

Arizona 85281, Officers: Michael S. Entzminger, President; Kathleen M. Entzminger, Secretary.

Dated: August 25, 1995.

By the Federal Maritime Commission.

**Joseph C. Polking,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-21736 Filed 8-31-95; 8:45 am]

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## OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

### Advance Notice of Proposed Modified Form for Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Reporting To Be Submitted to OMB for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

**AGENCY:** Office of Government Ethics (OGE).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Government Ethics plans to submit a new OGE Form 450 for confidential financial disclosure reporting under its existing executive branch regulations for approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act. This new, modified form will replace the existing Standard Form (SF) 450.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposal should be received by November 15, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to William E. Gressman, Office of Government Ethics, Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-3917.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Gressman at the Office of Government Ethics, telephone 202-523-5757 (ext. 1110), FAX 202-523-6325. A copy of OGE's draft form may be obtained, without charge, by contacting Mr. Gressman.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Government Ethics is planning to submit, after this notice and comment period (with any modifications that may appear warranted), a proposed new OGE Form 450 Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Report for three-year approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). Once finally approved by OMB and adopted by OGE, the new OGE form will replace the existing SF 450 Executive Branch Personnel Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. The SF 450 collects, as will the future OGE Form 450, information required under OGE's executive branchwide regulatory provisions. See subpart I of 5 CFR part

2634. The new OGE Form 450 will serve, as does the current SF 450, as the uniform report form for collection, on a confidential basis, of financial information required by the OGE regulation from certain new entrant and incumbent employees of the executive branch departments and agencies in order to allow ethics officials to conduct conflict of interest reviews and to resolve any actual or potential conflicts found.

The basis for the OGE regulation and the report form is two-fold. First, section 201(d) of Executive Order 12674 of April 12, 1989 (as modified by Executive Order 12731 of October 17, 1990) makes OGE responsible for the establishment of a system of nonpublic (confidential) financial disclosure by executive branch employees to complement the system of public disclosure under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (the "Ethics Act"), as amended, 5 U.S.C. appendix. Second, section 107(a) of the Ethics Act further provides authority for OGE as the supervising ethics office for the executive branch of the Federal Government to require that appropriate executive agency employees file confidential financial disclosure reports, "in such form as the supervising ethics office may prescribe." The current SF 450, together with the underlying OGE regulation, both adopted in 1992 after appropriate clearances from OMB as well as the General Services Administration (GSA) for the standard form, constitute the form OGE has prescribed for such confidential financial disclosure in the executive branch. The Office of Government Ethics recently sought a limited paperwork renewal from OMB as to the existing SF 450 in order to allow sufficient time for OGE to develop and clear the new OGE Form 450 which is the subject of this advance notice. See 60 FR 34258-34259 (June 30, 1995). The new OGE form will not require GSA clearance, since it is not a standard (or optional) form under the GSA program. The Office of Government Ethics will provide further information in the future to the agencies and the public about the details of phasing in the new form, once it is finally cleared and adopted, and phasing out the existing standard form.

Since the OGE's financial disclosure regulation at 5 CFR part 2634 and the reporting format were adopted in 1992, there have been certain revisions to each. The most significant of these is the determination of OGE to exclude from general executive branch confidential financial disclosure the reporting of cash accounts in depository institutions

(including banks), money market mutual funds and accounts and U.S. Government obligations and securities. See 58 FR 63023-63024 (November 30, 1993). The Office of Government Ethics has directed executive departments and agencies to notify all filers of this change, which is not reflected on the SF 450 itself. The new OGE replacement form will reflect that change, as well as various other changes and improvements in the reporting format, to make it clearer and more user-friendly. A more complete set of instructions for filling out the form is included in the draft OGE Form 450 and helpful examples are set forth on the reporting parts.

The Office of Government Ethics expects that the new form should be ready, after OMB clearance, for dissemination to executive branch departments and agencies early next year. The Office of Government Ethics will provide appropriate guidance and phase-in time to departments and agencies once the new form is available. The new form will be made available in paper, on electronic disk and on OGE's electronic bulletin board entitled "The Ethics Bulletin Board System" (TEBBS). In addition, OGE will work on making available a future electronic version of the form, to allow employees the option of preparing it on a computer. The Office of Government Ethics also intends to permit departments and agencies to develop or utilize, on their own, electronic versions of the form provided that they precisely duplicate the paper original to the extent possible.

Since 1992, various agencies have developed, with OGE review/approval alternative reporting formats, such as certificates of no conflict, for certain classes of employees. Other agencies provide for additional disclosures pursuant to independent organic statutes and in certain other circumstances when authorized by OGE. However, the future OGE Form 450, as successor to the current SF 450, will remain the uniform executive branch report form for most of those executive branch employees who are required by their agencies to report confidentially on their financial interests. The confidential report form is to be filed by each reporting individual with the designated agency ethics official at the executive department or agency where he or she is or will be employed.

Reporting individuals are regular employees whose positions have been designated by their agency as requiring confidential financial disclosure in order to help avoid conflicts with their assigned responsibilities; additionally, all special Government employees

(SGEs) are generally required to file. Agencies may, if appropriate under the OGE regulation, exclude certain regular employees or SGEs as provided in 5 CFR 2634.905. Reports are normally required to be filed within 30 days of entering a covered position (or earlier if required by the agency concerned), and again annually if the employee serves for more than 60 days in the position. As indicated in § 2634.907 of the OGE regulation, the information required to be collected includes assets and sources of income, gifts and travel reimbursements, liabilities, employment agreements and arrangements, and outside positions, subject to certain thresholds and exclusions.

Most of the persons who file this report form are current executive branch Government employees at the time they complete the forms. However, some filers are private citizens who are asked by their prospective agency to file a new entrant report prior to entering Government service in order to permit advance checking for any potential conflicts of interest and resolution thereof by agreement to recuse, divest, obtaining of a waiver, etc. Based on OGE's annual agency ethics questionnaire responses, approximately 285,000 SF 450 report forms were filed during 1994 throughout the executive branch. Of these, OGE estimates that no more than between 5% and 10%, or some 14,500 to 28,500 per year at most, are filed by private citizens, those potential regular employees whose positions are designated for confidential disclosure filing as well as potential special Government employees whose agencies require that they file their new entrant reports prior to assuming Government responsibilities.

Each filing is estimated to take an average of one and one-half hours. The number of private citizens whose reports are filed each year with OGE is less than 10, but pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.7(s)(1), the lower limit for this general regulatory-based requirement is set at 10 private persons (OGE-processed reports). This yields an annual reporting burden of 15 hours, the same as in the current OMB inventory for this information collection. The remainder of the private citizen reports are filed with other departments and agencies throughout the executive branch.

Public comment is invited on each aspect of the proposed new OGE Form 450 as set forth in this notice, including specifically views on the need for and practical utility of this proposed modified collection of information, the accuracy of OGE's burden estimate, the enhancement of quality, utility and

clarity of the information collected, and the minimization of burden (including the use of information technology).

Comments received submitted in response to this notice will be summarized for, and may be included with, the OGE request for OMB paperwork approval for this modified information collection. The comments will also become a matter of public record.

Approved: August 28, 1995.

**Stephen D. Potts,**

*Director, Office of Government Ethics.*

[FR Doc. 95-21753 Filed 8-31-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6345-01-U

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of a Meeting of the Commission on Research Integrity

Pursuant to P.L. 92-463, notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the Commission on Research Integrity.

The meeting will be held at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel on Monday and Tuesday, September 18-19, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Commission will be working on its remaining recommendations and final report to congressional oversight committees and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the administration of Section 493 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by and added to by Section 161 of the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993. Recommendations include possible administrative actions to improve the HHS scientific misconduct apparatus. Interested parties are advised to call the Executive Secretary, Ms. Henrietta Hyatt-Knorr, shortly before the meeting to verify the date, place, and agenda. Persons wishing to make a presentation should contact her in writing at Rockwall II, Suite 700, 5515 Security Lane, Rockville MD 20852 or by phone at (301) 443-5300, by fax at (301) 443-5351, or via internet at hhyatt@oasch.ssw.dhhs.gov. Ms. Hyatt-Knorr will furnish a meeting agenda upon request. Depending on the number of speakers and other constraints, the Executive Secretary will allocate a timeframe for anyone wishing to make an oral presentation.

**Henrietta D. Hyatt-Knorr,**

*Executive Secretary, Commission on Research Integrity.*

[FR Doc. 95-21726 Filed 8-31-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-17-P

## Administration for Children and Families

### President's Committee on Mental Retardation; Meeting

Agency Holding the Meeting: President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

Time and Date: Full Committee Meeting, September 7, 1995, 2 p.m.-6 p.m., September 8, 1995, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Place: Madison Hotel, 1177 15th Street NW., Washington, DC 20005.

Status: Meetings are open to the public. An interpreter for the deaf will be available upon advance request. All locations are barrier free.

To Be Considered: The Committee plans to discuss critical issues concerning Federal Policy, Federal Research and Demonstration, State Policy Collaboration, Minority and Cultural Diversity and Mission and Public Awareness.

The PCMR acts in an advisory capacity to the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on a broad range of topics relating to programs and services for persons with mental retardation. The Committee, by Executive Order, is responsible for evaluating the adequacy of current practices in programs for persons with mental retardation, and for reviewing legislative proposals that impact the quality of life that is experienced by citizens with mental retardation and their families.

Contact Person for More Information: Gary H. Blumenthal, Wilbur J. Cohen Building, Room 5325, 330 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201-0001, (202) 619-0634.

Dated: August 29, 1995.

**Gary H. Blumenthal,**

*Executive Director, PCMR.*

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## Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

### Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2) announcement is made of the following advisory committees scheduled to meet during the months of October and November 1995:

*Name:* Health Services Developmental Grants Review Subcommittee.

*Date and Time:* October 18-19, 1995 8:00 a.m.