

studied. The type of feedback being solicited will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, and to contribute directly to the improvement of program management, provide an early warning of service issues, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services.

SBA expects to use various methods (e.g., focus groups, customer satisfaction surveys, comment cards), to solicit public feedback and will target areas such as: Timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Agency's services will be unavailable.

The Agency will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

The collection is voluntary;

The collection is low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and is low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;

The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;

The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;

Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;

Information gathered will be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the agency;

Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; Information gathered will yield qualitative information;

This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the

sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior to undertaking the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

As a general matter, the generic information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

Affected Public: Individuals; Business or Other For-Profit; Not-For-Profit Institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 7,500.

Projected average burden estimates for the next three years:

Average Annual Number of Collection Activities: 8.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Total Annual Responses: 7,500.

Average Minutes per Response: 38 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 4,750.

Frequency: On occasion.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. 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.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology

and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Curtis B. Rich,

Management Analyst.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 10124]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: FLO Professional Development Fellowship (PDF) Application

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to November 27, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web:* Persons with access to the Internet may comment on this notice by going to www.Regulations.gov. You can search for the document by entering "Docket Number: DOS-2017-0038" in the Search field. Then click the "Comment Now" button and complete the comment form.

- *Email:* FLOAskEmployment@state.gov.

- *Regular Mail:* Send written comments to: Bureau of Human Resources, Family Liaison Office, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20520.

- *Fax:* (202) 647-1670.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional

information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to Ramona Sandoval, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, DC, who may be reached on 202-647-1076 or at sandovalrm@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* FLO Professional Development Fellowship (PDF) Application.

- *OMB Control Number:* None.
- *Type of Request:* New Collection.
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Human Resources, Family Liaison Office (HR/FLO).

- *Form Number:* DS-4297.

- *Respondents:* The PDF program is open to spouses and partners of direct-hire U.S. government employees from all agencies serving overseas under Chief of Mission authority at U.S. embassies and consulates overseas.

- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 260.

- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 260.

- *Average Time per Response:* 2.75 hours.

- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 715 annual hours.

- *Frequency:* Annually.

- *Obligation to Respond:* Required to Obtain a Benefit.

- We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.

- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of proposed collection: FLO needs the information collected in the PDF application to determine who will receive a Professional Development Fellowship. The information is provided to selection committees that use a set of criteria to score the applications. Respondents are spouses

and partners of direct-hire U.S. government employees from all agencies serving overseas under Chief of Mission who want to maintain, enhance, and/or develop professional skills while overseas. The information is sought pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2651a—Organization of the Department of State, 22 U.S.C. 3921—Management of the Foreign Service.

Methodology: Applicants will email the completed application to FLO's PDF program manager.

Susan Frost,

Director, Family Liaison Office, Bureau of Human Resources, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2017-20513 Filed 9-25-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-15-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[STB Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 1)]

Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC), pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). **DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. E.D.T.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Hearing Room on the first floor of the Board's headquarters at 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Higgins (202) 245-0284; Michael.Higgins@stb.gov. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: (800) 877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RETAC was formed in 2007 to provide advice and guidance to the Board, and to serve as a forum for discussion of emerging issues related to the transportation of energy resources by rail, including coal, ethanol, and other biofuels. *Establishment of a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee*, Docket No. EP 670. The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussions regarding issues such as rail performance, capacity constraints, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, carriers, and users of energy resources. Potential agenda items for this meeting include a performance

measures review, industry segment updates by RETAC members, a presentation on energy transportation logistics, and a roundtable discussion.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2; Federal Advisory Committee Management regulations, 41 CFR pt. 102-3; RETAC's charter; and Board procedures. Further communications about this meeting may be announced through the Board's Web site at www.stb.gov.

Written Comments: Members of the public may submit written comments to RETAC at any time. Comments should be addressed to RETAC, c/o Michael Higgins, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001 or Michael.Higgins@stb.gov.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1321, 49 U.S.C. 11101; 49 U.S.C. 11121.

Decided: September 20, 2017.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Rena Laws-Byrum,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2017-20505 Filed 9-25-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: United States Trade and Development.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency has submitted a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to review and approve an extension for a currently approved information collection for Evaluation of USTDA Performance. USTDA published its first **Federal Register** Notice on this information request extension on July 12, 2017, at 82 FR 32223, at which time a 60-day comment period was announced. No comments were received in response to this notice at the end of the comment period.

DATES: Comments must be received by OMB by October 26, 2017 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the subject form and the request for extension prepared for submission to OMB may be obtained from the Agency Submitting Officer. Comments should be addressed as follows: Desk Officer for USTDA, Office