

recent years, and the resulting effects of rising workforce insecurity, the Employment and Training Administration will hold its second national research conference since the enactment of WIA. The conference will focus on issues related to trends, challenges and impacts of the macro-economy to workforce investment, significance of recent changes in workforce investment, workforce competitiveness in the global economy, changing business requirements, workforce security in our new economy, and major policy options to increase productivity by meeting the skill needs of business and promoting economic opportunities for the United States workforce. A plenary session is planned to discuss the soon-to-be published 2002–2007 plan and lay the groundwork for the 2004–2009 research plan.

This is a call for empirical/non-empirical papers related to workforce investment issues. ETA is seeking recently completed papers and papers that will be completed prior to the conference. We encourage contributions by researchers from academia, state or local agencies, business organizations, labor associations, research consulting firms and other relevant organizations. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Workforce Investment Act (program implementation and administration of adult, dislocated worker and youth programs; issues relating to WIA reauthorization).
- Skills Requirements of Employers (skills needed by employers in particular sectors and industries, the effect of new technologies, including the internet and e-commerce, on skill needs of employers).
- Changes in the Structure and Organization of Work (changes in tenure and the rise of contingent work arrangements).
- Effect of Contingent Work on Hiring Practices (the effect of hiring practices of employers and the job search behavior of individuals).
- Role of Intermediaries in the Labor Market (whether intermediaries offer new approaches and techniques that can be adapted by the public-sector employment and training community).
- Adaptability of the Unemployment Insurance Program to an evolving U.S. economy. (program administration, coverage, eligibility, benefit adequacy, benefit duration, reciprocity, benefit financing, economic stabilization, special populations and changing work patterns).
- Changes in Wages and Compensation (effect of education on workers' earnings).

- Wages and Compensation Trends (recent trends in the receipt of benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits) Interventions (employment and training intervention responses to wage and compensation trends).

- Impact of technology, Internet and Labor Market Information on labor exchange processes.

- Education—Workforce Training Continuum (appropriate roles of public K–12 and higher education integrated with Workforce Investment System).

Time and Place: The conference will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 4, 2003 and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 5, 2003 at the Holiday Inn, Capital Hill, 550 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

Submission of Papers: All papers submitted will be reviewed by a panel of DOL experts in the workforce development arena and presenters will be notified if their papers are selected. Papers reporting on research and development, evaluation studies, pilot efforts, or applied practices are encouraged. Selected papers selected for the conference will be published as part of the ETA Occasional Paper Series. Travel and accommodation for invited presenters will be paid by the Employment and Training Administration. If interested, please submit your paper and abstract if possible in hard copy and diskette/CD (Word) by March 1, 2003. Papers should be doubled-spaced and single sided. You will be notified by April 4, 2003, if your paper is selected; you will have to confirm your attendance by April 15, 2001. Please send your papers and abstract to the logistical contractor for this contract, HMA Associates, Inc., 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., 2nd Floor, Washington, DC, 20007, Attn: Peggie Edwards-Jefferies. She may be reached at 202–342–8258. We also encourage submitting abstracts for papers that have not yet been completed, but will be completed before the deadline for submission of papers.

Public Participation: This Conference is open to the public; there is no registration fee. For registration information, please send name, address, e-mail address, affiliation, and telephone number to H.M.A Associates, Inc., 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., 2nd Floor, Washington, DC, 20007, Attn: Peggie Edwards-Jefferies or email them to hmaassociates.com.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 5th day of February.

Gerard F. Fiala,

Administrator, Office of Policy Development, Evaluation and Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment Standards Administration

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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 the proposed collection: 29 CFR part 825, The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. 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 April 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Ms. Hazel M. Bell, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S–3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–0418, fax (202) 693–1451, E-mail hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov. Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or E-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Background

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), Public Law 103.3, 107 Stat. 6, 29 U.S.C. 2601, which became effective on August 5, 1993, requires private sector employers of 50 or more employees, and public agencies to provide up to 13 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during any 12-month

period to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons. Leave must be granted to "eligible" employees because of the birth of a child and to care for the newborn child, because of the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, because the employee is needed to care for a family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition, or because the employee's own serious health condition makes the employee unable to perform any of the essential function of his or her job. This information collection contains recordkeeping and notification requirements associated with the Act and regulations. Implementing regulations are found at 29 CFR Part 825. Two optional forms are included in this information collection request. The WH-380, Certification of Health Care Provider, may be used to certify a serious health condition under FMLA. The WH-381, Employer Response to Employee Request for Family or Medical Leave may be used by an employer to respond to a leave request under FMLA. Both forms are third-party notifications and are sent to the employee; they are not submitted to the Department of Labor. This information collection is currently approved for use through July 31, 2003.

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 approval for the extension of this information collection in order to ensure that both employers and employees are aware of and can exercise

their rights and meet their respective obligations under FMLA, and in order for the Department of Labor to carry out its statutory obligation under FMLA to investigate and ensure employer compliance have been met. Since OMB extended the expiration dates of the forms in July 2002, the Department has initiated a review of FMLA's implementing regulations to address issues raised by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Ragsdale v. Wolverine World Wide, Inc.*, 122 S. CT 1155 (2002), and decisions of other courts.

The Department expects to revise Forms WH-380 and WH-381, and these forms also may need to reflect changes that may be proposed to the FMLA regulations. The Department is requesting a one-year extension on the expiration date to the ICR. There is no change in the substance or method of collection since the last OMB approval.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Employment Standards Administration.

Title: 29 CFR Part 825, The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

OMB Number: 1215-0181.

Agency Number: WH-380, WH-381.

Affected Public: Individuals or household, Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Farms, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Total Respondents: 6.655 million.

Total Responses: 15.056 million.

Time per Response: 1 to 20 minutes.

Frequency: On Occasion (Recordkeeping, Third-Party Disclosure).

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1,210,654.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice 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: February 6, 2003.

Bruce Bohanon,

Chief, Branch of Management Review and Internal Control, Division of Financial Management, Office of Management, Administration and Planning, Employment Standards Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs

Notice of Debarment

AGENCY: Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of debarment: BFI Waste Services, L.L.C.'s 260 West Dickman Street, Baltimore, facility (Division #50).

SUMMARY: This notice advises of the debarment of BFI Waste Services, L.L.C.'s 260 West Dickman Street, Baltimore, Maryland Facility (Division #50), (hereinafter "BFI"), as an eligible bidder on Government contracts or extensions or modifications of existing contracts. The debarment is effective immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles E. James, Sr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Contract Compliance, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room C-3325, Washington, DC 20210 (202-693-1062).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 30, 2003, the United States Department of Labor's Administrative Law Judge Thomas M. Burke approved a Consent Decree, pursuant to Executive Order 11246, and its implementing regulations (41 CFR parts 60-1 *et seq.*). Under the terms of the Consent Decree, BFI Waste Service, L.L.C., its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, divisions, subsidiaries, and persons in active concert or participation with them, agrees not to bid for or enter into Government contracts for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days from the effective date of this Consent Decree. The debarment shall be lifted at the conclusion of the one hundred eighty (180) day period, if BFI satisfies the Deputy Assistant Secretary that it is in compliance with Executive Order 11246. Further, the Consent Decree provides that during the debarment period, on BFI Facility will enter into any Government contracts and subcontracts that BFI's 260 West Dickman Street, Baltimore, Maryland Facility (Division #50), would have otherwise bid for and entered into during the debarment period.

Dated: February 3, 2003, Washington, DC.

Charles E. James, Sr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Contract Compliance.

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