

collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the collection of the ETA-227 Report, Overpayment Detection and Recovery Activities. 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 July 21, 1997.

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; 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:** Robert Whiting, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, 202-219-5211 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

Form ETA-227, Overpayment and Recovery Activities, provides information on determinations, overpayments, and recoveries of overpayments on intrastate and liable interstate claims under State and Federal unemployment compensation programs; i.e., programs providing unemployment compensation for Federal employees (UCFE) and ex-servicepersons (UCX), established under Chapter 85, Title 5, U.S. Code. This report includes claims for regular,

additional and Federal-State extended benefits.

The State agency's accomplishments in principal detection areas of benefit payment control are shown in the ETA-227 report. ETA and State agencies need such information to monitor the effectiveness of the controls of benefit payment operations.

Data are also provided for criminal and civil actions involving benefit overpayments obtained fraudulently, and an aging schedule of outstanding benefit overpayment accounts is included.

**II. Current Actions**

By collecting data on overpayment detection and recovery, State agencies can monitor the effectiveness of their benefit payment process and the controls built into their systems. Section A of the report shows the establishment of fraud and nonfraud overpayments, with fraud being broken out into categories that identify cause. Section B shows overpayment recoveries and other actions taken to reconcile amounts outstanding. Section C shows the results of the primary detection activities. Section D shows the criminal and civil actions taken against claimants. Section E shows the aging of accounts, i.e., how long overpayments have remained uncollected. Together these data provide a comprehensive tool useful for management of benefit operations at the State level.

For ETA, the data provide a valuable tool to fulfill the Secretary's responsibility to oversee operations in State agencies individually and collectively. Periodic reporting provides data useful for trend analyses.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Title:* Overpayment Detection and Recovery Activities.

*OMB Number:* 1205-0173.

*Agency Number:* ETA-227.

*Recordkeeping:* State agencies are required to maintain all documentation supporting the information reported on the ETA-227 for three years following the end of each report period.

*Affected Public:* State Government.

*Cite/Reference/Form/etc.:* Form.

*Total Respondents:* 53 State agencies.

*Frequency:* Quarterly.

*Total Responses:* 212.

*Average Time per Response:* 10 hours.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 2120.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* Estimated at \$42,400 which is an allowable cost under the

administrative grants awarded to States by the Federal government.

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: May 15, 1997.

**Grace A. Kilbane,**

*Director, Unemployment Insurance Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Employment and Training Administration**

[NAFTA-001633]

**Carrier Corporation, Global Absorption Center, Syracuse, New York; Notice of Termination of Investigation**

Pursuant to Title V of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103-182) concerning transitional adjustment assistance, hereinafter called (NAFTA-TAA), and in accordance with Section 250(a), Subchapter D, Chapter 2, Title II, of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 USC 2273), an investigation was initiated on April 23, 1997 in response to a petition filed on behalf of workers and former workers at the Global Absorption Center of Carrier Corporation, located in Syracuse, New York.

The Department of Labor has verified that the three petitioners were not employed by the above subject firm. Consequently, this is not a valid petition and the Department of Labor cannot make a determination as to whether the workers are eligible for adjustment assistance benefits under the Trade Act of 1974.

Therefore, further investigation in this case would serve no purpose, and the investigation has been terminated.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 6th day of May 1997.

**Russell T. Kile,**

*Program Manager, Policy and Reemployment Services, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

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