

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 28, 2004.

**Emily Stover DeRocco,**

*Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.*

[FR Doc. 04-15174 Filed 7-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

#### Proposed Information Collection Request

**ACTION:** Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations: Labor Surplus Areas.

**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 extension of the collection of data contained in the procedures to petition for classification as a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) under exceptional circumstances criteria.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before September 7, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Anthony D. Dais, Acting Director, USES/ALMIS, Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S-4231, Washington, DC 20210; (202) 693-2784 (not a toll-free number); Internet

address: [dais.anthony@dol.gov](mailto:dais.anthony@dol.gov); FAX: (202) 693-3015.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. *Background:* Under Executive Orders 12073 and 10582, and 20 CFR Parts 651 and 654, the Secretary of Labor is required to classify LSAs and disseminate this information for the use of all Federal agencies. This information is used by Federal agencies for various purposes including procurement decisions, food stamp waiver decisions, certain small business loan decisions, as well as other purposes determined by the agencies. The LSA list is issued annually, effective October 1 of each year, utilizing data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Areas meeting the criteria are classified as LSAs.

Department regulations specify that the Department can add other areas to the annual LSA listing under the exceptional circumstance criteria. Such additions are based upon information contained in petitions submitted by the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) to the ETA's national office. These petitions contain specific economic information about an area in order to provide ample justification for adding the area to the LSA listing under the exceptional circumstances criteria. An area is eligible for classification as a LSA if it meets all of the criteria, and if the exceptional circumstance event is not temporary or seasonal. This data collection pertains only to data submitted voluntarily by states in exceptional circumstances petitions.

Most of the information contained in the SWA LSA petitions is already available from other sources, *e.g.*, internal reports, statistical programs, newspaper clippings, etc. The petitions are not intended to provide new (unduplicated) information but serve to bring various types of information together in a single document in order that a LSA classification determination can be made. The only information which SWAs may have to develop for use in the petition is the 12-month projections of the area's labor force and unemployment. No periodic reporting is required.

II. *Desired Focus of Comments:* 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.

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office below in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

III. *Current Actions:* This is a request for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A) of an extension to an existing collection of information previously approved and assigned OMB Control No. 1205-0207. There is a reduction in burden based on an experience rate for the last two years of the approved data collection period: one petition in 2003 and zero in 2004.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Title:* Procedures for Classifying Labor Surplus Areas Exceptional Circumstances Reporting.

*OMB Number:* 1205-0207.

*Affected Public:* State Workforce Agencies.

Burden Table below:

*Total Estimated Cost to SWAs:* \$208 (\$24.93 average wage × 4 hours = 99.72 × 1 respondent = \$99.72).

Form	Number of respondents	Response per year	Total responses	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Current Procedure .....	5	5	5	4	20
Proposed Procedure .....	1	1	1	4	4

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* 0.  
*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* 0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB

approval of the ICR; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 28, 2004.

**Grace A. Kilbane,**

*Administrator, Office of Workforce  
Investment.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

#### Public Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA)

**AGENCY:** Employment and Training  
Administration, DOL.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. APP.1), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA).

**Time and Date:** The meeting will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2004, and continue until approximately 5 p.m.

**Place:** The Historic Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, Texas 78205 Ballroom B & C, (210) 223-4361.

The agenda is subject to change due to time constraints and priority items which may come before the Committee between the time of this publication and the scheduled date of the ACA meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Anthony Swoope, Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4671, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-2796, (this is not a toll-free number).

**Matters to be Considered:** The agenda will focus on the following topics:

- Debriefing on Workforce Innovations Conference
- Partnership with the Department of Education
- Coordination with Texas Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Grants, One Stop Centers & Apprenticeship
- Status on ACA Recommendations and Reports
- Public Comment

**Status:** Members of the public are invited to attend the proceedings. Individuals with special needs should contact Ms. Marion Winters at (202) 693-3786 no later than July 12, 2004, if special accommodations are required.

Any member of the public who wishes to file written data or comments pertaining to the agenda may do so by

forwarding the request to Mr. Anthony Swoope, Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4671, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Such submissions should be sent by July 12, 2004, to be included in the record for the meeting. Any member of the public who wishes to speak at the meeting should indicate the nature of the intended presentation and the amount of time needed by furnishing a written statement to the Designated Federal Official, Mr. Anthony Swoope, by July 12, 2004. The Chairperson will announce at the beginning of the meeting the extent to which time will permit the granting of such requests.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 28th day of June, 2004.

**Emily Stover DeRocco,**

*Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.*

[FR Doc. 04-15173 Filed 7-2-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-30-M**

## INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

### United States Section; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement, River Management Alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project, Sierra and Doña Ana Counties, NM and El Paso County, TX

**AGENCY:** United States Section,  
International Boundary and Water  
Commission, United States and Mexico.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Final  
Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on River Management Alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP) located in Sierra and Doña Ana Counties, NM and El Paso County, TX. The FEIS analyzes effects of the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives on the future RGCP operation, maintenance, and implementation of environmental measures. No final action will be taken on this proposal during the 30 days following the filing of this FEIS, in

accordance with the Council on Environmental regulations, 40 CFR 1506.10(b)(2).

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the FEIS are available for inspection and review at the following locations: Branigan Memorial Library, 200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso Public Library, 501 North Oregon Street, El Paso, Texas; New Mexico State University Library, Las Cruces, New Mexico; University Library, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas; and United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, 4171 North Mesa Street, El Paso, Texas. A copy of the FEIS will also be posted at the USIBWC site at <http://www.ibwc.state.gov> "IBWC News."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Douglas Echlin, Lead Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa Street, C-100, El Paso, Texas 79902 or call 915/832-4741.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USIBWC evaluated long-term river management alternatives for the RGCP, a narrow river corridor that extends 105.4 river miles along the Rio Grande, from below Percha Dam in Sierra County, New Mexico to American Dam in El Paso County, Texas. The RGCP is operated and maintained by the USIBWC and was constructed to facilitate water deliveries to the Rincon and Mesilla Valleys in New Mexico, El Paso Valley in Texas, and Juarez Valley in Mexico. The project also includes a levee system for flood control.

The USIBWC currently implements operation and maintenance procedures to enhance ecosystem functions within the RGCP; however, alterations to the river and floodway from events that pre-date RGCP construction continue to affect the river and floodway. Therefore, USIBWC recognizes the need to accomplish flood control, water delivery, and operations and maintenance activities in a manner that enhances and restores the riparian ecosystem, if possible.

River management alternatives were considered and developed over an extensive public consultation process that included input from the general public and stakeholders such as regulatory agencies, irrigation districts, farmers, and environmental organizations. The No Action Alternative and three potential action alternatives were selected for further evaluation. Levee rehabilitation, changes associated with grazing leases to improve erosion control, floodway management, and river restoration