

February 9, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS

FROM: Donald Arbuckle /s/
Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

SUBJECT: Consolidated Appropriations Act Requirement on Paperwork Burden
Reduction

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, (P.L. 106-554) requires the following of OMB:

Sec. 518. Not later than July 1, 2001, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report . . . that (1) evaluates, for each agency, the extent to which implementation of chapter 35 of title [44], United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13), has reduced burden imposed by rules issued by the agency, including the burden imposed by each major rule issued by the agency; (2) includes a determination, based on such evaluation, of the need for additional procedures to ensure achievement of the purposes of that chapter, as set forth in section 3501 of title [44], United States Code, and evaluates the burden imposed by each major rule that imposes more than 10,000,000 hours of burden, and identifies specific reductions expected to be achieved in each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002 in the burden imposed by all rules issued by each agency that issued such a major rule." (H.R. 5658, The 2001 Treasury-Postal Appropriations Act.)

In order to complete this requirement, I ask that each of the 27 agencies that report to OMB for the Information Collection Budget (as listed in OMB Bulletin 00-05), prepare the following material and submit it to your OIRA Desk Officer no later than March 1, 2001.

- A statement of how implementation of the 1995 PRA "has reduced burden imposed by rules issued by [your] agency, including the burden imposed by each major rule issued by [your] agency." Since the language focuses on the 1995 PRA, you would only need to focus on rules issued since May 1995.
- Information on "the burden imposed by each major rule that imposes more than 10,000,000 hours of burden". Since the term "major" is only now used under the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 800), you would only need gather information on final rules, issued since March 29, 1996, that the Administrator of OIRA designated as "major" and that imposed a PRA burden of over 10,000,000 hours.

- If your agency had issued one or more "major" rule that imposed over 10,000,000 hours of burden, please describe "specific reductions expected to be achieved in each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002 in the burden imposed by all rules . . ." Since this information for FY 2001 is already required as part of the Information Collection Budget, you need only to provide additional information about expected burden reductions through rulemakings during FY 2002.

Thank you. If you have questions about this request, please contact your agency's OIRA desk officer.