

include, but are not limited to, land use, environmental justice, historic resources, visual and aesthetic qualities, air quality, noise and vibration, energy use, traffic, safety and security, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and hazardous materials. Regulations implementing NEPA, as well as provisions of the recently enacted Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), call for public involvement in the EIS process. Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU requires that FTA and PCJPB do the following: (1) Extend an invitation to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project to become "participating agencies", (2) provide an opportunity for involvement by participating agencies and the public in helping to define the purpose and need for a proposed project, as well as the range of alternatives for consideration in the impact statement, and (3) establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in and comment on the environmental review process. An invitation to become a participating agency, with the scoping information packet appended, will be extended to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project. It is possible that we may not be able to identify all Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have such an interest. Any Federal or non-Federal agency or Indian tribe interested in the proposed project that does not receive an invitation to become a participating agency should notify, at the earliest opportunity, the Environmental Manager identified above under **ADDRESSES**.

A comprehensive public involvement program has been developed. A Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) consisting of local and county officials and a Project Development Team consisting of representatives of state, regional and local agencies are already in place. A Community Advisory Committee will be established. The program also includes a public scoping process, public hearings on release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), development of project newsletters and their distribution and posting on the project Web site.

We invite the public and participating agencies to consider the preliminary statement of purposes of and need for the proposed project, as well as the alternatives proposed for consideration. Comments on potential significant environmental impacts that may be associated with the proposed project are

also welcomed. All comments and suggestions will be given serious consideration.

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.105(a) and 771.133, FTA will comply with all Federal environmental laws, regulations and executive orders applicable to the proposed project during the environmental review process to the maximum extent practicable. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and 23 CFR part 771), the project-level air quality conformity regulation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (40 CFR part 93), section 404(b)(1) guidelines of EPA (40 CFR part 230), Executive Orders 11988, 11990 and 12898 regarding floodplains, wetlands, and environmental justice, respectively, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR part 402), and section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (23 CFR 771.135).

Issued on: October 26, 2006.

**Leslie T. Rogers,**

*Regional Administrator, FTA, Region 9.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-57-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Request for Applications for the IRS Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is requesting applications for membership to serve on the Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities (ACT). Applications will be accepted for several vacancies which will occur in June 2007: At least two (2) employee plans; at least two (2) exempt organizations; at least one (1) Indian tribal governments; and at least one (1) tax exempt bonds. (There are currently no vacancies for federal, state and local governments.) To ensure appropriate balance of membership, final selection from qualified candidates will be determined based on experience, qualifications, and other expertise.

**DATES:** Written applications or nominations must be received on or before December 1, 2006.

**Application:** Applicants may use the ACT Application Form on the IRS Web site (<http://www.irs.gov/ep>; <http://www.irs.gov/eo>; <http://www.irs.gov/bonds>; or <http://www.irs.gov/govts>) or may send an application by letter with the following information: Name; Other Name(s) Used and Date(s) (required for FBI check); Date of Birth (required for FBI check); City and State of Birth (required for FBI check); Current Address; Telephone and Fax Numbers; and E-mail address, if any. Applications should also describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the ACT. Applicants should also specify the vacancy for which they wish to be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all applications and nominations to: Steven Pyrek; Director, TE/GE Communications and Liaison; 1111 Constitution Ave., NW.—SE:T:CL, Penn Bldg; Washington, DC 20224; Fax: (202) 283-9956 (not a toll-free number); E-mail: [steve.j.pyrek@irs.gov](mailto:steve.j.pyrek@irs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Pyrek (202) 283-9966 (not a toll-free number), or by e-mail.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities (ACT), governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law No. 92-463, is an organized public forum for discussion of relevant employee plans, exempt organizations, tax-exempt bonds, and Federal, State, local and Indian tribal government issues between officials of the IRS and representatives of the above communities. The ACT also enables the IRS to receive regular input with respect to the development and implementation of IRS policy concerning these communities. ACT members present the interested public's observations about current or proposed IRS policies, programs, and procedures, as well as suggest improvements.

ACT members shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury and shall serve a two-year term. Terms can be extended for an additional year. ACT members will not be paid for their time or services. ACT members will be reimbursed for their travel-related expenses to attend working sessions and public meetings, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5703.

The Secretary of the Treasury invites those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with employee plans, exempt organizations, tax-exempt bonds, and federal, state, local or Indian tribal governments, to nominate individuals for membership on the ACT. Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the

ACT. Nominations should also specify the vacancy for which they wish to be considered. The Secretary seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons experienced in employee plans, exempt organizations, tax-exempt bonds, and Federal, State, local or Indian tribal governments.

Nominees must go through a clearance process before selection. In accordance with Department of the Treasury Directive 21-03, the clearance process includes, among other things, pre-appointment and annual tax checks, and a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal and subversive name check and security clearance.

Dated: October 26, 2006.

**Steven J. Pyrek,**

*Designated Federal Official, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, Internal Revenue Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-18329 Filed 10-31-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Open Meeting of the Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (Including the States of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin)

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** An open meeting of the Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comment, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at 11 a.m., central time.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Ann Delzer at 1-888-912-1227, or (414) 231-2360.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that a meeting of the Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be held Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at 11 a.m., central time via a telephone conference call. You can submit written comments to the panel by faxing the comments to (414) 231-2363, or by mail to Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, Stop 1006MIL, PO Box 3205, Milwaukee, WI 53203-2221, or you can contact us at <http://www.improveirs.org>. This meeting is not required to be open to the public, but

because we are always interested in community input we will accept public comments. Please contact Mary Ann Delzer at 1-888-912-1227 or (414) 231-2360 for dial-in information.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: October 23, 2006.

**Bernard Coston,**

*Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.*

[FR Doc. E6-18327 Filed 10-31-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0001]

### Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the Agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each extension of a currently approved collection and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to determine a veteran's eligibility, dependency, and income, as applicable, for compensation and/or pension benefits.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 2, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: [nancy.kessinger@va.gov](mailto:nancy.kessinger@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0001" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C.

3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 or the use of other forms of information technology.

**Title:** Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension, VA Form 21-526.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0001.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Veterans complete VA Form 21-526 to apply for compensation and/or pension benefits.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 592,500 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 1 hour and 30 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 395,000.

Dated: October 19, 2006.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Denise McLamb,**

*Initiative Coordination Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-18417 Filed 10-31-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0569]

### Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain