

Comments can also be faxed to Mr. Thompson's attention at 202-216-3042.

**Jeanne Markunas,**

*Acting Director, Office of Food for Peace,  
Bureau for Humanitarian Response, U.S.  
Agency for International Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy; Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; the National Agricultural Workers Survey Questionnaire Form

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy (OASP), Department of Labor.

**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 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy is soliciting comments concerning the questionnaire used by the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS). This survey has been conducted under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance since October 1988. It has up to this time conducted on average 2,500 interviews per year. The focus has been on demographic, employment and health data. The NAWS information collection request will consist of two parts. The first part is the continued approval of the traditional NAWS survey questions for the 2,500 respondents for the three year period. The second part, the NAWS will conduct for one year only, a pilot test of an enlarged sample size of 4,500 and will utilize an enhanced survey form which includes additional in-depth questions on occupational health. The sampling frame and estimation procedures will not be altered by the pilot. Furthermore, the survey format,

though enlarged, will be in large measure the same as the traditional NAWS survey form.

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of government agencies charged with protecting the well being of the farmworker population, 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.

**DATE:** Written comment must be submitted by June 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments are to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-2312, (200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone (202) 219-6197. Written comments limited to 10 pages or fewer may also be transmitted by facsimile to (202) 219-9216.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact Richard Mines, Economist and Program Officer for the National Agricultural Workers Survey, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-2312, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-6197. Copies of the referenced information collection request are available for inspection and copying and will be mailed to persons who request copies by telephoning Richard Mines at (202) 219-6197. For more information about the NAWS, consult the NAWS home page at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/asp/public/programs/agworker/naaws.htm>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The NAWS began surveying farmworkers in 1988, it has collected information from over 22,000 workers. The survey samples all crop farmworkers in three cycles each year in order to capture the seasonality of the work. The NAWS locates and samples workers at their work sites, avoiding the well-publicized undercount of this difficult-to-find population. During the initial contact, arrangements are made to interview the respondent at home or at another convenient location.

#### What Information Does the NAWS Collect?

- **Household and Family Composition.** The NAWS interview contains a family grid that asks basic demographic information for all household members, and records information about each person's education level and migration patterns.
- **Additional Demographics.** The NAWS collects a more comprehensive demographic profile of the farmworker himself including language ability, contacts in non-agricultural jobs, and parental involvement in agriculture.
- **Employment History.** The NAWS compiles a full year of information on the employment and geographic movement of the farmworker. This history covers the occupation, including task and crop if employed in agriculture, type of non-agricultural work if employed off the farm, periods of unemployment and periods abroad, and the worker's location for every week of the year preceding the interview.
- **Wages, Benefits and Working Conditions.** The NAWS collects information on payment method (piece or hourly) and wages, on health insurance, on workers compensation and unemployment insurance, and on other benefits and working conditions.
- **Health, Safety and Housing.** The NAWS gathers information on medical history, use of medical services, participation in pesticide training, and on the worker's housing arrangements.
- **Income and Assets, Social Services and Legal Status.** The NAWS questionnaire has a series of questions on personal and family income, assets held in the United States and abroad, use of social services, and legal or immigration status.

##### II. Current Actions

This action requests continued OMB approval of the paperwork requirements in the NAWS survey form. It also requests OMB approval to conduct a one year pilot with a larger sample size and an enhanced focus on occupational health. OMB approval is necessary to continue collecting information needed by federal programs mandated by Congress to monitor and serve the farmworker population. These include among others the National Agricultural Statistical Service of the USDA, the Office of Migrant Education of the Department of Education, the Migrant Health Program, the Migrant Head Start Program and the National Institute of Occupational Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Farmworker Adult Training Program (JTPA 402) of Department of Labor and

the Pesticide Division of the Environmental Protection Agency. The pilot project is necessary to fulfill the Congressionally mandated charge to collect better information about farmworker occupational health.

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

*Agency:* Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy.

*Title:* The survey form of the National Agricultural Workers Survey.

*OMB Number:* 1225-0044.

*Affected Public:* Farmworkers and farm employees.

*Total Respondents:* 6000 respondents (4,500 farmworkers receiving a full interview and 1,500 employers who will be briefly interviewed to ascertain the location of the potential worker respondents).

*Frequency:* Annually (The survey is administered in three 10-12 week cycles each year, beginning in October, February and May. Approximately, one third of the 4,500 farmworker respondents are interviewed each cycle. And, approximately 500 employers are approached to make interviewee contacts each cycle.)

*Total Responses:* 6,000 including both interviewed farmworkers and employers.

*Average Time per Response:* Time per response for employers is approximately 20 minutes and for farmworker interviewees approximately one hour.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 5,000 hours (4,500 hours of this burden time will be incurred by workers and 500 by farm employers).

*Total Annualized capital/startup costs:* 0.

*Total initial annual costs:* (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): 0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request. The comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 18, 1998.

Authorized Official in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy.

**Richard Mines,**

*Economist.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

#### Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Standardized Program Information Reporting (SPIR) System; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance 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 and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision and extension of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) individual-level reporting system: Standardized Program Information Reporting (SPIR). A copy of the proposed information reporting system can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before June 20, 1998. The Department 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 the use of appropriate electronic reporting mechanisms.

**ADDRESSEE:** U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training

Administration, Office of Policy and Research, Rm. N5637, 200 Constitution Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, ATTN: Douglas Scott, Telephone: (202) 219-5487 ex. 111, fax: (202) 219-5455 (these are not toll-free numbers), Internet: ED.SCOTTD@DOLETA.GOV

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The JTPA at Section 165 requires that all state and local agencies operating programs funded under Titles II-A (services to disadvantaged adults), II-C (services to disadvantaged youth), Section 204(d) (services to older workers) and Title III (services to dislocated workers) of the Act maintain standardized participant records and report this information in a manner prescribed by the Secretary. States report on participants' demographic and labor force characteristics, services received, and educational and labor force status before and after program participation. Uniform data are maintained on those who have participated in JTPA programs during a given year and who have left the programs. This information is used for public information and program evaluation, as well as to monitor program performance and to assess regulatory compliance.

The complete SPIR data base allows the Department to set levels for national performance standards required in the law. The Department also uses these data to provide States with regression-based local adjustment factors and models for setting benchmarks and assessing how well local programs achieve good results in a broad range of employment-related and skill enhancing outcomes. SPIR data are necessary for the Department's performance monitoring consultations with local and State JTPA programs. The data also support requirements in the Government Performance and Results Act requiring federal agencies to evaluate the impact and results of government investment in job training and employment programs.

Reinstatement will enable DOL to continue this reporting system and to enhance it to accommodate changes and developments in the employment and training system that have occurred since the SPIR data base was originally established. Enhancements will also allow States to use administrative data (earnings records) currently collected by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program to track the labor force experience of program participants in order to gauge program results more accurately and efficiently. Further enhancements are to clarify the linkages