

Norcross, Frank

From: tfreid@co.durham.nc.us
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 9:40 AM
To: Norcross, Frank
Subject: comments on FR Doc. 2010-17142, EECBG reporting burden

Mr. Norcross,

I am writing with comments on the reporting burden of the EECBG grant program per Federal Register Doc. 2010-17142 Filed 7-13-10.

In particular, the monthly reporting required by recipients of grants totaling more than 2 million is excessive. Recipients spend as much time gathering data and reporting it as they do conducting the actual work of the grant. It is a lot to keep track of reporting on PAGE and FederalReporting.gov quarterly already and the monthly PAGE reports add additional burden and confusion. In addition, most of contractors have difficulty getting us the required data on a monthly basis in enough time to include it in our report.

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DOE Response to Public Comment on Proposed Information Collection Request

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 1910-5150

TITLE: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Status Report
Federal Register Notice (60 Day): July 14th, 2010 (Vol. 75, No. 134 pp. 40796)

Commenter: Durham City-County, NC

Date of comment: August 17th, 2010

DOE Response:

DOE acknowledges that the monthly reporting requirements in the EECBG reporting guidance (EECBG 10-07A) represent an undue burden on EECBG recipients with formula allocations >\$2M. Under this guidance, applicable recipients were required to report outlays, obligations, and some performance metrics by project activity on a monthly basis. Anecdotal feedback from EECBG Project Officers and recipients indicated that the report of performance metrics by activity on a monthly basis was particularly burdensome and of marginal utility. This observation is consistent with your stated assertions.

As such, in the forthcoming revision to the reporting guidance (EECBG 10-07B), recipients will only be required to report outlays by project activity on a monthly basis. To minimize the burden represented by this monthly reporting requirement, monthly outlays will be automatically summed in PAGE to populate the quarterly performance report. Moreover, the overall format of the Quarterly Performance Report in PAGE has recently undergone significant revision to make it more intuitive and useful to EECBG recipients.

DOE believes that the report of outlays on a monthly basis provides essential transparency on amount and object of Recovery Act expenditures. DOE estimates that the reduction in requirements amounts to an approximate 40% reduction in the annual reporting burden and should concurrently reduce confusion amongst grantees. Furthermore, the reduced burden should allow municipal staff to focus on the implementation of Recovery Act project funded under EECBG.