

Worker Adjustment Assistance on March 22, 1999, applicable to all workers of Baroid Drilling Fluids headquartered in Houston, Texas. The notice was published in the **Federal Register** on May 11, 1999 (64 FR 25372).

At the request of the State agency, the Department reviewed the certification for workers of the subject firm. The workers are engaged in various activities related to the drilling for crude oil and natural gas. New findings show that Dresser Industries, Inc. is the parent firm of Sperry-Sun Drilling Services, headquartered in Houston, Texas, Baroid Drilling Fluids, headquartered in Houston, Texas and Security DBS, headquartered in Dallas, Texas and operating at various locations in the above cited states. New information provided by the State shows that some workers separated from employment at Sperry-Sun Drilling Services, Baroid Drilling Fluids and Security DBS had their wages reported under a separate unemployment insurance (UI) tax account for Dresser Industries, Inc., Dallas Texas.

Accordingly, the Department is amending the certification to properly reflect this matter.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, I make the following certification:

All workers of Sperry-Sun Drilling Services, a Div. of Dresser Industries, Inc., Houston, Texas (TA-W-35,711) and operating out of other locations in the following states Alaska (TA-W-35,711A), California (TA-W-35,711B), Louisiana (TA-W-35,711C), Michigan (TA-W-35,711D), Oklahoma (TA-W-35,711E), Texas (TA-W-35,711F) and Wyoming (TA-W-35,711G); Baroid Drilling Fluids, a Div. of Dresser Industries, Inc., Houston, Texas (TA-W-35,711AA) and operating out of other locations in the following states Alaska (TA-W-35,711AB), Arkansas (TA-W-35,711AC), Arizona (TA-W-35,711AD), California (TA-W-35,711AE), Colorado (TA-W-35,711AF), Georgia (TA-W-35,711AG), Iowa (TA-W-35,711AH), Kansas (TA-W-35,711AI), Louisiana (TA-W-35,711AJ), Missouri (TA-W-35,711AK), New Mexico (TA-W-35,711AL), Nevada (TA-W-35,711AM), Ohio (TA-W-35,711AN), Oklahoma (TA-W-35,711AO), Pennsylvania (TA-W-35,711AP), Texas (TA-W-35,711AQ), and Arkansas (TA-W-35,711AR) and Security DBS, a Div. of Dresser Industries, Inc., Dallas, Texas (TA-W-35,711BA) and operating out of other locations in the following states: Colorado (TA-W-35,711BB), Louisiana (TA-W-35,711BC), Oklahoma (TA-W-35,711BD) and Texas (TA-W-35,711BE) who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after February 17, 1998, through March 22, 2001 are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 10th day of June, 1999.

**Grant D. Beale,**

*Acting Director, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Computer Scannable Versions of 1999 Form 5500 Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan; Request for Public Comment

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to solicit public comments on computer scannable versions of the 1999 Form 5500 Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan developed by two competing firms for use with a new computerized form processing system (the ERISA Filing Acceptance System, or "EFAST"), beginning with filings for 1999 plan years.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the address specified below on or before July 28, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments (preferably three copies) concerning the scannable formats to: EFAST Scannable Form 5500, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-5459, Washington, D.C. 20210. Written comments may also be sent by Internet to the following address: comments—form5500@pwba.dol.gov. All submissions will be shared among the Agencies and will be open to public inspection and copying in the Public Disclosure Room, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-5638, Washington, DC, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., E.S.T.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Helms, EFAST Project Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, at (202) 219-2623 (not a toll-free number).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Background

Under part 1 of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), Title IV or ERISA, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), administrators of pension and welfare benefit plans (collectively, employee benefit plans) subject to those provisions, and employers sponsoring certain fringe benefit plans and other plans of deferred compensation, are required to file returns/reports annually concerning the financial condition and operation of the plans. These reporting requirements are satisfied generally by filing the Form 5500 Series in accordance with its instructions and related regulations. The Form 5500 is the primary source of information concerning the operation, funding, assets and investments of pension and other employee benefit plans.

On September 3, 1997, the Agencies published a Notice of Proposed Revision of Annual Information Return/Reports in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 46556). The Agencies' proposal replaced the Form 5500, Form 5500-C and Form 5500-R with one Form 5500 intended to streamline the report and the methods by which it is filed. A public hearing on the proposed forms revisions was held on November 17, 1997, and written comments on the proposal were received until the public record was closed on December 3, 1997.

Concurrent with the development of the new forms, the Agencies are also developing a new computerized system to process the Form 5500 ("EFAST"). The new computerized processing system is designed to simplify and expedite the receipt and processing of the new Form 5500 by relying on computer scannable forms and electronic filing technologies.

Contracts were awarded to two national computer firms to competitively develop this system and computer scannable versions of the new Form 5500. When the firms have completed their "small scale" system assignments, one of the two firms will be chosen to "scale-up" its system and process the new Form 5500 for five years. The firm chosen will receive the forms, process the data into machine-readable format, conduct specified edit tests for validity and completeness, correspond with filers whose filings fail one or more edit tests, attempt to perfect the data using filer responses and, finally, provide the data to the Agencies.

On June 24, 1998, a Notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 34493) that stated that the Agencies had submitted a public information

collection request (ICR) for the revised Form 5500 to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The new Form 5500 submitted as part of the ICR was made available to the public through the Department of Labor's Internet site. The Notice announced that the Agencies intended to solicit public comments on the computer scannable versions of the new forms developed as part of the EFAST project. Following its Paperwork Reduction Act review, OMB gave Paperwork Reduction Act approval to the new Form 5500 on August 26, 1998, provided certain minor technical adjustments were made to the forms and the Agencies solicited public comments on the computer scannable formats developed by the competing firms as part of the EFAST project.<sup>1</sup> Both firms have now developed computer scannable versions of the new Form 5500.

By this notice, the Agencies are soliciting public comments on the computer scannable formats developed as part of the EFAST project. One firm (Vendor #1) designed a computer scannable Form 5500 to be completed by all filers. The other firm (Vendor #2) designed two versions, one for filers

printing the computer scannable Form 5500 by a computer printer (printer version) and the other for filers completing the form by hand or typewriter (hand/typewriter version). These mock-up versions of the computer scannable Form 5500 are available for viewing and downloading through the Department of Labor's Internet site ([www.dol.gov/dol/pwba](http://www.dol.gov/dol/pwba)).

The final computer scannable version of the forms will be published in the **Federal Register** following the selection of the firm that will process the new Form 5500 under the EFAST system. Except for those who file electronically, the use of computer scannable forms will be mandatory for 1999 plan year filings.

Dated: June 21, 1999.

**Gerald B. Lindrew**,  
*Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Department of Labor.*

**Carol D. Gold**,  
*Director, Employee Plans Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.*

**Stuart A. Sirkin**,  
*Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*

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**MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection**

**AGENCY:** Merit Systems Protection Board.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et. seq.), this notice announces that the Merit Systems Protection Board's request for a three year extension of approval of its optional appeal form, Optional Form 283 (Rev. 10/94) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The appeal form is currently displayed in 5 CFR Part 1201, Appendix I, and on the MSPB Web Page 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 responses	Total annual responses	Hours per response (average)	Total hours
1201 and 1209 .....	9,000	1	9,000	.5	4,500

Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the address shown below. Please refer to OMB Control No. 3124-0009 in any correspondence.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before July 28, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the appeal form may be obtained from Arlin Winefordner, Merit Systems Protection Board, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20419 or by calling (202) 653-7200. Comments concerning the paperwork burden should also be addressed to Mr. Winefordner and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for

MSPB, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: June 21, 1999.

**Robert E. Taylor**,  
*Clerk of the Board.*  
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**NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NARA is giving public notice that the agency proposes to renew the information collections described in this notice, which are used in the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant program. The public is invited to comment on the proposed information collection pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before August 27, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to: Paperwork Reduction Act Comments (NHP), Room 3200, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Rd, College Park, MD 20740-6001; or faxed to 301-713-6913; or

<sup>1</sup> The Department of Labor also proposed on December 10, 1998, in the **Federal Register** (63 FR

68370), and requested comments on, revision to the

Department's annual reporting regulations that would implement the new Form 5500 requirements.