

obligations that are designed to safeguard plan assets by periodically providing information to plan fiduciaries, who generally must be independent, about the cross-trading program. Initially, where plans are not invested in Funds, Managers must furnish information to plan fiduciaries about the cross-trading program, provide a statement that the Manager will have a potentially conflicting division of loyalties, and obtain written authorization from a plan fiduciary for a plan to participate in a cross-trading program. For plans that are currently invested in Funds, the Manager must provide annual notices to update the plan fiduciary and provide the plan with an opportunity to withdraw from the program. For Large Accounts, prior to the cross-trade, the Manager must provide information about the cross-trading program and obtain written authorization from the fiduciary of a Large Account to engage in cross-trading in connection with a portfolio restructuring program. Following completion of the Large Account's restructuring, information must be provided by the Manager about all cross-trades executed in connection with a portfolio-restructuring program. Finally, the exemption requires that Managers maintain for a period of 6 years from the date of each cross-trade the records necessary to enable plan fiduciaries and certain other persons specified in the exemption (e.g., Department representatives or contributing employers), to determine whether the conditions of the exemption have been met.

EBSA previously submitted the information collection provisions of PTE 2002-12 to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review in connection with promulgation of the prohibited transaction exemption. OMB approved the information collection request (ICR) under OMB Control No. 1210-0115. The ICR approval is currently scheduled to expire on June 30, 2006.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Department of Labor (Department) is particularly interested in comments that:

- Provide information related to the number of entities offering Index and Model-Driven Funds and their client plans, and the number of Large Accounts that may make use of the exemption;
- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including

whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the Department'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

This notice requests comments on an extension of the information collections in PTE 2002-12. After considering comments received in response to this notice, the Department intends to submit the ICR to OMB for continuing approval. Extension of the information collection provision of the exemption is important because, without the disclosures and recordkeeping provided for in the exemption, participants' and beneficiaries' investments in a pension plan might not be adequately protected. In addition, Managers that cross trade securities among Funds or cross trade securities in connection with the restructuring of a portfolio of a Large Account would be subject to statutorily imposed sanctions under ERISA. Lastly, the exemption provides a benefit to plans and participants through savings that result from index/model cross-trading. No change to the existing ICR is being proposed or made at this time. A summary of the ICR and the current burden estimates follows:

Agency: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

Title: Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 2002-12, Cross-Trades of Securities by Index and Model-Driven Funds.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

OMB Number: 1210-0115.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Respondents: 60.

Responses: 840.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 4,328.

Estimated Total Burden Cost

(Operating and Maintenance): \$95,659.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the ICR submitted to OMB

for approval; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 2, 2006.

Susan G. Lahne,

Office of Policy and Research, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-3235 Filed 3-7-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Humanities, NFAH.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is soliciting public comments on the proposed information collection described below. The proposed information collection will be sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments on this information collection must be submitted on or before May 8, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Ms. Susan Daisey, Director, Office of Grant Management, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 311, Washington, DC 20506, or by e-mail to: sdaisey@neh.gov. Telephone: 202-606-8494

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Endowment for the Humanities will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies. NEH is particularly interested in comments which help the agency to: (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 agency's 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 electronic collection

techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title of Proposal: Generic Clearance Authority for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

OMB Number: 3136-0134.

Affected Public: Applicants to NEH grant programs, reviewers of NEH grant applications, and NEH award recipients.

Total Respondents: 8,762.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Total Responses: 8,762.

Average Time per Response: Varied according to type of information collection.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 74,979 hours.

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.

Brett Bobley,

Chief Information Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities.

[FR Doc. E6-3234 Filed 3-7-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7536-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for proposed activities in the Arctic Ocean.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation gives notice of the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for proposed activities in the Arctic Ocean.

The Office of Polar Programs (OPP) has prepared an Environmental Assessment of a marine geophysical survey by the Coast Guard cutter *Healy* in the western Canada Basin, Chukchi Borderland and Mendeleev Ridge, Arctic Ocean, during July–August, 2006. Given the United States Arctic Program’s mission to support polar research, the proposed action is expected to result in substantial benefits to science. The draft Environmental Assessment is available for public review for a 30-day period.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 7, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment are available upon request from: Dr. Polly A. Penhale, National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 755, Arlington, VA 22230 at 703-292-8031 or ppenhale@nsf.gov or at the agency’s Web site at

http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/arc_envir/healy_ea_06.pdf.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The University of Texas, Austin, with research funding from the National Science Foundation plans to conduct a marine seismic survey in the western Canada Basin, Chukchi Borderland and Mendeleev Ridge, Arctic Ocean, during the period of 15 July to 25 August 2006 (approximately). This project will include collection of seismic reflection and refraction data as well as sediment coring intended to collect crustal structure samples. The purpose of the seismic survey is to study the origin and kinematics of the Amerasian Basin’s opening. The data collected will be used to analyze the internal structure of the ridges and plateaus of the Amerasian basin allowing current theories of its formation to be tested. The proposed study will consist of a geophysical survey in the Arctic Ocean with seven interspersed periods of coring.

Several species of cetaceans and pinnipeds inhabit the Arctic Ocean. The increased underwater noise from the research may result in avoidance behavior by some marine mammals and fish, and other forms of disturbance. An integral part of the planned survey is a monitoring and mitigation program to minimize impacts of the proposed activities on marine species present, and on fishing and subsistence activities, and to document the nature and extent of any effects. Injurious impacts to marine mammals have not been proven to occur near equipment proposed to be used in this research; however, the planned monitoring and mitigation measures would minimize the possibility of such effects should they otherwise occur.

With the planned monitoring and mitigation measures, unavoidable impacts to each of the species of marine mammal that might be encountered are expected to be limited to short-term localized changes in behavior and distribution near the seismic vessel. At most, such effects may be interpreted as falling within the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) definition of “Level B Harassment” for those species managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. No long-term or significant effects are expected on individual marine mammals, or the

populations to which they belong, or their habitats. The agency is currently consulting with both the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service regarding species potentially affected by this proposed activity.

Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment entitled “Environmental Assessment of a Marine Geophysical Survey by the USCG *Healy* of the Western Canada Basin, Chukchi Borderland and Mendeleev Ridge, Arctic Ocean, July–August 2006” are available upon request from: Dr. Polly A. Penhale, National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 755, Arlington, VA 22230 at 703-292-8031 or ppenhale@nsf.gov or at the agency’s website at http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/arc_envir/healy_ea_06.pdf.

The National Science Foundation invites interested members of the public to provide written comments on this draft Environmental Assessment.

Polly A. Penhale,

Environmental Officer, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 06-2192 Filed 3-7-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

Sunshine Act; Regular Board of Directors Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 10, 2006.

PLACE: Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, DBA NeighborWorks® America, 1325 G Street NW., Suite 800, Boardroom, Washington, DC 20005.

STATUS: Open/Closed.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jeffrey T. Bryson, General Counsel/Secretary. 202-220-2372; jbryson@nw.org.

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order: Chairman Curry.

Summary Agenda

No substantive discussion of the following items is anticipated. These matters will be resolved with a single vote unless a member of the Board of Directors requests that an item be moved to the discussion agenda.

II. Approval of the Minutes: December 19, 2005 Regular Meeting.

III. Summary Report of the Audit Committee: January 20, 2006 Meeting. (Ms. Williams will be available to answer questions.)