

b. Could the exercise of such discretion create "false liquidity" or "false price stability" for a particular security and, if so, would that create future problems for the portfolio when large amounts of such security must be sold in the open market?

22. Could exemptions for cross-trading programs involving employee benefit plans provide a commercial advantage to investment managers with larger amounts of assets under management and, if so, to what extent?

23. Could an efficient cross-trading program provide an investment manager with commercial advantages over competitors who do not choose to have, or are unable to implement, such programs and, if so, to what extent?

24. Where an investment manager has discretion on both sides of a transaction, can cross-trading of securities be utilized to:

a. "Dump" particular securities on less favored accounts to promote the interests of more favored accounts,

b. "Cherry-pick" particular securities from less favored accounts to promote the interests of more favored accounts,

c. Promote "front-running",

d. Allocate favorable cross-trade opportunities to certain client accounts

to benefit the manager's ultimate compensation, and

e. Otherwise provide a benefit to the investment manager, another client of the investment manager or any other person or entity at an employee benefit plan's expense?

25. What new terms or conditions could the Department impose in an exemption to protect any plans involved in cross-trading from potential abuses, such as those listed in question 24?

All submitted responses will be made a part of the record of the proceeding referred to herein and will be available for public disclosure.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 16th day of March, 1998.

Alan D. Lebowitz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Program Operations, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 98-7271 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection

AGENCY: Merit Systems Protection Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is requesting a second one-year extension of approval of its optional appeal form, Optional Form 283 (Rev. 10/94) from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The appeal form is currently displayed in 5 CFR Part 1201, Appendix 1, and on the MSPB Web Site at <http://www.mspb.gov/merit009.html>. In this regard, we are soliciting comments on the public reporting burden. The reporting burden for the collection of information on this form is estimated to vary from 20 minutes to one hour per response, with an average of 30 minutes, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN

5 CFR section	Annual number of respondents	Frequency per response	Total annual responses	Hours per response (average)	Total hours
1201 and 1209	9,000	1	9,000	.5	4,500

In addition, the MSPB invited comments on (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of MSPB's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of MSPB's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate and other forms of information technology.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the appeal form may be downloaded from the MSPB Web Site at <http://www.mspb.gov/merit009.html>, or by writing the Office of the Clerk, Merit Systems Protection Board, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW.,

Washington, DC 20419, or by calling the Clerk's office at (202) 653-7200.

Comments concerning the paperwork burden should be addressed to the Office of the Clerk, attention Mr. Arlin Winefordner, at the above address. The fax number is (202) 652-7130, and the E-mail is Winefordner@MSPB.gov.

Dated: March 17, 1998.

Robert E. Taylor,

Clerk of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-7340 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7406-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee for Biological Sciences (BIO); Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: Advisory Committee for Biological Sciences (BIO) (1110).

Date and Time: April 6, 1998; 8:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m., April 7, 1998; 8:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, Room 1235.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Dr. Mary E. Clutter, Assistant Director, Biological Sciences, Room 605, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, Tel. No.: (703) 306-1400.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: The Advisory Committee for BIO provides advice, recommendations, and oversight concerning major program emphases, directions, and goals for the research-related activities of the divisions that make up BIO.

Agenda: FY 1999 Budget and Science Opportunities Discussion.

Dated: March 16, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer

[FR Doc. 98-7237 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M