During the public comment period, the proposed Consent Decree may be examined and downloaded at this Justice Department website: https://www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees. We will provide a paper copy of the proposed Consent Decree upon written request and payment of reproduction costs. Please mail your request and payment to: Consent Decree Library, U.S. DOJ—ENRD, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044–7611. Please enclose a check or money order for $10.25 (25 cents per page reproduction cost) payable to the United States Treasury.

Susan M. Akers,
Assistant Section Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. 2020–04393 Filed 3–3–20; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on the PEER Initiative: Protecting Employees, Enabling Reemployment

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget has directed the Secretary of Labor to publish a memorandum on the PEER Initiative in the Federal Register, as part of the President’s Management Agenda—Modernizing Government for the 21st Century and the President’s Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand. Federal agencies and the United States Postal Service are expected to improve or maintain performance in seven areas related to work-related injuries.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each year, federal civilian employees sustain work-related injuries and illnesses. In 2018, federal workers filed almost 107,000 new claims and received approximately $3 billion in workers’ compensation payments. Many of these work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable, and executive departments and agencies can and should do more to improve workplace safety and health, improve efficiencies, reduce the financial burden of injury on taxpayers, and relieve unnecessary suffering by workers and their families.

Therefore, the Protecting Employees, Enabling Reemployment (PEER) Initiative is being created to set forth goals to achieve these important objectives and supports the President’s Management Agenda—Modernizing Government for the 21st Century and the President’s Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand. Federal agencies and the United States Postal Service are expected to improve or maintain performance in seven areas:

1. Reducing total injury and illness case rates;
2. Reducing lost-time injury and illness case rates;
3. Increasing the timely filing rate for workers’ compensation claims;
4. Increasing the timely filing rate for wage-loss claims;
5. Increasing the rate of return-to-work outcomes during the initial 45 day post-injury period for traumatic injury cases;
6. Improving the rate at which employees return to work in cases of moderate to severe injury or illness; and
7. Implementing and fully using the Department of Labor’s electronic filing system.

Goals one through six measure reductions in workplace injuries, reductions in time off work because of injuries, improvements in return-to-work, and improving the rate of timely filed claims, all of which help relieve unnecessary suffering by workers and reduce the financial burden of injury on taxpayers. The seventh goal will standardize the claims process. It will also aid in direct and immediate communication with an injured employee, facilitating prompt treatment and providing critical opioid awareness and pain education.

Executive departments and agencies shall coordinate with the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs to develop strategies aimed at achieving performance targets in each category. The Secretary of Labor shall lead the initiative by measuring both government-wide and agency-level performance. Each executive department and agency shall bear its own costs for participating in the PEER Initiative. Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof. This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or in equity by any party against the United States; its departments, agencies, or entities; its officers, employees, or agents; or any other person.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 26th day of February, 2020.

Julia K. Hearthway,
Director, Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs.
January 9, 2020

M-20-08

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: RUSSELL T. VOGHT
ACTING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The PEER Initiative: Protecting Employees, Enabling Recomputation

Each year, Federal civilian employees sustain work-related injuries and illnesses. In 2018, Federal workers filed almost 107,000 new claims and received approximately $3 billion in workers’ compensation payments. Many of these work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable, and executive departments and agencies can and should do more to improve workplace safety and health, improve efficiencies, reduce the financial burden of injury on taxpayers, and relieve unnecessary suffering by workers and their families.

Therefore, the Protecting Employees, Enabling Recomputation (PEER) Initiative is being created to set forth goals to achieve these important objectives and supports the President’s Management Agenda – Modernizing Government for the 21st Century and the President’s Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand. Federal agencies and the United States Postal Service are expected to improve or maintain performance in seven areas:

1. reducing total injury and illness case rates;
2. reducing lost-time injury and illness case rates;
3. increasing the timely filing rate for workers’ compensation claims;
4. increasing the timely filing rate for wage-loss claims;
5. increasing the rate of return-to-work outcomes during the initial 45 day post-injury period for traumatic injury cases;
6. improving the rate at which employees return to work in cases of moderate to severe injury or illness;
7. implementing and fully using the Department of Labor’s electronic filing system.

Goals one through six measure reductions in workplace injuries, reductions in time off work because of injuries, improvements in return-to-work, and improving the rate of timely filed claims, all of which help relieve unnecessary suffering by workers and reduce the financial burden of injury on taxpayers. The seventh goal will standardize the claims process. It will also aid in direct and immediate communication with an injured employee, facilitating prompt treatment and providing critical opioid awareness and pain education.
Executive departments and agencies shall coordinate with the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Office of Workers' Compensation Programs to develop strategies aimed at achieving performance targets in each category. The Secretary of Labor shall lead the initiative by measuring both government-wide and agency-level performance. Each executive department and agency shall bear its own costs for participating in the PEER Initiative. Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof.

This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or in equity by any party against the United States; its departments, agencies, or entities; its officers, employees, or agents; or any other person.

The Secretary of Labor is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

cc: Chief Human Capital Officers
Human Resource Directors

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request, Proposed Collection Requests: Museum Capacity-Building Programs Assessment Project

AGENCY: Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review, comment request.

SUMMARY: The Institute of Museum and Library Services announces the following information collection has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. 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. The purpose of this Notice is to solicit comments about this assessment process, instructions and data collections.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section below on or before April 3, 2020.

OMB is particularly interested in comments that help the agency to:
- 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 submission of responses).

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn.: OMB Desk Officer for Education, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395–7316.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Christopher Reich, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 955 L'Enfant Plaza North SW, Suite 4000, Washington, DC 20024–2135. Mr. Reich can be reached by Telephone: 202–653–4685, Fax: 202–653–4601, or by email at creich@imls.gov, or by teletype (TTY/TDD) for persons with hearing difficulty at 202–653–4614.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.

Current Actions: Over its history, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has invested in a wide range of organizational capacity building and technical assistance for the museum sector through grant making and special initiatives. Through this project, IMLS seeks to strengthen the alignment of its investments, and other offerings in the sector, and understand the full scope of existing museum capacity building opportunities, including but not limited to organizational assessment, coaching, cohort learning, self-driven communities of practice, and self-serve resources. Through this assessment project, IMLS seeks to obtain a holistic view of the museum target audience and needs for capacity building support, identify potential gaps in the suite of current offerings, and define both