



FAR Desk Officer  
Office of Management and Budget  
Room 10102, NEOB  
Washington, DC 20503

August 22, 2007

Re: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0135), published at 72 FR 40123, July 23, 2007

Dear FAR Desk Officer:

The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) would like to go on record in support of an extension of the current information collection requirements which provides that, upon the request of a prospective subcontractor or supplier offering to furnish labor or materials for the performance of a construction contract for which a payment bond has been furnished to the United States pursuant to the Miller Act, the contractor must promptly provide a copy of such payment bond to that subcontractor or supplier.

NECA is the nationally-recognized organization speaking for the electrical construction industry. Our industry is comprised of over 80,000 electrical construction contracting firms, employing over 770,000 electrical workers, and producing an annual volume of over \$125 billion.

NECA believes this information collection requirement is significant, in that it is relatively non-intrusive and allows prospective subcontractors and to better assess their payment risk on construction projects requiring Miller Act bonds. The Miller Act bond has long been an important component of federal construction projects. If a prime contractor fails to pay or becomes insolvent, the Miller Act payment bond is the only recourse for payment to many subcontractors and suppliers. Most subcontractors and suppliers have no contract with the contracting agency and are not allowed lien rights on federal projects, making the Miller Act bond critical to receiving payment.

The need for and importance of this information collection requirement goes far beyond the very minimal time and cost to comply. The imposition on contractor and contracting officer are negligible. The payment bond is short and easily copied and sent to possible subcontractors and suppliers who might request a copy.

NECA strongly urges the OMB to approve an extension of this information collection requirement.

Sincerely,



Robert L. White, Executive Director  
NECA Government Affairs

cc: General Services Administration  
FAR Secretariat (VIR)  
1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035  
Washington, DC 20405