

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 10th day of March, 1998.

Ivan Strasfeld,

*Director of Exemption Determinations,
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration,
U.S. Department of Labor.*

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts

Proposed Collection: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Endowment for the Arts, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide 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 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(A)). This program helps 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 National Endowment for the Arts, on behalf of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, is soliciting comments concerning renewal of the Application for Indemnification. A copy of this collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the address section below on or before May 16, 1998. The National Endowment for the Arts 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting the electronic submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Alice Whelihan, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 726, Washington, DC 20506-0001, telephone (202) 682-5574 (this is not a toll-free number), fax (202) 682-5603.

Murray Welsh,

Director, Administrative Services.

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PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Panama Canal Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 109 Stat. 163), the Panama Canal Commission hereby gives notice it has forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget for review and clearance a Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (OMB 83-I) for an extension of a currently approved collection of information entitled Personnel Administration Forms, OMB No. 3207-0005. In accordance with sec. 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Commission published a notice in the **Federal Register** [62 FR 66400, December 18, 1997] requesting comment on this proposed collection. The comment period ended February 17, 1998. The Commission received no comments in response to that notice.

DATES: Written comments on this proposed action regarding the collection of information must be submitted by April 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Edward H. Clarke, Desk Officer for Panama Canal Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Room 10202, New Executive Building, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Huff, Office of the Secretary, Panama Canal Commission, 202-634-6441.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44

U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. Collection of information is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c). Section 3507(a)(1)(D) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires Federal agencies to provide a notice in the **Federal Register** stating the agency has made such submission and setting forth the following information:

Title: Personnel Administration Forms.

Abstract: The information requested is authorized by 35 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 251 and 253 and sections 3652, 3654, 3661-3664 of Title 22, United States Code. The information is needed to determine the qualifications, suitability and availability of applicants for Federal employment in the Panama Canal area so U.S. Federal agencies can be supplied with eligibles to fill vacant positions.

On December 30, 1981, PCC requested OMB approval for a collection of information entitled "Personnel Administration Forms." OMB approved this collection for use through January 31, 1985 and assigned it OMB Number 3207-0005. On December 17, 1984, PCC requested another extension and received approval and use through March 31, 1988. Prior to the expiration of the collection of information in subsequent years, PCC continued requesting review and clearance for a revision of the collection and received approval through July 31, 1991, September 30, 1994, and February 28, 1998.

Needs and Uses: The information is used by Recruitment and Examining Division employees performing examining and suitability duties; by subject-matter experts on rating panels, and by agency officials making selections to fill vacancies.

Description of Respondents: Applicants for employment.

Estimated Burden: The estimated burden of providing the information varies, depending upon the applicant's individual circumstances. The burden time for a full application is estimated to vary from 40 to 300 minutes with an average of 120 minutes per response, including supplemental qualifications forms when required, and 10 to 60 minutes with an average of 30 minutes to update applications already on file.

Total Annual Reporting Hour Burden: 9082.

Frequency of Response: When persons apply or update applications.