

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William E. Freeborne, Program Analyst, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 8134, Washington, DC 20410-6000, telephone (202) 708-4370 ext. 5725. (This is not a toll-free number). A copy of the proposed forms and other available documents to be submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Freeborne.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public concerning proposed collection information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

Title of Proposal: Housing Condition Assessment (Pilot Study).

Description of the Need for Information and Proposed Use: Housing is the most basic and important part of the infrastructure in the United States and worldwide. Its direct and indirect impact on the economy and public welfare is far reaching. While increasing homeownership opportunities has benefits, it presents certain challenges to the future of housing in the United States. For example, housing production and resource utilization is stretched to meet the housing demand of a diverse and growing population. To continue to meet this demand, conventional methods need to be improved while innovative materials and methods need to rise to meet the challenge in a

responsible, but competitive manner. This challenge can only be effectively met by better understanding the performance of the existing housing stock and developing improved technologies, including both design and construction practices that lead to better and more affordable homes for all Americans.

This study will help fill critical knowledge gaps to develop more durable products for single-family home construction. The work will help to establish a baseline of housing performance from which defects can be rationally identified and future improvements and innovations can be cost-effectively directed. The objectives are as follows:

(1) Pilot test and define the data collection methodology for potential use as a national housing condition assessment instrument.

(2) Establish a baseline of housing condition (durability), based on the pilot test data.

(3) Evaluate the housing condition assessment data to identify trends related to durability performance.

The housing performance assessment protocol will be implemented on a pilot scale. The focus will be on documenting conditions including products, homeowner maintenance, history of any damage, etc. The study will obtain a random selection (representative sample) of about 200 homes for site inspections and occupant/owner interviews in a pilot study region (Anne Arundel County, MD). Homes will be single-family detached, selected from property tax records according to the following age brackets: 5 to 10 years old and 25-30 years old. A data collection form will be created with detailed information to be collected from the sampled homes by field inspectors operating under contract to HUD.

Assessment teams will contact owners or occupants prior to site visits to conduct a phone interview and to arrange for an on-site assessment. The data will be recorded on field survey forms and then transcribed to a computer database. Homes not receiving voluntary homeowner participation will be subject only to a visual survey from the street.

Agency Form Numbers, if Applicable: None.

Members of Affected Public: A randomly selected group of 200 homeowners will be affected by the information collection.

Estimation of the Total Number of Hours Needed to Prepare the Information Collection Including Number of Respondents, Frequency of Response, and Hours of Response:

Information will be collected by a telephone and a voluntary personal interview with a maximum of 200 randomly selected homeowners in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Each survey will take approximately 30 minutes or less to complete. This means a total of 200 hours of response time for the information collection.

Status of the Proposed Information Collection: Pending submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: September 10, 1999.

Lawrence L. Thompson,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 99-24947 Filed 9-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4432-N-38]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 24, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clifford Taffet, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7262 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1234; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565 (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings, and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: September 16, 1999.

Fred Karnas, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

[FR Doc. 99-24601 Filed 9-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Invasive Species Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to establish; request for nominations and comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Executive Order 13112, the U.S. Department of the Interior, on behalf of the new interdepartmental Invasive Species Council, proposes to establish the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). The Secretary of the Interior, acting as administrative lead, is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the ISAC.

DATES: Written nominations must be received within 30 days of the date of publication, October 25, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Gordon Brown, Invasive Species Coordinator, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, 1849 C Street, NW, room 6635, Washington DC, 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gordon Brown, Invasive Species Coordinator, telephone (202) 208-6336; fax (202) 208-2219; e-mail a_gordon_brown@ios.doi.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Advisory Committee Scope and Objectives

The purpose and role of the ISAC are to provide advice to the Invasive Species Council (Council), as authorized by Executive Order 13112, on a broad array of issues related to preventing the introduction of invasive species and providing for their control and minimizing the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. The Council is Co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce. The duty of the Council is to provide national leadership regarding invasive species issues. The Council will coordinate Federal agency activities concerning invasive species; prepare and issue a national Invasive Species Management Plan; encourage planning and action at local, tribal, State, regional and ecosystem-based levels to achieve the

goals and objectives of the management plan; develop recommendations for international cooperation in addressing invasive species; develop, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality, guidance to Federal agencies pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act on invasive species matters; facilitate development of a coordinated network to document, evaluate, and monitor impacts from invasive species; facilitate establishment of an information-sharing system on invasive species that utilizes, to the greatest extent practicable, the Internet; support long-term continuance and effective implementation of the Management Plan.

The ISAC will maintain an intensive and regular dialogue to actively explore these issues and will draw on the expertise of its members and other sources to provide advice in order to help the Council fulfill these goals. The ISAC will provide advice in cooperation with stakeholders and existing organizations addressing invasive species. The ISAC will meet up to four (4) times per year.

The ISAC will be made up of United States citizens. It will consist of no more than 25 voting members. Members will be appointed by the Secretary of Interior, in consultation with the other members of the Council. Members of ISAC will be knowledgeable in and represent one or more of the following communities of interests: weed science; fisheries science; rangeland management; forest science; entomology; nematology; plant pathology; veterinary medicine; the broad range of farming or agricultural practices; biodiversity issues; applicable laws and regulations relevant to invasive species policy; risk assessment; biological control of invasive species; public health/epidemiology; industry activities, structure, and international trade; environmental education; ecosystem monitoring; natural resource database design and integration; internet-based management of conservation issues.

Members should also have practical experience in one or more of the following areas: representing sectors of the national economy that are significantly threatened by biological invasions (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, public utilities, recreational users, tourism, etc.); representing sectors of the national economy whose routine operations may pose risks of new or expanded biological invasions (e.g. shipping, forestry, horticulture, aquaculture, pet trade, etc.); developing natural resource management plans on regional or ecosystem-level scales;

addressing invasive species issues, including prevention, control and monitoring, in multiple ecosystems and on multiple scales; integrating science and the human dimension in creating effective solutions to complex conservation issues; coordinating diverse groups of stakeholders to resolve complex environmental issues and conflicts; complying with NEPA and other federal requirements for public involvement in major conservation plans. Members will be selected in order to achieve a balanced representation of viewpoints to effectively address invasive species issues under consideration. No member may serve on the ISAC for more than three (3) consecutive terms of two years. Reappointment terms will be staggered within stakeholder groups (2 or 3 years) to avoid turnover.

Members of the ISAC and its subcommittees will serve without pay. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services of the ISAC, members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the government service, as authorized by section 5703 of Title 5, United States Code.

Submitting Nominations

Nominations should be typed and should include the following:

1. A brief summary of no more than two (2) pages explaining the nominee's suitability to serve on the ISAC.
2. A resume or curriculum vitae.
3. Letters of reference.

Nominations should be sent, no later than September 24, 1999, to Gordon Brown, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 6635, Washington DC, 20240.

To ensure that recommendations of the ISAC take into account the needs of the diverse groups served, Department of the Interior is actively soliciting nominations of qualified minorities, women, persons with disabilities and members of low income populations.

Dated: September 21, 1999.

William Y. Brown,

Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 99-25012 Filed 9-23-99; 8:45 am]

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