

**Fiscal Service****Proposed Collection of Information: Focus Groups of Individual Federal Government Program Check Recipients (Socioeconomic and Demographic Study)**

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Financial Management Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection. By this notice, the Financial Management Service solicits comments concerning the study "Focus Groups of Individual Federal Government Program Check Recipients (Socioeconomic and Demographic Study).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 24, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Financial Management Service, 3361-L 75th Avenue, Landover, Maryland 20785.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Eleanor Kelly, Agency Services, Room 1311, 1411 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20227, (202) 874-9536.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Financial Management Service solicits comments on the collection of information described below.

*Title:* Focus Groups of Individual Federal Government Program Check Recipients (Socioeconomic and Demographic Study).

*OMB Number:* 1510-0068.

*Form Number:* None.

*Abstract:* The legislative language accompanying Public Law 104-134, Debt Collection and Improvement Act of 1996, "\* \* \* directs the disbursing official (the Secretary of the Treasury) to study the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of those who currently do not have Direct Deposit and determine how best to increase usage among all groups." 142 Cong. Rec. H4091 (daily ed. April 25, 1996). The Financial Management Service (FMS) and its contractor, Booz, Allen and Hamilton and Shugoll Research, plan to conduct a two-stage study: a quantitative telephone survey preceded by focus groups to aid in the design of the telephone survey

instrument. Six focus groups of approximately 8-10 individuals each will be conducted in three areas—Philadelphia, PA, Tampa, FL, and Kansas City, MO. Focus group participants will be pre-screened to fit into one of the following categories: Retirees, disabled, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check recipients. Participation in the focus groups will be used by FMS and its contractor to guide the design of the telephone survey instrument. The telephone survey phase of the study will provide quantitative research information from approximately 1,000 Federal benefit check recipients. FMS and its contractor estimate that the telephone survey questions will be asked in a fifteen (15) minute telephone call with each respondent. Respondent participation in the telephone survey is voluntary. The results of the telephone survey and information obtained through secondary research by the contractor will be used to develop a marketing (media) plan, which will serve as the basis for a marketing campaign to persuade Federal program check recipients to enroll in Direct Deposit for their benefit payments prior to the January 1, 1999, deadline for mandatory electronic payments under Public Law 101-104.

*Current Actions:* New collection.

*Type of Review:* Regular.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 250 hours.

*Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: December 11, 1996.

Mitchell A. Levine,

*Assistant Commissioner.*

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BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

**Internal Revenue Service**

[PS-105-75]

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request For Regulation Project**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, PS-105-75 (TD 8348), Limitations on Percentage Depletion in the Case of Oil and Gas Wells (§ 1.613A-3(l)).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 24, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Limitations on Percentage Depletion in the Case of Oil and Gas Wells.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0919.

*Regulation Project Number:* PS-105-75 (final).

*Abstract:* Section 1.613A-3(l) of the regulation requires each partner to separately keep records of his or her share of the adjusted basis of partnership oil and gas property and requires each partnership, trust, estate, and operator to provide to certain persons the information necessary to compute depletion with respect to oil or gas.

*Current Actions:* There is no change to this existing regulation.

*Type of Review:* Extension of OMB approval.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations.

The burden associated with this collection of information is reflected on Forms 1065, 1041, and 706.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS:** Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: December 17, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-32672 Filed 12-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

[EE-35-85]

### **Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, EE-35-85 (TD 8219), Income Tax: Taxable Years Beginning After December 31, 1953; OMB Control Number Under The Paperwork Reduction Act; Survivor Benefits, Distribution Restriction and Various Other Issues Under the Retirement Equity Act of 1984 (§ 1.402(a)-20).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 24, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Income Tax: Taxable Years Beginning After December 31, 1953; OMB Control Number Under The Paperwork Reduction Act; Survivor Benefits, Distribution Restriction and Various Other Issues Under the Retirement Equity Act of 1984.

**OMB Number:** 1545-0928.

**Regulation Project Number:** EE-35-85.

**Abstract:** The notices referred to in this Treasury Decision are required by statute and must be provided by employers to retirement plan participants to inform participants of their right under the plan or under the law. Failure to timely notify participants of their rights may result in loss of plan benefits.

**Current Actions:** Internal Revenue Code section 402(f) was substantially amended by the Unemployment Compensation Amendments Act of

1992. As a result, new regulations were issued amending section 1.402(f)-1.

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

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organization, not-for-profit institutions, Federal Government, and state, local or tribal government.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 750,000.

**Estimated Time Per Respondent:** 31 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:** 385,000.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice: An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS:** Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: December 18, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer*

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