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**Ellen M. Mahan,**

*Assistant Chief, Environment Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Requested

**ACTION:** 60-day notice of information collection under review: extension of a currently approved collection; Federal Firearms Licensee Firearms Inventory Theft/Loss Report.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for "sixty days" until April 14, 2003. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

If you have comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Ben Hayes, National Tracing Center, 244 Needy Road, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- (1) 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;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information,

including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) 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 submission of responses.

*Overview of this information collection:*

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Federal Firearms Licensee Firearms Inventory Theft/Loss Report.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection: Form Number:* ATF F 3310.11, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract: Primary:* Individuals or households. *Other:* Business or other for-profit. *Abstract:* Authorization of this form is requested as the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act requires Federal firearms licensees to report to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and to the appropriate local authorities any theft or loss of a firearm from the licensee's inventory or collection, within a specific time frame after the theft or loss is discovered.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* It is estimated that 4,000 respondents will complete a 24 minute form.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* The total annual public burden hours for this information collection is estimated to be 1,600 hours.

If additional information is required contact: Robert B. Briggs, Department Clearance Officer, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Department of Justice, Patrick Henry Building, Suite 1600, 601 D Street NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: February 10, 2003.

**Robert B. Briggs,**

*Department Clearance Officer, Department of Justice.*

[FR Doc. 03-3563 Filed 2-12-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment & Training Administration

#### Office of Policy Development Evaluation and Research; Call for Papers; Biennial National Research Conference on "Workforce Investment Issues in the United States"; Washington, DC June 4-5, 2003

*Summary:* The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is the federal government agency responsible for implementing a national workforce investment and security system that enables workers and employers to compete and succeed in an ever-changing economy. This task is accomplished through the provision of world class labor market information, labor exchange services, job search assistance, training, and unemployment insurance benefits. These programs assist in the management of the risks associated with unemployment, declining income and skill shortages. They help workers in their search for work and their efforts to upgrade their human capital. They help employers find new employees who meet their skill requirements and upgrade the skills of their incumbent workers.

In 1998, the Workforce Investment Act, the nation's most comprehensive effort at streamlining and transforming public employment, job training and education programs and agencies into a system that meets the skill needs of today's economy, was passed. The implementation of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 combines a variety of workforce development programs and initiatives under one umbrella—the One-Stop System—to effectively serve the needs of job-seekers, workers and employers in the changing workforce development environment at the onset of the 21st century economy.

Under the provisions of the WIA, the Secretary of Labor is required every two years to prepare a five-year research plan for research, pilot and demonstration initiatives. This research plan reflects a strategic vision for research efforts based upon input from stakeholders in employment and training research, a review of recent efforts, an identification of areas where future research may be needed, and a review of possible research methodologies.

In light of major changes in the macro-economy that have taken place in the areas of technological transformation, increasing globalization and changing demographics over the

recent years, and the resulting effects of rising workforce insecurity, the Employment and Training Administration will hold its second national research conference since the enactment of WIA. The conference will focus on issues related to trends, challenges and impacts of the macro-economy to workforce investment, significance of recent changes in workforce investment, workforce competitiveness in the global economy, changing business requirements, workforce security in our new economy, and major policy options to increase productivity by meeting the skill needs of business and promoting economic opportunities for the United States workforce. A plenary session is planned to discuss the soon-to-be published 2002–2007 plan and lay the groundwork for the 2004–2009 research plan.

This is a call for empirical/non-empirical papers related to workforce investment issues. ETA is seeking recently completed papers and papers that will be completed prior to the conference. We encourage contributions by researchers from academia, state or local agencies, business organizations, labor associations, research consulting firms and other relevant organizations. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Workforce Investment Act (program implementation and administration of adult, dislocated worker and youth programs; issues relating to WIA reauthorization).
- Skills Requirements of Employers (skills needed by employers in particular sectors and industries, the effect of new technologies, including the internet and e-commerce, on skill needs of employers).
- Changes in the Structure and Organization of Work (changes in tenure and the rise of contingent work arrangements).
- Effect of Contingent Work on Hiring Practices (the effect of hiring practices of employers and the job search behavior of individuals).
- Role of Intermediaries in the Labor Market (whether intermediaries offer new approaches and techniques that can be adapted by the public-sector employment and training community).
- Adaptability of the Unemployment Insurance Program to an evolving U.S. economy. (program administration, coverage, eligibility, benefit adequacy, benefit duration, reciprocity, benefit financing, economic stabilization, special populations and changing work patterns).
- Changes in Wages and Compensation (effect of education on workers' earnings).

- Wages and Compensation Trends (recent trends in the receipt of benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits) Interventions (employment and training intervention responses to wage and compensation trends).

- Impact of technology, Internet and Labor Market Information on labor exchange processes.

- Education—Workforce Training Continuum (appropriate roles of public K–12 and higher education integrated with Workforce Investment System).

*Time and Place:* The conference will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 4, 2003 and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 5, 2003 at the Holiday Inn, Capital Hill, 550 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

*Submission of Papers:* All papers submitted will be reviewed by a panel of DOL experts in the workforce development arena and presenters will be notified if their papers are selected. Papers reporting on research and development, evaluation studies, pilot efforts, or applied practices are encouraged. Selected papers selected for the conference will be published as part of the ETA Occasional Paper Series. Travel and accommodation for invited presenters will be paid by the Employment and Training Administration. If interested, please submit your paper and abstract if possible in hard copy and diskette/CD (Word) by March 1, 2003. Papers should be doubled-spaced and single sided. You will be notified by April 4, 2003, if your paper is selected; you will have to confirm your attendance by April 15, 2001. Please send your papers and abstract to the logistical contractor for this contract, HMA Associates, Inc., 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., 2nd Floor, Washington, DC, 20007, Attn: Peggie Edwards-Jefferies. She may be reached at 202–342–8258. We also encourage submitting abstracts for papers that have not yet been completed, but will be completed before the deadline for submission of papers.

*Public Participation:* This Conference is open to the public; there is no registration fee. For registration information, please send name, address, e-mail address, affiliation, and telephone number to H.M.A Associates, Inc., 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., 2nd Floor, Washington, DC, 20007, Attn: Peggie Edwards-Jefferies or email them to [hmaassociates.com](mailto:hmaassociates.com).

Signed at Washington, DC, this 5th day of February.

**Gerard F. Fiala,**

*Administrator, Office of Policy Development, Evaluation and Research.*

[FR Doc. 03–3559 Filed 2–12–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510–30–P**

## 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 collection: 29 CFR part 825, The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this Notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before April 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Ms. Hazel M. Bell, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S–3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–0418, fax (202) 693–1451, E-mail [hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov](mailto:hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov). Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or E-mail).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

##### I. Background

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), Public Law 103.3, 107 Stat. 6, 29 U.S.C. 2601, which became effective on August 5, 1993, requires private sector employers of 50 or more employees, and public agencies to provide up to 13 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during any 12-month