

agency; the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collections; and ways to minimize the information collection burdens on respondents, such as use of automated means of collections of the information, to the following addresses. Please refer to OMB control number 1029-0061 for Part 795, and 1029-0110 for the technical training effectiveness evaluation forms.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Department of Interior Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503. Also, please send a copy of your comments to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW, Room 210—SIB, Washington, DC 20240, or electronically to [jtreleas@osmre.gov](mailto:jtreleas@osmre.gov).

Dated: April 11, 2000.

**Richard G. Bryson,**

*Chief, Division of Regulatory Support.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-05-M**

## 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 extension collection of the following: (1) Notice of Termination, Suspension, Reduction or Increase in Payment Benefits (CM-908); and (2) Economic Survey Schedule (WH-1). Copies of the proposed information collection requests can be obtained by

contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this Notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section below on or before June 13, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Ms. Patricia A. Forkel, U. S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S-3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-0339 (this is not a toll-free number), fax (202) 693-1451.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Notice of Termination, Suspension, Reduction, or Increase in Benefit Payments

##### I. Background

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) administers the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. Under the Act, responsible coal mine operators or their representatives must provide benefit payments to eligible coal miners and dependents of coal miners who have contracted pneumoconiosis. Responsible operators who pay benefits are required to report any changes in the benefit amount, and the reasons for the change, to the Department of Labor.

##### 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 the extension of approval to collect this information in order to carry out its responsibility to ensure that Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation regulations are followed and that the

new benefit amount is accurate and timely.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Employment Standards Administration.

*Title:* Notice of Termination, Suspension, Reduction or Increase in Benefit Payments.

*OMB Number:* 1215-0064.

*Agency Number:* CM-908.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit.

*Total Respondents:* 325.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Total Responses:* 9,000.

*Average Time per Response:* 12 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 1,800.

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

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* \$3.

#### Economic Survey Schedule

##### I. Background

Sections 5, 6(a)(3) and 8 of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), administered by the Wage and Hour Division, provide that covered, nonexempt employees in American Samoa may be paid a minimum wage rate established by a special industry committee. The committee is to recommend to the Secretary of Labor the highest minimum wage rate (not to exceed the rate required under section 6(a)(1) of the FLSA) that it determines, having due regard to economic and competitive conditions, will not substantially curtail employment in the industry and will not give any industry in American Samoa a competitive advantage over any other industry in the United States outside of American Samoa. The Secretary of Labor must submit to the industry committee economic data to enable the committee to recommend the industry wage rates. The Economic Survey Schedule (WH-1) is a voluntary use form completed by employers in American Samoa to disclose certain economic data concerning their establishment.

##### 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 the extension of approval to collect this information in order to gather information necessary to prepare the required economic report to be used by the committee to set industry wage rates in American Samoa.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Employment Standards Administration.

*Title:* Economic Survey Schedule.

*OMB Number:* 1215-0028.

*Agency Number:* WH-1.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Total Respondents:* 50.

*Frequency:* Biennially.

*Total Responses:* 50.

*Average Time per Response:* 45 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 38.

*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: April 7, 2000.

**Margaret J. Sherrill,**

*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

### Employment Standards Administration

#### Minimum Wages for Federal and Federally Assisted Construction; General Wage Determination Decisions

General wage determination decisions of the Secretary of Labor are issued in accordance with applicable law and are based on the information obtained by

the Department of Labor from its study of local wage conditions and data made available from other sources. They specify the basic hourly wage rates and fringe benefits which are determined to be prevailing for the described classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction projects of a similar character and in the localities specified therein.

The determinations in these decisions of prevailing rates and fringe benefits have been made in accordance with 29 CFR Part 1, by authority of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act of March 3, 1931, as amended (46 Stat. 1494, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 276a) and of other Federal statutes referred to in 29 CFR part 1 appendix, as well as such additional statutes as may from time to time be enacted containing provisions for the payment of wages determined to be prevailing by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. The prevailing rates and fringe benefits determined in these decisions shall, in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing statutes, constitute the minimum wages payable on Federal and federally assisted construction projects to laborers and mechanics of the specified classes engaged on contract work of the character and in the localities described therein.

Good cause is hereby found for not utilizing notice and public comment procedure thereon prior to the issuance of these determinations as prescribed in 5 U.S.C. 553 and not providing for delay in the effective date as prescribed in that section, because the necessity to issue current construction industry wage determinations frequently and in large volume causes procedures to be impractical and contrary to the public interest.

General wage determination decisions, and modifications and supersedes decisions thereto, contain no expiration dates and are effective from their date of notice in the **Federal Register**, or on the date written notice is received by the agency, whichever is earlier. These decisions are to be used in accordance with the provisions of 29 CFR parts 1 and 5. Accordingly, the applicable decision, together with any modifications issued, must be made a part of every contract for performance of the described work within the geographic area indicated as required by an applicable Federal prevailing wage law and 29 CFR part 5. The wage rates and fringe benefits, notice of which is published herein, and which are contained in the Government Printing Office (GPO) document entitled "General Wage Determinations Issued

Under the Davis-Bacon And Related Acts," shall be the minimum paid by contractors and subcontractors to laborers and mechanics.

Any person, organization, or governmental agency having an interest in the rates determined as prevailing is encouraged to submit wage rate and fringe benefit information for consideration by the Department. Further information and self-explanatory forms for the purpose of submitting this data may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, Division of Wage Determinations, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S-3014, Washington, DC 20210.

#### Withdrawn General Wage Determination Decision

This is to advise all interest parties that the Department of Labor is withdrawing, from the date of this notice, the following General wage Determinations:

OH000005—See OH000004

OH000006—See OH000004

OH000009—See OH000004

OH000021—See OH000004

OH000022—See OH000004

Contracts for which bids have been opened shall not be affected by this notice. Also, consistent with 29 CFR 1.6(c)(2)(i)(A), when the opening of bids is less than ten (10) days from the date of this notice, this action shall be effected unless the agency finds that there is insufficient time to notify bidders of the change and the finding is documented in the contract file.

#### New General Wage Determination Decision

The number of the decisions added to the Government Printing Office document entitled "General Wage Determinations Issued Under the Davis-Bacon and related Acts" are listed by Volume and States:

##### Volume III

North Carolina:

NC000055 (Apr. 14, 2000)

#### Modifications to General Wage Determination Decisions

The number of decisions listed in the Government Printing Office document entitled "General Wage Determinations Issued Under the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts" being modified are listed by Volume and State. Dates of publication in the **Federal Register** are in parentheses following the decisions being modified.

##### Volume I

None