

previously performed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, exercises broad authority over transportation by rail carriers, including regulation of railroad rates and service (49 U.S.C. 10701–10747, 11101–11124), as well as the construction, acquisition, operation, and abandonment of rail lines (49 U.S.C. 10901–10907) and railroad line sales, consolidations, mergers, and common control arrangements (49 U.S.C. 10902, 11323–11327).

The Board views the reliability of the nation's energy supply as crucial to this nation's economic and national security, and the transportation by rail of coal and other energy resources as a vital link in the energy supply chain. The Board will hold a public hearing, as a forum for interested persons to provide views and information about issues relating to the efficiency and reliability of rail transportation of resources critical to the nation's energy supply.

Date of Hearing. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 in the Ground Floor Conference Room of the Richard Bolling Federal Building, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106, and will continue, with breaks as necessary, until every person scheduled to speak has been heard. The Richard Bolling Federal Building is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. All employees and visitors must present a valid form of photo identification and pass screening before being granted access into the building. Visitors will have access to public areas only.

Notice of Intent To Participate. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, and should identify the party, the proposed speaker, the time requested, and topic(s) to be covered, as soon as possible, but no later than June 19, 2007.

Testimony. Each speaker should file with the Board his/her written testimony by July 5, 2007. Also, any interested person who wishes to submit a written statement without appearing at the July 18 hearing should file that statement by July 5, 2007. If a party intends to use audio-visual materials at the hearing, those materials should be submitted to the Board in electronic form by July 13, 2007.

Board Releases and Live Audio Available Via the Internet. Decisions and notices of the Board, including this notice, are available on the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Information concerning the availability of live audio streaming of this hearing will be included in the decision scheduling speaker times.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Dated: June 6, 2007.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7–11236 Filed 6–8–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice of Intent To Grant an Exclusive License

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development, intends to grant to Bioceuticals, Inc., 26439 Birchfield Avenue, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 USA an exclusive license to practice the following patent application: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/750,005 filed December 30, 2003 entitled "Methods for Reducing Oxidative Stress in a Cell with a Sulfhydryl Protected Glutathione Prodrug."

DATES: Comments must be received within fifteen (15) days from the date of this published Notice.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: Amy E. Centanni, Director of Technology Transfer, Department of Veterans Affairs; Office of Research and Development, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, Attn: 12TT, Telephone: (202) 254–0199; Facsimile: (202) 254–0460; e-mail: Amy.centanni@va.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the published patent applications may be obtained from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is in the public interest to so license these inventions as Bioceuticals, Inc. submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this published Notice, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license

would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Dated: June 5, 2007.

Gordon H. Mansfield,

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E7–11223 Filed 6–8–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice of Intent To Grant an Exclusive License

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development, intends to grant to Perlegen Sciences, Inc., 2021 Stierlin Court, Mountain View, CA 94043 USA an exclusive license to practice the following patent application: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 11/344,975 filed January 31, 2006 entitled "Genetic Basis of Alzheimer's Disease and Diagnosis and Treatment Thereof."

DATES: Comments must be received within fifteen (15) days from the date of this published Notice.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: Amy E. Centanni, Director of Technology Transfer, Department of Veterans Affairs; Office of Research and Development, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, Attn: 12TT, Telephone: (202) 254–0199; Facsimile: (202) 254–0460; e-mail: Amy.centanni@va.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the published patent applications may be obtained from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is in the public interest to so license these inventions as Perlegen Sciences, Inc. submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this published Notice, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Dated: June 5, 2007.

Gordon H. Mansfield,

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E7-11224 Filed 6-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Pension Cost-of-Living Adjustments and Headstone or Marker Allowance Rate

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in certain benefit rates and income limitations. These COLAs affect the pension and parents' dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) programs, as well as the benefits VA pays to or for certain veterans' children with spina bifida or birth defects. These adjustments are based on the rise in the Consumer Price Index during the one-year period ending September 30, 2006. VA is also giving notice of the maximum amount of reimbursement that may be paid for headstones or markers purchased in lieu of Government-furnished headstones or markers in fiscal year 2007, which began on October 1, 2006.

DATES: These COLAs are effective December 1, 2006. The headstone or marker allowance rate is effective October 1, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lyric Collier, Program Analyst, Compensation and Pension Service (212A), Veterans Benefit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7212.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under a prior version of 38 U.S.C. 2306(d), VA may provide reimbursement for the cost of non-Government headstones or markers at a rate equal to the actual cost or the average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which the non-Government headstone or marker was purchased, whichever is less. This provision only applies to deaths that occurred before November 1, 1990.

Section 8041 of Public Law 101-508 amended 38 U.S.C. 2306(d) to eliminate the payment of a monetary allowance in lieu of VA-provided headstone or marker for deaths occurring on or after November 1, 1990. However, in a precedent opinion (O.G.C. Prec. 17-90), VA's General Counsel held that there is

no limitation period applicable to claims for benefits under the prior provisions of 38 U.S.C. 2306(d). Thus, reimbursement may still be provided under the prior version of section 2306(d) for deaths occurring before November 1, 1990.

The average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers during any fiscal year is determined by dividing the sum of VA costs during that fiscal year for procurement, transportation, miscellaneous administration, inspection and support staff by the total number of headstones and markers procured by VA during that fiscal year and rounding to the nearest whole dollar amount.

The average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers for fiscal year 2006 according to the above computation method was \$132. Therefore, effective October 1, 2006, the maximum rate of reimbursement for non-Government headstones or markers purchased during fiscal year 2007 is \$132.

Cost of Living Adjustments

Under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 5312 and section 306 of Public Law 95-588, VA is required to increase the benefit rates and income limitations in the pension and parents' DIC programs by the same percentage, and effective the same date, as increases in the benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act. The increased rates and income limitations must also be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Social Security Administration announced a 3.3 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits effective December 1, 2006. Therefore, applying the same percentage and rounding up in accordance with 38 CFR 3.29, the following increased rates and income limitations for the VA pension and parents' DIC programs were effective December 1, 2006:

TABLE 1.—IMPROVED PENSION
[Maximum Annual Rates]

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Veterans permanently and totally disabled (38 U.S.C. 1521): | Veteran with no dependents, \$10,929.
Veteran with one dependent, \$14,313.
For each additional dependent, \$1,866. |
| (2) Veterans in need of aid and attendance (38 U.S.C. 1521): | Veteran with no dependents, \$18,234.
Veteran with one dependent, \$21,615.
For each additional dependent, \$1,866. |
| (3) Veterans who are housebound (38 U.S.C. 1521): | Veteran with no dependents, \$13,356.
Veteran with one dependent, \$16,740.
For each additional dependent, \$1,866. |

TABLE 1.—IMPROVED PENSION—
Continued
[Maximum Annual Rates]

- | | |
|--|---|
| (4) Two veterans married to one another, combined rates (38 U.S.C. 1521): | Neither veteran in need of aid and attendance or housebound, \$14,313.
Either veteran in need of aid and attendance, \$21,615.
Both veterans in need of aid and attendance, \$28,161.
Either veteran housebound, \$16,740.
Both veterans housebound, \$19,168.
One veteran housebound and one veteran in need of aid and attendance, \$24,038.
For each dependent child, \$1,866. |
| (5) Surviving spouse alone and with a child or children of the deceased veteran in custody of the surviving spouse (38 U.S.C. 1541): | Surviving spouse alone, \$7,329.
Surviving spouse and one child in his or her custody, \$9,594.
For each additional child in his or her custody, \$1,866. |
| (6) Surviving spouses in need of aid and attendance (38 U.S.C. 1541): | Surviving spouse alone, \$11,715.
Surviving spouse with one child in custody, \$13,976.
Surviving Spouse of Spanish-American War veteran alone, \$12,471.
Surviving Spouse of Spanish-American War veteran with one child in custody, \$14,732.
For each additional child in his or her custody, \$1,866. |
| (7) Surviving spouses who are housebound (38 U.S.C. 1541): | Surviving spouse alone, \$8,957.
Surviving spouse and one child in his or her custody, \$11,219.
For each additional child in his or her custody, \$1,866. |
| (8) Surviving child alone (38 U.S.C. 1542), | \$1,866. |

Reduction for income. The rate payable is the applicable maximum rate minus the countable annual income of the eligible person. (38 U.S.C. 1521, 1541 and 1542).

Mexican border period and World War I veterans. The applicable maximum annual rate payable to a Mexican border period or World War I veteran under this table shall be increased by \$2,480. (38 U.S.C. 1521(g))

Parents' Dic. DIC shall be paid monthly to parents of a deceased veteran in the following amounts (38 U.S.C. 1315):

One parent. If there is only one parent, the monthly rate of DIC paid to such parent shall be \$524 reduced on the basis of the parent's annual income according to the following formula: