is vital this reinstatement be implemented by **August 28, 2017**, because: (1) this information is necessary to the mission of the agency, (2) this information is necessary prior to the expiration of time periods established under PRA, (3) public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed, and (4) an unanticipated event has occurred.

Thank you for your consideration.