

SAMPLE SUPPORTING STATEMENT

(A) Justification

(1) The Solar Energy and Energy Conservation Bank is authorized by the Solar Energy and Energy Conservation Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) The Bank is required by statute and regulations to obtain certain information from applicants as a condition of assistance; to report the extent of financial assistance provided to individuals to the Internal Revenue Service; and to report certain information to Congress and the President annually.

(2) The information is used (1) to determine the eligibility and amount of assistance an individual may receive by State agencies administering the program, (2) by the IRS to ensure that individuals assisted do not report the assistance received as an expenditure eligible for a tax credit, and (3) by Congress and the public on the results of the program for funds expended. Without this information, there would be considerable risk of fraud and mismanagement and the Congress and the Administration would not have any basis to assess the worthiness of the program for determining funding levels.

(3) Since the States are administering the program, they are in the best position to gather this information and compile semi-annual reports which serve as a basis for the report to Congress and to the President. A computerized network was considered but was not cost effective as States did not have compatible hardware. No technical or legal obstacles were identified.

(4) Efforts to identify duplication were limited to providing States a suggested format for reporting information required.

(5) The Bank program is unique in that assistance is based on individuals that apply. No other source for information on how the assistance provided was used is available.

(6) The collection of information does not involve small businesses or other small entities.

(7) Collection of information less frequently than as structured to report annually to Congress would impair the ability of Congress to assess the worthiness of the program by not having fairly current data.

(8) This collection is not inconsistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6.

(9) The information collection procedure was discussed along with the regulations at a meeting of the Bank's Board of Directors on November 22, 1982 and the amended rule was discussed at a Board meeting of December 12, 1984. The Board consists of the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, Energy, Commerce and Agriculture, or their delegates. The information collection procedure was also discussed in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published by the Bank at 47 Fed. Reg. 37960. Several States commented on the NOFA but there are no specific records related to

comments on the information collection procedure.

(a) Public contacts and opportunities for public comment occurred in the solicitation of comments on the final rule. No comments on the information collection requirements were received.

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(b) There was no major problem during consultation.

(c) There were no other public contacts or opportunities for public comment.

(10) Financial assistance is based in part on the income level of the applicant and applicants must provide this information to the State agency administering the program. There is no other information of a confidential nature.

(11) There is no information collected of a sensitive nature.

(12) Cost to the Federal Government has been estimated to be \$2,500. The cost consists of 100 hours of analysis and review of State semi-annual reports (100 reports and two hours per report) by program officials at GS-12 or higher (estimated at \$25/hour average). The cost to State respondents is estimated to be \$60,000 based on an average of 60 hours per respondent, \$20 per hour, and 50 respondents. There is no other expense that would not have been incurred without the paperwork burden.

(13) The number of respondents is assumed to be 50 but could be as high as 57 and much lower depending on the number of State agencies participating in the program. The State report requires semiannual submissions. It is estimated that 2 1/2 workdays would be required to prepare the State's report. The figure includes an allowance for consultation with other individuals and secretarial or clerical time and filing. The tax report request would require yearly submissions and it is estimated that 2 1/2 workdays would be required to tabulate and prepare the tax report. These figures could have a significant range depending on the level of activity for a particular State in a given year as related to funding which also varies considerably. Recordkeeping will not be voluminous and no special storage space or excessive cost of handling will be involved.

(14) There is no change to the disclosure burden. The recordkeeping burden has been reduced 1,000 hours due a presumed need for individuals assisted by the program to do recordkeeping that did not materialize. There is no recordkeeping burden associated with the information collection activities that is not a normal part of the administrative functions of State agencies in managing the program.

(15) This information is not collected for statistical use.

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