

# BROOKINGS

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February 11, 2010

Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB Desk Officer  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Room 10201  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

**Metropolitan  
Policy  
Program**

Via e-mail: [bharrisk@omb.eop.gov](mailto:bharrisk@omb.eop.gov)

RE: Request for comments regarding the proposed Generic Clearance of the Master Address File and Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing Updating Activities

Dear Mr. Harris-Kojetin,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Policy Program (Metro) of the Brookings Institution, I am pleased to respond to the January 19, 2010 Federal Register notice requesting comments on the proposed Generic Clearance of the Master Address File (MAF) and Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) Updating Activities.

Metro promotes innovative solutions to help the nation's metropolitan communities become more competitive, inclusive, and sustainable. From this perspective, we believe that the successful conduct of the Census Bureau's demographic surveys is vitally important to the health and well-being of metropolitan America. We view the regular, accurate updating of MAF and TIGER as essential to the success, and subsequent evaluations, of these efforts. Consequently, we support the Census Bureau's request to extend the generic clearance for MAF and TIGER updating activities.

We find that the Census Bureau's methodology for updating addresses is logical and appropriate. The Demographic Area Address Listing (DAAL) program encompasses geographic updates for a number of programs. DAAL is critical to the quality of the sampling frames for ongoing demographic surveys, including the American Community Survey and the Current Population Survey, and will benefit the 2020 Census by providing an improved base for that address list. It is the means of continually updating the address lists for group quarters and for noncity-style addresses, the rural counterpart to the update of city-style addresses with information from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. This program includes a screening operation to add housing units in independent living facilities (usually for the elderly and disabled) to the American Housing Survey. This is a first step towards identifying independent facilities, a fast growing segment of the housing stock, for other surveys.

We are pleased to see that in fiscal year 2010, the DAAL program will be used to assess the job aid used in the 2010 Address Canvassing operation to identify hard-to-find units in small

multiunit structures. We requested the creation of this job aid, were very pleased when it was put into the field, and look forward to the results of the DAAL-based assessment.

We hope the Census Bureau finds our comments of value and appreciate the opportunity to provide them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Reamer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrew Reamer, Fellow  
Metropolitan Policy Program