[FR Doc. 03–6861 Filed 3–20–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–33–C

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR 4819–N–01]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Study of the Primary Prevention Effectiveness of the Milwaukee Lead Hazard Control Ordinance

AGENCY: Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* May 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Gail N. Ward, Reports Liaison Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room P3206, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Peter Ashley, 202–755–1785 ext. 115 (this is not a toll-free number), for copies of the proposed forms and other available documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is submitting 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 and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of 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: Study of the Effectiveness of Program Implementation of the Milwaukee Lead Hazard Control Ordinance.

OMB Control Number: 2539–0017.

Need for the Information and Proposed Use: Despite dramatic reductions in blood-lead levels over the pass 15 years, lead poisoning continues to be significant health risk for young children. The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey suggests that the greatest risk exists for children under the age of two. The development of a viable national strategy for the primary prevention of lead poisoning in these young children is a difficult task. The City of Milwaukee has enacted an ordinance requiring owners of pre-1950 rental properties in two target neighborhoods to carry out specified essential maintenance practices and standard treatments by April 30, 2000. The purpose of this information collection activity is to evaluate the feasibility, costs, and effectiveness (in terms of reducing residential dust-lead levels and preventing elevated blood-lead levels in children under two years of age) of the comprehensive primary prevention program being conducted in the two target Milwaukee neighborhoods. The collection information will be used as vital input for developing a viable national strategy for the primary prevention of childhood lead poisoning.

This information collection will involve conducting brief on-site interviews of tenants, conducting visual inspections of rental units, collecting dust-wipe samples for lead analysis from selected floor and window sill locations, and obtaining bold-samples from study subjects. If appropriate, the results of this information collection will be used to improve existing HUD guidance for primary prevention lead-hazard control activities.

Agency Form Numbers: Not applicable.

Members of Affected Public: Selected residents of study neighborhoods within the City of Milwaukee.

Total Burden Estimate (First Year):

Task	Number of respondents	Frequency of responses	Total hours of responses
Respondents	320	4	640
Total Estimated Burden Hours			640

Status of the Proposed Information Collection: Extensions of a currently approved collection.

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

Dated: March 13, 2003.

David E. Jacobs,

Director, Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control.

[FR Doc. 03–6862 Filed 3–20–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–4513–N–11]

Credit Watch Termination Initiative

AGENCY: Office of Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises of the cause and effect of termination of Origination Approval Agreements taken by HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA) against HUD-approved mortgagees through its Credit Watch Termination Initiative. This notice includes a list of mortgagees which have had their Origination Approval Agreements (Agreements) terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Quality Assurance Division, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh St., SW., Room B133–P3214, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708–2830 (this is not a toll free number). Persons with hearing- or speech-impairments may access that number via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: HUD has the authority to address deficiencies in

the performance of lenders' loans as provided in the HUD mortgagee approval regulations at 24 CFR 202.3. On May 17, 1999 (64 FR 26769), HUD published a notice on its procedures for terminating origination approval agreements with FHA lenders and placement of FHA lenders on Credit Watch status (an evaluation period). In the May 17, 1999, notice, HUD advised that it would publish in the **Federal Register** a list of mortgagees which have had their Origination Approval Agreements terminated.

Termination of Origination Approval Agreement: Approval of a mortgagee by HUD/FHA to participate in FHA mortgage insurance programs includes an Agreement between HUD and the mortgagee. Under the Agreement, the mortgagee is authorized to originate single family mortgage loans and submit them to FHA for insurance endorsement. The Agreement may be terminated on the basis of poor performance of FHA-insured mortgage loans originated by the mortgagee. The termination of a mortgagee's Agreement is separate and apart from any action taken by HUD's Mortgagee Review Board under HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 25.

Cause: HUD's regulations permit HUD to terminate the Agreement with any mortgagee having a default and claim rate for loans endorsed within the preceding 24 months that exceeds 200 percent of the default and claim rate within the geographic area served by a HUD field office, and also exceeds the national default and claim rate. For the thirteenth review period, HUD is only terminating the Agreement of mortgagees whose default and claim rate exceeds both the national rate and 300 percent of the field office rate.

Effect: Termination of the Agreement precludes that branch(s) of the mortgagee from originating FHA-insured single family mortgages within the area of the HUD field office(s) listed in this notice. Mortgagees authorized to purchase, hold, or service FHA insured mortgages may continue to do so.

Loans that closed or were approved before the Termination became effective may be submitted for insurance endorsement. Approved loans are: (1) Those already underwritten and approved by a Direct Endorsement (DE) underwriter employed by an unconditionally approved DE lender; and (2) cases covered by a firm commitment issued by HUD. Cases at earlier stages of processing cannot be submitted for insurance by the terminated branch; however, they may be transferred for completion of processing and underwriting to another mortgagee or branch authorized to originate FHA insured mortgages in that area. Mortgagees are obligated to continue to pay existing insurance premiums and meet all other obligations associated with insured mortgages.

A terminated mortgagee may apply for a new Origination Approval Agreement if: (1) the mortgagee continues to be an approved mortgagee meeting the requirements of 24 CFR 202.5, 202.6, 202.7, 202.8 or 202.10 and 202.12; (2) there has been no Origination Approval Agreement for at least six months; and (3) the Secretary determines that the underlying causes for termination have been remedied. To enable the Secretary to ascertain whether the underlying causes for termination have been remedied, a mortgagee applying for a new Origination Approval Agreement must obtain an independent review of the terminated office's operations as well as its mortgage production, specifically including the FHA-insured mortgages cited in its termination notice. This independent analysis shall identify the underlying cause for the mortgagee's high default and claim rate. The review must be conducted and issued by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) qualified to perform audits under Government Auditing Standards as set forth by the General Accounting Office. The mortgagee must also submit a written corrective action plan to address each of the issues identified in the CPA's report, along with evidence that the plan has been implemented. The application for a new Agreement should be in the form of a letter, accompanied by the CPA's report and corrective action plan. The request should be sent to the Director, Office of Lender Activities and Program Compliance, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room B133–P3214, Washington, DC 20410 or by courier to 490 L'Enfant Plaza, East, SW., Suite 3214, Washington, DC 20024.

Action: The following mortgagees have had their Agreements terminated by HUD:

Mortgagee name	Mortgagee branch address	HUD office jurisdictions	Termination effective date	Home ownership centers
American Capital Mortgage Bankers LTD.	1981 Marcus Ave Ste C112, Lake Success, NY 11042.	New York, NY	01/09/2003	Philadelphia.
American International Mortgage Bankers Inc..	2001 Marcus Ave Ste S168, Lake Success, NY 11042.	New York, NY	01/09/2003	Philadelphia.
Automated Financial Services	5500 S Redwood Road Ste 201, Salt Lake City, UT 84123.	Salt Lake City, UT	01/09/2003	Denver.
Century Funding LTD	4128 Steve Reynolds Blvd, Norcross, GA 30093.	Atlanta, GA	01/09/2003	Atlanta.
Cornerstone Mortgage Group LTD	1055 East Tropicana Ste 425, Las Vegas, NV 89119.	Las Vegas, NV	01/10/2003	Santa Ana.
Discover Mortgage Inc	5736 Osuna NE 9, Albuquerque, NM 87109.	New Mexico, NM	01/09/2003	Denver.
Encore Mortgage Service	1010 Laurel Oak Corp Ctr 301, Voorhees, NJ 08043.	Camden, NJ	01/10/2003	Philadelphia.
Hennessy Mortgage Group Inc	904 N Crowley Road Ste D, Crowley, TX 76036.	Fort Worth, TX	01/09/2003	Denver.
Home Mortgage Inc	7200 W 13TH Ste 4, Wichita, KS 67212.	Topeka, KS	01/10/2003	Denver.
Southern Finance Mortgage Corp	10251 Sunset Drive Ste 103, Miami, FL 33173.	Florida State, FL	01/13/2003	Atlanta.
US Mortgage Finance Corp	602 Chadds Ford Ave, Chadds Ford, PA 19317.	Philadelphia, PA	11/17/2002	Philadelphia.
White Oak Mortgage Group LLC	7101 Creedmoor Rd, Ste 101, Raleigh, NC 27613.	Richmond, VA	11/17/2002	Philadelphia.

Dated: Dated: March 12, 2003.

John C. Weicher,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 03–6744 Filed 3–20–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-day Finding on a Petition To Delist *Tuctoria mucronata* (Solano grass)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 90-day petition finding.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a 90-day finding for a petition to remove *Tuctoria mucronata* (Solano grass), throughout its range, from the Federal list of threatened and endangered species, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). We reviewed the petition and supporting documentation, information in our files, and other available information, and find that there is not substantial information indicating that delisting of *T. mucronata* may be warranted. We will not be initiating a further status review in response to the petition to delist. We ask the public to submit to us any new information that becomes available concerning the status of this species. This information will help us monitor and encourage the conservation of this species.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on February 5, 2003. You may submit new information concerning this species for our consideration at any time.

ADDRESSES: Data, information, written comments and materials, or questions concerning this petition and finding should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W–2605, Sacramento, CA 95825. The petition finding and supporting data are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Fuller, Botanist, at the above address, or telephone 916/414–6645.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We listed *Tuctoria mucronata* as an endangered species in 1978 (43 FR 44810). At the time, *T. macronata* was known to exist only as a single population found at its type locality (the location where it was first discovered) at Olcott Lake, in Solano County, CA. We proposed critical habitat for *T. mucronata,* and 10 other vernal pool plant species, on September 24, 2002 (67 FR 59884). *Tuctoria mucronata* is an obligate vernal pool annual species.

The petition to delist *Tuctoria mucronata,* dated February 3, 1997, was submitted by Rob Gordon, representing the National Wilderness Institute. The petition requested we remove *T. mucronata* from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants based upon data error.

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that we make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. We base the finding on all information available to us at the time the finding is made. To the maximum extent practicable, we make this finding within 90 days of receipt of the petition, and promptly publish notice of the finding in the **Federal Register**. If we find that substantial information was presented, we are required to promptly commence a review of the status of the species, if one has not already been initiated (50 CFR 424.14).

The factors for listing, delisting, or reclassifying species are described at 50 CFR 424.11. We may delist a species only if the best scientific and commercial data available substantiate that it is neither endangered nor threatened. Delisting may be warranted as a result of: (1) Extinction; (2) recovery; or (3) a determination that the original data used for classification of the species as endangered or threatened were in error.

In response to the petitioner's request to delist *Tuctoria mucronata,* we sent a letter to the petitioner on June 29, 1998, explaining our inability to act upon the petition due to low priorities assigned to delisting petitions in accordance with our Listing Priority Guidance for Fiscal Year 1997, which was published in the **Federal Register** on December 5, 1996 (61 FR 64475). That guidance identified delisting activities as the lowest priority (Tier 4). Due to the large number of higher priority listing actions and a limited listing budget, we did not conduct any delisting activities during the Fiscal Year 1997. On May 8, 1998, we published the Listing Priority Guidance for Fiscal Years 1998–1999 in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 25502) and, again, placed delisting activities at the bottom of our priority list. Since 1998, higher priority work has not allowed us to examine or act upon the petition to delist *T. mucronata.*

Discussion

The petition cited our 1993 Fiscal Year Budget Justification as its supporting information that the species should be removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants based on data error. The 1993 Fiscal Year Budget Justification stated that we would evaluate those species identified as approaching the majority of their recovery objectives. *Tuctoria mucronata* was identified as one of 33 species approaching its recovery objectives, as found in our December 1990 Report to Congress: Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Program. The 1993 Fiscal Year Budget Justification identified the need to evaluate those species, including *T. mucronata,* and determine the appropriateness of delisting them based on status surveys.

Our Delta Green Ground Beetle and Solano Grass Recovery Plan (Service 1985) states that recovery will be achieved by protecting the known population of the species and by establishing three additional, secure populations within the two protected large vernal lakes and their watersheds in the vicinity of the Jepson Prairie Preserve. Recovery would be achieved when these populations are secure and sustainable for a period of 15 consecutive years. Given that *Tuctoria mucronata* was last seen in 1993 at its original location when four individual plants were present, we are concerned that the population is possibly extirpated from its type locality. A second population of *T. mucronata* was discovered on private lands in 1985, and another population of *T. mucronata* was discovered in 1993 on a former U.S. Air Force Base communication facility that is being transferred to the Yolo County Parks Department. Several thousand individual plants of *T. mucronata* were seen at this site in 2000. We do not have sufficient additional populations protected in enough preserves specifically established for protection and management of the species or protected under conservation easements and managed for the conservation of the species to meet our recovery objectives.

The petitioner also stated that ''other new scientific information gathered since the time of listing which is in possession of the Service,'' supports delisting due to data error. However, the petition did not identify this new scientific information. In addition, the