

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.

[FR Doc. 98-10837 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-M

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

between enrollees in JTPA programs and other programs, such as the new Welfare-to-Work program and Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services, and to implement technical corrections, such as the expansion of date fields to accommodate Year 2000 reporting.

II. Current Actions

The SPIR data base provides standardized information on job training and placement programs operated by all States and 640 sub-state service delivery organizations. The SPIR data base serves a number of essential functions required by JTPA and other laws and regulations. For example, data in the SPIR system are used by the Department to evaluate State and local program operations in relation to performance standards established by the Department in consultation with its partners. Local programs which are exceeding standards are eligible to receive monetary performance incentives, and programs which do not meet standards are subject to corrective action, including technical assistance.

The SPIR data base is an integral part of the national JTPA program. The purposes of changes and enhancements proposed in this submission are to:

1. Enhance the ability of the data base system to track participants who are also receiving services under other programs;
2. To identify individuals who were referred to JTPA through integrated workforce development programs operated at the State or local level;
3. To allow States to track the post-program experience of individuals through the use of administrative data (earnings records) collected by State UI programs;

4. To increase the frequency of data transfers from yearly to quarterly in order to improve the timeliness of program information; and
5. To implement technical requirements such as the revision of certain program names, and changing the format of date fields to be Year 2000 compliant.

Type of Review: Reinstatement with changes.

Agency: Employment and Training Administration.

Title: Standardized Program Information Reporting (SPIR).

OMB Number: 1205-0321.

Affected Public: State governments, local service delivery areas (SDAs), and local sub-state areas (SSAs).

Cite/Reference/Form/etc.: Authority to collect this information is provided in three Sections of the JTPA legislation:

Section 106—Performance Standards

This Section directs the Secretary to prescribe standards for adult programs under the Titles included in the SPIR system. Establishing standards and monitoring performance requires data on performance levels. This Section also makes provision for Governors to vary standards for local-level programs with reference to local economic factors, the characteristics of the population being served, and the types of services being provided.

Section 165—Reports, Record keeping, and Investigations

This Section requires federal grant recipients to maintain records and report information regarding program performance and fiscal management as specified by the Secretary. It also specifically requires recipients "to maintain standardized records for all individual participants and provide to

the Secretary a sufficient number of such records to provide for an adequate analysis."

Section 169—Administrative Provisions

The Secretary is directed at (d)(1) to submit an annual report to Congress summarizing the achievements of the program. This report includes data on program performance.

The collection instrument is the Standardized Program Information Reporting (SPIR) instructions and report format specifications. The SPIR itself is an electronic computer file in a specified form which is submitted by respondents via diskette, modem, electronic tape, or the Internet.

Total Respondents: 52—the States, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Total Responses: We receive one data set from each of the 52 reporting units. Each of these sets contains one record for each individual who has terminated from participation in a JTPA program included in SPIR reporting requirements during the reporting period. Thus, the number of records in each set varies depending on the number of individuals served under JTPA. The total report submission for the most recent reporting period (Program Year 1996) consisted of 589,806 individual records.

The following table documents changes in the burden hours associated with the proposed SPIR revisions. (Note: the most recent SPIR authorization referenced a burden hours estimate of 20,140 hours. This was, in fact, the increase over the original SPIR authorization bringing the authorized burden hours to 439,365. For this reason the table used the 439,365 estimate as the departure point for burden hours estimates.)

CHANGE IN BURDEN HOURS.—FIRST INTERIM YEAR OF REVISION

Activity	Affected respondents	Average hours per year	Average burden hours (national)
Currently Authorized	439,365
Change in Record Volume +11%	52	310	455,485
Move to Quarterly Reporting	52	30	457,045
New and Revised Data Elements	52	80	461,205
Start-up Requirements for Wage Records	5	100	461,705
Routine Data Gathering for Wage Records	5	50	461,955
Decrease in Reporting Burden Associated with Move to Wage Records	5	-1203	455,940

Net Change in Reporting Burden, 1st Year: +16,575.

Burden hours calculation refers to the first year after implementation of changes. For example, if the increase over the three year period in volume of

records is 11%, then 439,365 hours will increase to 487,695 hours—a net increase of 48,330 hours attributable to change in volume of records processed. This is an average increase of 16,110 per year, as reflected in the table.

Average Time per Response: 8,768 total hours per reporting unit (State) to compile and transmit electronic records for JTPA termines included in the data transfer. The actual time per response varies widely depending on the number

of individuals served in the State's programs.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): All respondents are currently operating production-status SPIR reporting systems. Estimated average marginal costs to implement changes described in this Notice: \$7,500.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): All respondents maintain management information systems required to operate their JTPA programs. Satisfying SPIR reporting requirements is one of a number of functions these systems perform. The costs of operating and maintaining these systems vary widely, ranging from States with only a single Service Delivery Area (e.g., Delaware) to California which has 52 Service Delivery Areas within the State.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 455,940.

Change from Prior Authorization: Increase of 16,575 hours.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 15, 1998.

Gerri Fiala,

Director, Office of Policy and Research.

[FR Doc. 98-10838 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

The "Significant and Substantial" Phrase in Sections 104 (d) and (e) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977; Suspension of Interpretative Bulletin

On February 5, 1998 (63 FR 6012), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) issued an Interpretative Bulletin which set forth the Agency's interpretation of the statutory phrase "* * * significantly and substantially contribute to the cause and effect of a coal or other mine safety or health hazard * * *" and which announced that MSHA would challenge an interpretation of that language by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

In response to concerns raised by the mining industry, on February 20, 1998 (63 FR 8692), the Agency announced a 60-day comment period on the implementation and impact of the interpretation of that phrase. During the comment period, the mining industry presented views that the approach set

out in the Interpretative Bulletin would be overly-inclusive, resulting in an application that would classify virtually all violations as S&S. This was not MSHA's intent.

The Agency's purpose was to seek an application of the phrase that would recognize that serious hazards which have a real possibility of causing death or serious injury or illness should properly be classified and addressed as S&S violations.

Upon consideration of the views presented to date, the Agency believes that further dialogue on the application of the statutory phrase "significant and substantial" would better serve all segments of the mining community. By this notice, MSHA is hereby suspending the Interpretative Bulletin and the applicable provisions of the Program Information Bulletin issued on February 5. MSHA will continue to accept written comments on this matter.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

J. Davitt McAteer,

Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 98-10911 Filed 4-21-98; 10:23 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor.

ACTION: Request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health requests nominations for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. The Committee was established under section 7(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on matters relating to the administration of the Act.

Nominations will be accepted by the Secretary of Labor for 8 vacancies occurring in the following categories: two public representatives; two management representatives; two labor representatives and two safety representatives. Four additional members for the Committee will be recommended by the Secretary of Health and Human Services: two occupational health representatives and two public representatives. The terms

for six members will be for one year and the terms for the remaining six members will be for two years. Any interested person or organization may nominate one or more qualified persons for membership. The category which the candidate would represent should be specified and a resume of the nominee included. In addition, the nomination should state that the nominee is aware of the nomination and is willing to serve as a committee member for a two year term.

DATES: Nominations must be submitted no later than June 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be submitted to Frank Frodyma, Directorate of Policy, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room N-3641, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

Signed at Washington, DC this 17th day of April, 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10839 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Astronomical Sciences; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

Name: Special Emphasis Panel in Astronomical Sciences (1186).

Date and Time: May 15, 1998, 8:30 am-5:00 pm.

Place: Room 1020, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Seth L. Tuttle, Program Manager, Division of Astronomical Sciences, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: 703/306-1820.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations on proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals submitted to the AST/MRI Program.

Reason For Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.