holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center Web site at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 10, 2006.

**FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD**

**Sunshine Act Meeting; Notice**

**TIME AND DATE:** 9 a.m. (e.d.t.); February 21, 2006.

**PLACE:** 4th Floor Conference Room, 1250 H Street, NW., Washington, DC.

**STATUS:** Parts will be open to the public and parts closed to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

**Parts Open to the Public**

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2006, Board member meeting.
2. Thrift Savings Plan activity report by the Executive Director.
3. Review of DOL audit reports for FY 2005:
   - Employee Benefits Security Administration Review of the Thrift Savings Plan Parallel Call Center at Spherix Incorporated, May 27, 2005 (updated with additional information received through August 17, 2005) and Executive Director’s comments.
4. Investment policy.

**Parts Closed to the Public**

5. Internal personnel matters.
6. Procurement matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.
- Thomas K. Emswiler, Acting General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

**BILLING CODE 6760–01–P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Office of the Secretary**

[Document Identifier: OS–0937–0198; 30-day notice]

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

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary; HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency’s functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

**Type of Information Collection Request:** Extension of Currently Approved Collection;

**Title of Information Collection:** Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct (42 CFR Part 93);

**Form/OMB No.:** OS–0937–0198;

**Use:** Section 493 of the Public Health Service Act and 42 CFR part 93 require each institution that applies for research and research-related grants to establish policies and procedures for investigation and reporting instances of alleged or apparent misconduct.

**Frequency:** Recordkeeping, reporting, annually;

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions; and individuals or households, Federal government, State, local or tribal government;

**Annual Number of Respondents:** 4,000;

**Total Annual Responses:** 3,800;

**Average Burden Per Response:** Six minutes;

**Total Annual Hours:** 400.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access the HHS Web site address at http://www.hhs.gov/oirm/infocollect/pending/ or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and OS document identifier, to naomi.cook@hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (202) 690–6162. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 30 days of this notice directly to the Desk Officer at the address below: OMB Desk Officer: John Kraemer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: (OMB #0937–0198), New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.
Dated: January 17, 2006.

Robert E. Polson,
Office of the Secretary, Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–2121 Filed 2–14–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4150–31–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Changes to the Dose Reconstruction Target Organ Selection for Lymphoma Under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000

Authority: 42 CFR 82.32, 67 FR 22335–22336.

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HHS.


SUMMARY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has changed the selection of target organs used in dose reconstructions NIOSH produces under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) for energy employees with lymphoma cancers. This change responds to an evaluation by NIOSH of current scientific data on lymphoma, which revealed that the site of the radiation injury can differ from the site of the tumor or cancer origin documented in the medical files of a lymphoma cancer patient. The new process for selecting dose reconstruction target organs for energy employees with lymphoma cancers includes selecting the target organ that would have received the highest radiation dose from among relevant, possibly irradiated organs, as determined through the dose reconstruction process, when the identity of the target organ is in question. This change may result in the Department of Labor calculating higher probability of causation determinations for select lymphoma cases among previously decided and current EEOICPA cancer claims.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Elliott, Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Mailstop C–46, Cincinnati, OH 45226. Telephone: (513) 533–6800 (This is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Summary of Public Comments

NIOSH accepted public comments on this proposed change to NIOSH dose reconstruction methods from January 19, 2006, through February 3, 2006. NIOSH received 15 comments from individuals.

Nine comments expressed support for the new lymphoma procedure, predicated on the condition that it improves chances of compensation being granted.

One comment objected to the different treatment of “structural” lymphomas (i.e., Hodgkin’s disease, lymphosarcoma, reticulosarcoma, etc.) versus non-Hodgkin’s and other lymphomas. A NIOSH scientist contacted the commenter and explained the technical basis for these distinctions, which in summary is that tumor location is informative of the site of radiation injury for such structural lymphomas. Upon this explanation, the commenter concurred with the procedure as proposed by NIOSH.

Five comments concerned individual claims for compensation rather than the new lymphoma procedure.

II. Summary of Recommendations of the ABRWH

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH) discussed the change and voted unanimously to support it during a teleconference meeting of the Board on January 9, 2006.

III. Summary of the Changes to the Dose Reconstruction Target Organ Selection for Lymphoma

NIOSH conducts radiation dose reconstructions under EEOICPA in compliance with the dose reconstruction methods specified in HHS regulations at 42 CFR part 82. These regulations provide for NIOSH to update its dose reconstruction methods as necessary on the basis of improved scientific understanding and specify a process for deciding and implementing such updates. 42 CFR 82.30–82.33. Accordingly, NIOSH has updated its method for reconstructing radiation doses in cases involving certain lymphoma cancers. Specifically, NIOSH has changed its method for identifying the target organ for which radiation doses will be reconstructed in these cases, for the reasons described below. As required for certain updates in dose reconstruction methods, NIOSH presented change to the ABRWH prior to implementation. NIOSH has also considered all public comments concerning this change that were received prior to the comment deadline, as specified above.

NIOSH has re-examined the appropriateness of the current method of selecting dosimetry target organs for lymphoma cases in light of the current scientific knowledge on the diagnosis and etiology of the various forms of lymphoma. This re-examination has revealed that for many non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas, there were two problems with NIOSH’s previous target organ selection method. First, the site of occurrence of the tumor is not necessarily the site of the original radiation injury. Second, the site listed in the diagnosis may not actually be the site of primary involvement. Rather, it is common to list the site of the biopsy, which may be selected on the basis of medical considerations in terms of the clinical symptoms and condition of the patient and the ease of surgical access. Both of these problems contributed to the possibility that under the previous method for select lymphoma cases, NIOSH could not be certain its dose reconstruction was based on the biologically plausible organ with the highest radiation dose.

As a result of this re-evaluation, NIOSH has modified the selection of target organs in select lymphoma cases so that the organ that would have received the highest radiation dose from among relevant, possibly irradiated organs, as determined through the dose reconstruction process, is used in the dose reconstruction. For the subset of lymphomas where tumor location is informative about the probable site of original radiation injury (e.g. Hodgkin’s disease, lymphosarcoma, etc.), the information related to the site of diagnosis will be considered in target organ selection.

This change pertains only to the selection of the appropriate target organ as the site of radiation injury (i.e., for calculation of effective radiation dose during the dose reconstruction process). It has no bearing on the selection of the appropriate Interactive Radiological Epidemiology Program (IREP) cancer risk model for determining probability