

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The Task Force, established by Secretary of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin in the fall of 1996, focuses on consumer issues expected to arise from emerging electronic money and payments technology. The Task Force is chaired by Eugene A. Ludwig, Comptroller of the Currency, and includes Andrew C. Hove, Jr., Vice Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Edward W. Kelley, Jr., Governor, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Nicolas P. Retsinas, Director, Office of Thrift Supervision; Robert Pitofsky, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission; Russell D. Morris, Commissioner, Financial Management Service; and, Jack Guynn, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

The Task Force's mission is to identify and explore issues affecting consumers raised by emerging electronic money technologies (such as stored value and smart card and internet based payment systems) and to identify innovative responses to those issues, consistent with the needs of a developing market. The Task Force's objectives include:

- (1) Identifying consumer issues raised by electronic money;
- (2) Evaluating the extent to which consumer issues concerning electronic money are addressed by state and federal laws and regulations and voluntary industry guidelines; and,
- (3) Identifying innovative, non-regulatory approaches that help the electronic money industry address consumer issues.

**Request for Comment and Statements at the Public Meeting**

The Task Force is hereby requesting comment on all aspects of this notice including, the following specific issues:

**Consumer Disclosure and Protections**

- (1) Currently, what information is disclosed to customers about electronic money products and how and when does the disclosure occur? What concerns, if any, arise from the potential different disclosures from different types of providers or concerning different types of products?
- (2) What information do customers most often seek? What sorts of things do customers most often misunderstand about electronic money products? Does the disclosed information provided by electronic money issuers respond to customer information needs?
- (3) What types of customer complaint or customer problems are the most

prevalent? What have been the responses of electronic money issuers to these problems?

**Access to Electronic Money**

(4) What electronic money products are, or are likely to be, most useful to the elderly, members of minority groups, disabled persons, the poor? What impediments, if any, exist to access by these groups to these products or to the development of products that are responsive to these needs?

(5) What are electronic money issuers doing to reach and serve these types of customers?

(6) Do electronic money issuers need additional incentives to reach and serve these customers? What role do electronic money issuers and the government have in helping to improve access to electronic money products?

**Financial Condition of Issuers**

(7) If an issuer fails, what is the status of customers holding electronic money issued by that entity? What problems, if any, would customers face as a result of the failure of, or financial difficulties experienced by, an issuer? Do customers believe some types of products or issuers to be more secure than others?

(8) What types of prudential requirements—such as liquidity and capital requirements—apply to issuers (both depository and non-depository institutions)? What types of financial resources and backing are used by issuers?

(9) What information is available to consumers concerning the financial condition of, and customer satisfaction with, issuers?

**Public Meeting**

Any person desiring to participate in the public meeting must submit a request to do so.

The Task Force will hold the first public meeting which will address all aspects of this notice, on June 9, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the NASA Auditorium, which is located on the first floor of the NASA building, West Entrance, 300 E St., SW, Washington, DC. At that meeting one or more members of the Task Force, and their senior staffs, will receive oral comments from those interested persons scheduled in advance to appear. Participants will be permitted to make a brief oral presentation. The Task Force will acknowledge receipt of requests to participate and will inform participants of scheduling.

Please notify Franca Harris, OCC, Attorney, Chief Counsel's Office, prior

to the public meeting if auxiliary aids or services are needed at (202) 874-5200.

The Task Force will hold a second public meeting, focused on privacy and other issues, on July 17, 1997. Details concerning the time and place of this meeting will appear in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice.

Dated: April 14, 1997.

**Eugene A. Ludwig,**

*Comptroller of the Currency and Chairman, Consumer Electronic Payments Task Force.*

[FR Doc. 97-10027 Filed 4-17-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Bureau of the Public Debt****Proposed Collection: Comment Request**

**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 Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Certificate of Ownership of United States Bearer Securities.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before June 17, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Certificate of Ownership of United States Bearer Securities.

*OMB Number:* 1535-0102.

*Form Number:* PD F 1071.

*Abstract:* The information is requested to establish ownership and support a request for payment.

*Current Actions:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 500.

#### **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.

Date: April 14, 1997.

**Vicki S. Thorpe,**

*Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.*

[FR Doc. 97-10062 Filed 4-17-97; 8:45 am]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

### **Bureau of the Public Debt**

#### **Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**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 Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Request By Fiduciary For Reissue of United States Savings Bonds/Notes.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before June 17, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Request By Fiduciary For Reissue Of United States Savings Bonds/Notes.

*OMB Number:* 1535-0012.

*Form Number:* PD F 1455.

*Abstract:* The information is requested to support a request for reissue by the fiduciary of a decedent's estate.

*Current Actions:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 72,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 36,000.

#### **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.

Dated: April 14, 1997.

**Vicki S. Thorpe,**

*Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.*

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