

statement (also on page 11 of the instructions). The modified wording will reflect the application to pending judicial or administrative proceedings of the underlying routine use h. in the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branchwide system of records. See 55 FR 6327-6331 (February 22, 1990).

Finally, various minor proposed style, format and updating changes to certain parts of the instructions and the report form are proposed, including removal of column shading from Schedules A and B (to improve readability) and indication of the new 2000 edition date.

Once finally cleared by OMB and GSA and printed by the Government Printing Office, the paper original of the 2000 edition of the SF 278 report form will be stocked and made available for purchase by departments and agencies nationwide from the GSA Federal Supply Service Customer Supply Centers.

In addition, for the past several years, OGE has placed in the Ethics Resource Library section of its Internet Web site (Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address: <http://www.usoge.gov>) a viewable and downloadable Portable Document Format (PDF) version of the current 6/94 edition of the SF 278 and is also working on a fillable version of the 6/94 edition. A fillable version of the SF 278 is available from GSA's Web site electronic library of standard and optional forms (URL address: <http://www.gsa.gov/forms/>). Moreover, OGE will develop first a PDF version and then a fillable version of the new 2000 edition of the SF 278 for placement on the OGE Web site once it is finally cleared and issued next year. Those electronic versions of the SF 278 form have been and will continue to be made available free-of-charge to executive branch departments and agencies and their employees. In addition, the forthcoming 2000 edition of the form will be included in future editions of The Ethics CD-ROM. Departments and agencies can also electronically duplicate the SF 278 without standard form exception clearance, provided that the duplication precisely parallels the original paper form to the extent technically feasible, producing a "mirror image" print-out thereof.

Furthermore, OGE is considering the paperwork and technical issues relating to development of so-called "smart" electronic forms, including the SF 278, which employ a question and answer format to elicit information on reportable interests and funnel the data onto the schedules of the report forms. Various agencies in addition to OGE are interested in this area. The Office of Government Ethics is reviewing the

executive branchwide aspects of these initiatives, including a possible umbrella OGE "generic" paperwork clearance package.

For now, OGE notes that even with all of these electronic initiatives, the SF 278 reports, once completed by individual filers, will still need to be printed out and signed manually. Electronic filing is not authorized at the present time for SF 278 reports. However, OGE is monitoring developments under the Government Paperwork Elimination Act and the proposed OMB guidelines (together with any possible future related legislation), under which appropriate electronic availability and filing of various Government forms will generally be phased in by October 2003.

Public comment is invited on each aspect of the SF 278 Public Financial Disclosure Report as proposed for revision as set forth in this notice, including specifically views on the need for and practical utility of this collection of information, the accuracy of OGE's burden estimate, the potential for enhancement of quality, utility and clarity of the information collected, and the minimization of burden (including the use of information technology). The Office of Government Ethics, in consultation with OMB, will consider all comments received in response to this notice. The comments will also become a matter of public record.

Approved: December 9, 1999.

**Stephen D. Potts,**

*Director, Office of Government Ethics.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary publishes a list of information collections it has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) and CFR 1320.5. The following are those information collections recently submitted to OMB.

1. Research on Employment Supports for People with Disabilities—NEW—The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation has embarked on a project to collect extensive information on the experiences of

people with disabilities in competitive employment. As part of this effort they intend to conduct a series of discussions with working people with disabilities across three locations in the United States and Canada for the purpose of gaining detailed information on their employment experiences. Respondents: Individuals or households—Reporting Burden Information for Screener—Number of Respondents: 750; Burden per Response: 7 minutes; total Burden for Screener: 88 hours—Burden Information for Focus Group Registration—Number of Respondents: 375; Burden per Response: 10 minutes; Total Burden of Registration: 63 hours—Burden Information for Focus Group—Number of Respondents: 375; Burden per Response: 150 minutes; Total Burden for Focus Group: 938—Burden Information for Post-Focus Group Evaluation—Number of Respondents: 375; Burden per Response: 7 minutes; Total Burden for Evaluation: 44 hours—Total Burden: 1,133 hours.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Allison Eydt.

Copies of the information collection packages listed above can be obtained by calling the OS Reports Clearance Officer on (202) 690-6207. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent directly to the OMB desk officer designate above at the following address: Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments may also be sent to Cynthia Agens Bauer, OS Reports Clearance Officer, Room 503H, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: December 9, 1999.

**Dennis P. Williams,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics; Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Services announces the following advisory committee meeting.

**NAME:** National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS).