DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment Standards Administration

Proposed Extension of the Approval of Information Collection Requirements

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning its proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the Information Collection: Authorization for Release of Medical Information (CM–936). A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before June 1, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Mr. Steven D. Lawrence, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S–3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–0292, fax (202) 693–1451, e-mail Lawrence.Steven@iod.gov. Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Black Lung Benefits Act, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 901 et seq. and 20 CFR 725.405 require that all relevant medical evidence be considered before a decision can be made regarding a claimant’s eligibility for benefits. The CM–936 is used by black lung claimants who wish to submit medical evidence to support their claim. The form provides the claimant’s consent for medical institutions and private physicians to release medical information to the Division of Coal Mine Workers’ Compensation (DCMWC). The form may be completed by the claimant and the claims examiner (CE). This information collection is currently approved for use through October 31, 2009.

II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

• Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
• Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
• Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
• Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions

The Department of Labor seeks the approval of the extension of this information collection in order to carry out its responsibility to assure payment of compensation benefits to injured workers at the proper rate.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Employment Standards Administration.

Titles: Authorization for Release of Medical Information.

OMB Number: 1215–0057.

Agency Numbers: CM–936.

Affected Public: Individual or households.

Total Respondents: 900.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Veterans’ Employment and Training Service

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request: Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) Tracking Report (VETS 201); Jobs for Veterans State Grant Budget Information Summary (VETS 401); Jobs for Veterans State Grant Expenditure Detail Report (VETS 402A, Quarterly Expenditures, or VETS 402B, Cumulative Expenditures); Jobs for Veterans State Grant Staffing Directory (VETS 501); Transition Assistance Program Workshop Forecast (VETS 601)


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS) 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 and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on five (5) separate collections of information: (1) VETS 201 entitled “Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) Tracking Report” and identified by VETS ICR No.
1293–0009 and OMB Control No. 1293–0009; (2) VETS 401 entitled “Jobs for Veterans State Grant Budget Information Summary” and identified by VETS ICR No. 1293–0009 and OMB Control No. 1293–0009; (3) VETS 402A/B entitled “Jobs for Veterans State Grant Expenditure Detail Report” and identified by VETS ICR No. 1293–0009 and OMB Control No. 1293–0009; (4) VETS 501 entitled “Jobs for Veterans State Grant Staffing Directory” and identified by VETS ICR No. 1293–0009 and OMB Control No. 1293–0009; and (5) VETS 601 entitled “Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Employment Workshop Forecast” and identified by VETS ICR No. 1293–0009 and OMB Control No. 1293–0009. Before submitting the ICRs to OMB for review and approval, VETS is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collections.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the collection of information by 60 days from publication date.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments on this collection of information by any of the following methods:

- Electronically to: hecker.patrick@dol.gov
- By fax to: (202) 693–4755 (not a toll free number) Attn: Patrick Hecker

All comments should be identified with the OMB Control Number 1293–0009. Written comments should be limited to 10 pages or fewer. Receipt of comments will not be acknowledged but the sender may request confirmation that a submission has been received by telephoning VETS at (202) 693–4709 or via fax at (202) 693–4755.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pamela Langley, Chief, Grants and Programs Division, Department of Labor/VETS, Room S–1312, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, by e-mail at langley.pamela@dol.gov or by phone at (202) 693–4708. Copies of the proposed data collection instruments can be obtained from the contact listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. With respect to the following collection of information, VETS is particularly interested in comments on these topics:

- Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance and oversight of the jobs for Veterans State Grant, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of the VETS’ estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- 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.

II. Comments are requested on one or more of the following ICRs:

- **Title:** Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) Tracking Report (VETS 201).
- **ICR numbers:** VETS ICR No. 1293–0009, OMB Control No. 1293–0009.
- **ICR status:** This ICR is for a revised information collection activity. An Agency may conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for VETS information collections are displayed on the applicable data collection instrument.

Abstract: VETS and the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VA VR&E) share a mutual responsibility for the successful readjustment of disabled veterans into the civilian workforce. Since August, 1995, the two Federal Agencies have worked together under a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate and coordinate services provided to veterans and transitioning service members referred to or completing a program of vocational rehabilitation authorized under Title 31, United States Code (hereinafter referred to as the Chapter 31 program). To help Congress understand the status of new initiatives in the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a study and released Report Number GAO–07–0120: Disabled Veterans’ Employment—Additional Planning, Monitoring, and Data Collection Efforts Would Improve Assistance. One of the findings included a new data collection instrument.

As a result of the GAO recommendation, a Joint Work Group was formed to establish and standardize processes to accommodate veterans participating in the Chapter 31 program achieve the ultimate goal of successful career transition and suitable long-term employment. The Joint Work Group refined processes and strengthened the team approach to serving these disabled veterans. Both Agencies jointly implemented the partnership nationally by issuing a Technical Assistance Guide that included a new data collection instrument.

The Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Chapter 31) Tracking Report (VETS 201) is designed to respond to the GAO finding by compiling information on disabled veterans jointly served by the VA, VETS and Jobs for Veterans State Grant recipients. All partners agree to share information exclusively to facilitate job development and placement services for participating veterans. It replaces the information currently reported in the quarterly Manager’s Report on Services to Veterans. The information is collected only with documented consent from veterans in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and other applicable regulations and each agency will provide practical and appropriate safeguards to protect Personally Identifiable Information in accordance with applicable regulations and laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and reauthorizations, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The information is collected by the Jobs for Veterans State grant recipient and submitted to the state Director for Veterans’ Employment and Training (DVET) once per Federal fiscal quarter.

- **Title:** Jobs for Veterans State Grant Budget Information Summary (VETS 401).
- **ICR numbers:** VETS ICR No. 1293–0009, OMB Control No. 1293–0009.
- **ICR status:** This ICR is for a revised information collection activity. An Agency may conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for VETS information collections are displayed on the applicable data collection instrument.

Abstract: This form is used by Jobs for Veterans State Grant applicants to forecast annual grant spending by subprogram and by Federal fiscal year quarter. The one-page form illustrates a grantee’s annual planned costs across the programs funded under the Jobs for Veterans State Grants. The current OMB-approved Standard Form (SF) 424A form has insufficient columns and records for categories funded by the Jobs for Veterans State Grant. Therefore, VETS currently...
requires States to submit two separate SF 424A forms annually. One form is used to forecast the costs and quarterly cash needs for Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program (DVOP) activities and DVOP special initiatives and a second form is used to forecast the costs and quarterly cash needs for Local Veterans’ Employment Representative (LVER) activities, LVER special initiatives, Transition Assistance Program activities, and Incentive Awards. The proposed single form accommodates forecasted costs for all programs by Object Class Category and cash needs for each program by quarter.

The proposed data collection instrument is designed to streamline the collection of data needed to reduce the current reporting burden on grantees. The information is required to be submitted once per Federal fiscal year as a condition of receiving Jobs for Veterans State Grant funds. Grant recipients are required to submit a revised form to request a modification to their existing grant if the modification affects funding of any program covered by the Jobs for Veterans State Grant.

(3) Title: Jobs for Veterans State Grant Expenditure Detail Report (VETS 402A or B).

ICR numbers: VETS ICR No. 1293–0009, OMB Control No. 1293–0009.

ICR status: This ICR is for a revised information collection activity. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for VETS information collections are displayed on the applicable data collection instrument.

Abstract: Jobs for Veterans State Grant applicants and grantees use the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Staffing Directory (VETS 501) to satisfy two grant requirements. First, grant applicants satisfy an assurance required by the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, and implemented at 29 CFR part 95, §85.500 and 85.610 by listing the locations where grant-funded staff will be assigned. Second, grantees fulfill a requirement set forth in 38 U.S.C. 4102A(b)(5) that requires the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training (ASVET) to make funds available to each State to staff and support multiple programs under the Jobs for Veterans State Grant: DVOP, LVER, TAP, and Performance Incentive Awards. The ASVET is also legislatively required to monitor and supervise the distribution and use of these funds on a continuing basis.

The Expenditure Detail Report (EDR) (VETS 402A or B) is used by Jobs for Veterans State Grant recipients to detail total expenditures by funding source to supplement the quarterly Federal Financial Report (FFR) which is used to report total grant spending and draw down of funds. To accommodate differences in States’ accounting systems, two separate versions of the self-calculating EDR allow States to report either quarterly (VETS 402A) or cumulative expenditures (VETS 402B) each quarter. The EDR (VETS 402A or B) effectively cross-walks to both the FFR and the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Budget Information Summary (VETS 401) that details projected funding needs for each separate program awarded to States through the Jobs for Veterans State Grant.

VETS compiles and compiles the EDR (VETS 402A or B) information to effectively monitor the use of Jobs for Veterans State Grant funds for each separate program purpose in accordance with the regulations at Title 29, Part 97.41 a.3. The proposed EDR requires States to report total expenditures for each funding source as well as the amounts expended for Personal Services and Personnel Benefits for each program. As a condition of receiving Jobs for Veterans State Grant funds, grantees are required to submit the EDR (VETS 402A or B) once per Federal fiscal quarter, including a fifth quarter if funds are obligated or expended in the quarter following the end of the fiscal year (when authorized in the annual appropriation).

(4) Title: Jobs for Veterans State Grant Staffing Directory (VETS 501).

ICR numbers: VETS ICR No. 1293–0009, OMB Control No. 1293–0009.

ICR status: This ICR is for a revised information collection activity. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for VETS information collections are displayed on the applicable data collection instrument.

Abstract: This form is used by Jobs for Veterans State Grant applicants to project the location and number of TAP Employment Workshops to be facilitated by grant-funded staff at military installations located in the State. Grant applicants that request funding to facilitate these workshops are required to forecast the total number of workshops and total number of workshop hours planned at each location by Federal fiscal quarter.

As a condition of receiving TAP funds in addition to the allocated Jobs for Veterans State Grant funds, grantees are required to submit the TAP Employment Workshop Forecast (VETS 601) once per Federal fiscal year. Grant recipients will also be required to submit a revised form when requesting a modification to their existing grant if the modification affects TAP funding.

Affected Public: Jobs for Veterans State Grant Applicants/Recipients (53): DVOP specialists and LVER staff (2,000).

Estimated Annual Burden:
(a) VETS 201 (Proposed): 16,000 Hours.
(b) VETS 401 (Proposed): 79.5 Hours.
(c) VETS 402A/B (Proposed): 1,168 Hours.
(d) VETS 501 (Proposed): 106 Hours.
(e) VETS 601 (Proposed): 38 Hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:
(a) VETS 201 (Proposed): 2 Hours, Range 1–3 Hours.
(b) VETS 401 (Proposed): 1.5 Hours, Range 1–2 Hours.
NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Mediation Board (NMB).

SUMMARY: The Director, Office of Administration, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments within 30 days from the date of this publication.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency’s ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Director, Office of Administration, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection contains the following: (1) Type of information collected; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Record keeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Currently, the National Mediation Board is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute and is interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the agency; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the agency enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the agency minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.


June D.W. King,
Director, Office of Administration, National Mediation Board.

Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute

Type of Review: Extension.
Title: Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute.
OMB Number: 3140–0001.
Frequency: On occasion.
Affected Public: Carrier and Union Officials, and employees of railroads and airlines.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:
Responses: 68 annually.
Bureau Hours: 17.00.

Abstract: When a dispute arises among a carrier’s employees as to who will be their bargaining representative, the National Mediation Board (NMB) is required by Section 2, Ninth, to investigate the dispute, to determine who is the authorized representative, if any, and to certify such representative. The NMB’s duties do not arise until its services have been invoked by a party to the dispute. The Railway Labor Act is silent as to how the invocation of a representation dispute is to be accomplished and the NMB has not promulgated regulations requiring any specific vehicle. Nonetheless, 29 CFR 1203.2, provides that applications for the services of the NMB under Section 2, Ninth, to investigate representation disputes may be made on printed forms secured from the NMB’s Office of Legal Affairs or on the Internet at http://www.nmb.gov/representation/apply.html. The application requires the following information: The name of the carrier involved; the name or description of the craft or class involved; the name of the petitioning organization or individual; the name of the organization currently representing the employees, if any; the names of any other organizations or representatives involved in the dispute; and the estimated number of employees in the craft or class involved. This basic information is essential in providing the NMB with the details of the dispute so that it can determine what resources will be required to conduct an investigation.

The extension of this form is necessary considering the information is used by the Board in determining such matters as how many staff will be required to conduct an investigation and what other resources must be mobilized to complete our statutory responsibilities. Without this information, the Board would have to delay the commencement of the investigation, which is contrary to the intent of the Railway Labor Act.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from http://www.nmb.gov or should be addressed to Denise Murdock, NMB, 1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 E, Washington, DC 20005 or addressed to the e-mail address murmock@nmb.gov or faxed to 202–692–5081. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to June D.W. King at 202–692–5010 or via internet address king@nmb.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD/TTY) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

[Notice of Federal Register (NFR)].

South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company; Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board

Pursuant to delegation by the Commission dated December 29, 1972, published in the Federal Register, 37 FR 26,710 (1972), and the Commission’s regulations, see 10 CFR 2.104, 2.300, 2.303, 2.309, 2.311, 2.318, and 2.321,