

14, 1998, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(4), (6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Panel Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, or call (202) 682-5691.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 98-23126 Filed 8-27-98; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Combined Arts Panel

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Combined Arts Advisory Panel, Dance (B) Section (Planning & Stabilization category) to the National Council on the Arts will meet on September 16, 1998. The panel will meet from 5:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in Room 716 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506.

This meeting is for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency by grant applicants. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of May 14, 1998, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(4), (6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Panel Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, or call (202) 682-5691.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts.

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Combined Arts Advisory Panel

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Combined Arts Advisory Panel, Museum/Visual Arts Section (Planning & Stabilization category) to the National Council on the Arts will be held on September 23-24, 1998. The panel will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on September 23 and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 24, in Room 716 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506. A portion of this meeting, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on September 24, will be open to the public for a policy discussion on field issues and needs, Leadership Initiatives, Millennium projects, and guidelines.

The remaining portions of this meeting, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on September 23, and from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 24, are for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency by grant applicants. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of May 14, 1998, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(4), (6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Any person may observe meetings, or portions thereof, of advisory panels which are open to the public, and, if time allows, may be permitted to participate in the panel's discussions at the discretion of the panel chairman and with the approval of the full-time Federal employee in attendance.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506, 202/682-5532, TDY-TDD 202/682-5496, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 98-23128 Filed 8-27-98; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Combined Arts Advisory Panel

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Combined Arts Advisory Panel, Music/Opera Section (Planning & Stabilization category) to the National Council on the Arts will be held on September 22-24, 1998. The panel will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on September 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 23, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on September 24 in Room 714 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20506. A portion of this meeting, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 23, will be open to the public for a policy discussion on field issues and needs, Leadership Initiatives, Millennium projects, and guidelines.

The remaining portions of this meeting, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on September 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 23, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on September 24, are for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency by grant applicants. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of May 14, 1998, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(4), (6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Any person may observe meetings, or portions thereof, of advisory panels which are open to the public, and, if time allows, may be permitted to participate in the panel's discussions at the discretion of the panel chairman and with the approval of the full-time Federal employee in attendance.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506, 202/682-5532, TDY-TDD

202/682-5496, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC, 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

*Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations,
National Endowment for the Arts.*

[FR Doc. 98-23129 Filed 8-27-98; 8:45 am]

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Submission of Information Collections for OMB Review; Comment Request; Multiemployer Plan Regulations

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of request for extension of OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) extend approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of collections of information in the PBGC's regulations on multiemployer plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). This notice informs the public of the PBGC's request and solicits public comment on the collections of information.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by September 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of the request for extension (including the collections of information) are available from the Communications and Public Affairs Department, suite 240, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on business days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah C. Murphy, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, 202-326-4024. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a

collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved and issued control numbers for the collections of information, described below, in the PBGC's regulations relating to multiemployer plans. (The regulations may be accessed on the PBGC's web site at <http://www.pbgc.gov>.) The PBGC is requesting that OMB extend its approval of these collections of information for three years. Comments should identify the specific part number(s) of the regulation(s) they relate to.

The collections of information for which the PBGC is requesting extension of OMB approval are as follows:

1. Termination of Multiemployer Plans (29 CFR Part 4041A) (OMB Control Number 1212-0020)

Section 4041A(f)(2) of ERISA authorizes the PBGC to prescribe reporting requirements for and other "rules and standards for the administration of" terminated multiemployer plans. Section 4041A(c) and (f)(1) of ERISA prohibit the payment by a mass-withdrawal-terminated plan of lump sums greater than \$1,750 or of nonvested plan benefits unless authorized by the PBGC.

The regulation requires the plan sponsor of a terminated plan to submit a notice of termination to the PBGC. It also requires the plan sponsor of a mass-withdrawal-terminated plan that is closing out to give notices to participants regarding the election of alternative forms of benefit distribution and to obtain PBGC approval to pay lump sums greater than \$1,750 or to pay nonvested plan benefits.

The PBGC uses the information in a notice of termination to assess the likelihood that PBGC financial assistance will be needed. Plan participants and beneficiaries use the information on alternative forms of benefit to make personal financial decisions. The PBGC uses the information in an application for approval to pay lump sums greater than \$1,750 or to pay nonvested plan benefits to determine whether such payments should be permitted.

This collection of information is being revised to include certain items that were previously covered under OMB control number 1212-0032 (because they were in a different part of the PBGC's regulations) but that were moved into Part 4041A when the PBGC reorganized its regulations in 1996. As revised, control number 1212-0020 will cover all collection of information requirements in Part 4041A.

The PBGC estimates that plan sponsors each year (1) submit notices of

termination for 20 plans, (2) distribute election notices to participants in 15 plans, and (3) submit requests to pay benefits or benefit forms not otherwise permitted for 1 plan. The estimated annual burden of the collection of information is 48.1 hours and \$13,481.

2. Extension of Special Withdrawal Liability Rules (29 CFR Part 4203) (OMB Control Number 1212-0023)

Sections 4203(f) and 4208(e)(3) of ERISA allow the PBGC to permit a multiemployer plan to adopt special rules for determining whether a withdrawal from the plan has occurred, subject to PBGC approval.

The regulation specifies the information that a plan that adopts special rules must submit to the PBGC about the rules, the plan, and the industry in which the plan operates. The PBGC uses the information to determine whether the rules are appropriate for the industry in which the plan functions and do not pose a significant risk to the insurance system.

The PBGC estimates that at most 1 plan sponsor submits a request each year under this regulation. The estimated annual burden of the collection of information is 1 hour and \$2,400.

3. Variances for Sale of Assets (29 CFR Part 4204) (OMB Control Number 1212-0021)

If an employer's covered operations or contribution obligation under a plan ceases, the employer must generally pay withdrawal liability to the plan. Section 4204 of ERISA provides an exception, under certain conditions, where the cessation results from a sale of assets. Among other things, the buyer must furnish a bond or escrow, and the sale contract must provide for secondary liability of the seller.

The regulation establishes general variances (rules for avoiding the bond/escrow and sale-contract requirements) and authorizes plans to determine whether the variances apply in particular cases. It also allows buyers and sellers to request individual variances from the PBGC. Plans and the PBGC use the information to determine whether employers qualify for variances.

The PBGC estimates that each year, 11 employers submit, and 11 plans respond to, variance requests under the regulation, and 2 employers submit variance requests to the PBGC. The estimated annual burden of the collection of information is 1 hour and \$2,663.