

PLACE: Room 101, 500 E Street S.W., Washington, DC 20436.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Agenda for future meeting: none.
2. Minutes.
3. Ratification List.
4. Inv. No. 731-TA-698 (Final) (Remand) (Magnesium from Ukraine)—briefing and vote.
5. Outstanding action jackets: none. In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

By order of the Commission:

Issued: June 11, 1998.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16201 Filed 6-15-98; 10:27 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and other federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and 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 Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the collection of information included in the alternative method of compliance for certain simplified employee pensions regulation issued pursuant to the authority of section 110 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) which authorizes the Secretary to prescribe an alternative method of compliance with the reporting and disclosure requirements

of Title I of ERISA for certain simplified pension plans as described in section 408(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), as amended (29 CFR 2520.104-49). A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before August 17, 1998. The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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 clarity of the information to be collected;
- 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 submission of responses.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments regarding the collection of information of any or all of the Agencies. Send comments to Mr. Gerald B. Lindrew, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-5647, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-4782 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 110 of ERISA authorizes the Secretary to prescribe alternative methods of compliance with the reporting and disclosure requirements of Title I of ERISA for pension plans. Simplified employee pensions (SEPs) are established in section 408(k) of the Code. Although SEPs are primarily a development of the Code subject to its requirements, SEPs are also pension plans subject to the reporting and disclosure requirements of Title I of ERISA.

The Department previously issued a regulation under the authority of section

110 of ERISA (29 CFR 2520.104-49) that intended to relieve sponsors of certain SEPs from ERISA's Title I reporting and disclosure requirements by prescribing an alternative method of compliance. These SEPs are, for purposes of this Notice, referred to as "non-model" SEPs because they exclude those SEPs which are created through use of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 5305-SEP, and those SEPs in which the employer influences the employees as to the choice of IRAs to which employer contributions will be made and prohibits withdrawals by participants. The disclosure requirements in this regulation were developed in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS Notice 81-1). Accordingly, sponsors of "non-model" SEPs who satisfy the limited disclosure requirements of the regulation are relieved from otherwise applicable reporting and disclosure requirements under Title I of ERISA, including the requirements to file annual reports (Form 5500 Series) with the Department, and to furnish summary plan descriptions (SPDs) and summary annual reports (SARs) to participants and beneficiaries.

This ICR includes specific aspects of the limited disclosure requirements for eligible "non-model" SEPs. The ICR generally requires timely written disclosure to employees eligible to participate in "non-model" SEPs, including specific information concerning: Participation requirements; allocation formulas for employer contributions; designated contact persons for further information; and for employer recommended IRAs, specific terms of the IRAs such as rates of return and any restrictions on withdrawals. Moreover, general information is required that provides a clear explanation of: the operation of the "non-model" SEP; participation requirements and any withdrawal restrictions; and the tax treatment of the SEP-related IRA. Furthermore, statements must be provided that inform participants of: any other IRAs under "non-model" SEP other than that to which employer contributions are made; any options regarding rollovers and contributions to other IRAs; descriptions of IRS disclosure requirements to participants and information regarding social security integration (if applicable); and timely notification of any amendments to the terms of the "non-model" SEP.

II. Current Actions

The Office of the Management and Budget's approval of this ICR will expire on September 30, 1998. The existing

collection of information should be continued because the alternative disclosure arrangement provided through this regulation relieves sponsors of "non-model" SEPs of most of the reporting and disclosure requirements under Title I of ERISA. Also, the disclosure requirements set forth in this regulation, insure that administrators of "non-model" SEPs provide participants with specific written information concerning SEPs.

Agency: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: Alternative Method of Compliance for Certain SEPs pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-49.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Numbers: 1210-0034.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Total Respondents: 1,393.

Total Responses: 1,393.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Total Annual Burden: 116 hours.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 10, 1998.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Office of Policy and Research.

[FR Doc. 98-16088 Filed 6-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Summary Annual Report Requirement Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA)

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 Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of a currently approved collection of information, the Summary Annual Report Requirement under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the contact section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 17, 1998.

The Department of Labor (Department) is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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 clarity of 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.

ADDRESSES: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, (202) 219-4782 (not a toll-free number), FAX (202) 219-4745.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 104(b)(3) of ERISA and regulations published in 29 CFR 2520.104b-10 require, with certain exceptions, that administrators of employee benefit plans furnish participants and beneficiaries annually with material which fairly summarizes the information included in the plan's latest annual report. The regulation prescribes the format for the summary annual report (SAR), and requires that the SAR be provided within nine months after the close of the plan year.

The SAR is required to be provided to plan participants and beneficiaries to ensure that they are informed concerning the financial operation and condition of their plans. These disclosures to plan participants assist the Department in its enforcement responsibilities by providing participants with sufficient information to exercise their rights under ERISA.

II. Current Actions

The Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, intends to request that the Office of Management and Budget extend the approval of the ICR included in the SAR regulation published at 29 CFR 2520.104b-10 beyond its September 30, 1998 expiration date. The basic requirement for summarizing the annual report for participants is established by ERISA section 104(b)(3), while the regulation offers specific guidance on the statutory requirement so that participants may be adequately and timely informed concerning the financial operation and condition of their benefit plans.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: ERISA Summary Annual Report Requirement.

OMB Number: 1210-0040.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Individuals.

Total Respondents: 794,205.

Frequency: Annually.

Total Responses: 222,320,138.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 5,878,021.

Total Annual Cost (operating and maintenance): \$83.7 million.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 11, 1998.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Office of Policy and Research.

[FR Doc. 98-16089 Filed 6-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts, Combined Arts Panel

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, as amended, notice is