

Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on June 28, 1996 (61 FR 33774).

The last notification was filed with the Department on December 30, 2002. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on January 23, 2003 (68 FR 3273).

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations Antitrust Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—Petrotechnical Open Standards Consortium, Inc. (“POSC”)

Notice is hereby given that, on April 13, 2004, pursuant to section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* (“the Act”), Petrotechnical Open Standards Consortium, Inc. (“POSC”) has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act’s provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, The Woodlands, TX; U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC; OpenSpirit Corporation, Sugar Land, TX; MetaCarta, Inc., Cambridge, MA; and Fugro-Jason, Rotterdam, Netherlands have been added as parties to this venture.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and Petrotechnical Open Standards Consortium, Inc. (“POSC”) intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On January 14, 1991, Petrotechnical Open Standards Consortium, Inc. (“POSC”) filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on February 7, 1991 (56 FR 5021).

The last notification was filed with the Department on July 17, 2003. A notice was published in the **Federal**

Register pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on August 15, 2003 (68 FR 48942).

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations Antitrust Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits and Security Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request; Comment Request; 29 CFR 2550.408b-1

AGENCY: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employee Benefits Security Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection provisions of the regulation relating to loans to plan participants and beneficiaries that are parties in interest with respect to the plan (29 CFR 2550.408b-1).

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the **ADDRESSES** section on or before July 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-8410, FAX (202) 219-5333. (These are not toll-free numbers.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) prohibits

a fiduciary with respect to a plan from causing the plan to engage in the direct or indirect lending of money or other extension of credit between the plan and a party in interest. ERISA section 408(b)(1) exempts loans made by a plan to parties in interest who are participants and beneficiaries of the plan from this prohibition provided that certain requirements are satisfied. In final regulations published in the **Federal Register** on July 20, 1989 (54 FR 30520), the Department of Labor provided additional guidance on section 408(b)(1)(C), which requires that loans must be made in accordance with specific provisions set forth in the plan. This ICR relates to the specific provisions that must be included in plan documents for those plans that permit loans to participants.

II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments that:

- 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;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarify the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions

This notice requests comments on the extension of the ICR included in 29 CFR 2550.408b-1. The ICR ensures that participants and beneficiaries are provided with adequate information with respect to matters affecting their benefits. The Department is not proposing or implementing changes to the existing ICR at this time.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

Title: Regulation Relating to Loans to Plan Participants and Beneficiaries who are Parties in Interest with Respect to the Plan.

OMB Number: 1210-0076.