

collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of data collection for the ETA Form 9117 (formerly ETA-9023), Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Reserve Funding Request Form (1205-0275, expires 12/31/2006). A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) 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 addressee section below on or before November 20, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Erica R. Cantor, Administrator, Office of National Response, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room C-5311, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20210. Phone (202) 693-2757 (this is not a toll-free number), fax (202) 693-3584, or e-mail [cantor.erica@dol.gov](mailto:cantor.erica@dol.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*I. Background:* The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) programs provide assistance to workers that have been adversely affected by foreign trade. Under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by the Trade Reform Act of 2002, the statutory training cap is \$220 million each year, with additional funding available for job search and relocation allowances and State administration. To be eligible for TAA or ATAA benefits, a group of workers, a company official, a union or other duly authorized representative, or a One Stop Operator or partner must file

a petition with the Department of Labor. If the Department determines that the workers meet the statutory criteria, it issues a certification of eligibility for the workers in the group to apply for benefits and services through partnerships between the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) and the One Stop Career Center system. On average, approximately 120,000 workers are potentially eligible to apply for TAA benefits and services each year. Of those potentially eligible, roughly 40,000 individuals begin receiving TAA-funded benefits and services each year. In addition, 40,000 individuals who began receiving services in previous years continue to receive them.

*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:* This is a notice to extend the collection period that is

currently approved by OMB (1205-0275 expires December 31, 2006).

The ETA-9117(formerly ETA-9023) has been successfully utilized by the ETA and SWAs since its implementation in July 2004. The Department distributes \$165 million of the \$220 million appropriation available for TAA training at the beginning of each fiscal year as formula base allocations. The remaining training funds or \$55 million is held in reserve by the Department to support States that experience large unanticipated layoffs that cannot be covered by their formula base allocation. The reserve funds are requested using the ETA-9117 (formerly ETA-9023) which provides essential information needed to determine the reasonableness of requests for TAA reserve funding such as the number of individuals currently enrolled in training that require additional funding through the current fiscal year; the number of new enrollees that require funding through the current fiscal year; the number of individuals requesting job search and relocation allowances; accrual expenditures for the most recent available funds; active certifications; and the circumstances necessitating the request for additional funding.

*Type of Review:* Extension and revision of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Title:* Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Reserve Funding Request Form. OMB Number: 1205-0275.

*Agency Number:* ETA-9117 (formerly ETA-9023).

*Affected Public:* State, local or tribal Government.

*Total Respondents:* 25.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 75.

Cite/reference	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response (hours)	Total requested burden
TAA Reserve Request Form .....	25	On occasion ...	25	3	75

Comments submitted in response to this comment request 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: September 11, 2006.

**Erica R. Cantor,**

*Administrator, Office of National Response.*  
[FR Doc. 06-7936 Filed 9-20-06; 8:45 am]

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**MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection**

**AGENCY:** Merit Systems Protection Board.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) intends to request approval of a revised information collection from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under

the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 and 3507). The currently approved information collection is the MSPB Appeal Form, MSPB Form 185 (OMB Control Number 3124-0009). The MSPB intends to make one substantive change to the information collected on the MSPB Appeal Form: Individuals who file appeals with the MSPB will be required to provide the last four digits of their Social Security numbers. In addition, several minor edits have been made to the Appeal Form to make the process

easier to understand. At this time, the MSPB is requesting public comments on the revised MSPB Form 185, which is available for review on the MSPB Web site at <http://mspb.gov/headlinespage.html>. In addition to soliciting comments on the changes to the Appeal Form, we are also soliciting comments on the public reporting burden.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 20, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to the Office of the Clerk of the Board, Merit Systems Protection Board, 1615 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20419. Because of possible mail delays, respondents are encouraged to submit comments by e-mail to [mspb@mspb.gov](mailto:mspb@mspb.gov) or by facsimile (fax) transmittal to (202) 653-7130.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Office of the Clerk of the Board, 1615 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20419; telephone (202) 653-7200; facsimile (fax) (202) 653-7130; e-mail to [mspb@mspb.gov](mailto:mspb@mspb.gov). Persons without Internet access may request a paper copy of the MSPB Appeal Form from the Office of the Clerk.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The current version of the MSPB Appeal Form was approved by OMB, in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, in July 2003. At the same time, OMB approved the Board's use of e-Appeal, the MSPB's Web-based system for filing appeals online (<https://e-appeal.mspb.gov>). Once OMB has approved the changes to the paper-based form as described below, the MSPB will incorporate these changes into e-Appeal.

### Social Security Numbers

In Part 1 of the revised Appeal Form, each appellant is required to provide the last four digits of his or her Social Security number. The instructions for this item state as follows: "The Merit Systems Protection Board requires that you provide it with the last four digits of your Social Security number. This information will be used solely for identification purposes in the processing of your appeal. Failure to provide this information may result in the delay or non-processing of your appeal."

The reason for requiring this information is to ascertain whether an appellant has filed previous appeals with the MSPB that may affect the processing of the new appeal. Because of the similarity of names and the possibility of name changes, and because appellants sometimes use nicknames instead of formal names, it can be difficult to determine whether the person who has filed a new appeal is the same person who filed one or more previous Board appeals. Although requiring the last four digits of the appellant's Social Security number will not result in certainty as to the filer's identity, it will give the MSPB more assurance in this regard.

Section 7(a) of the Privacy Act of 1974 provides that it is unlawful for a federal agency to "deny to any individual any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law because of such individual's refusal to disclose his social security account number." Because federal law provides federal employees the right to file appeals with the MSPB, that right cannot be conditioned on the individual's providing the MSPB with his or her Social Security number. According to a Policy Analyst with the

Information Policy and Technology Branch of the OMB, OMB takes the position that the last four digits of an individual's Social Security number do not constitute that individual's Social Security number, and can be made mandatory. The Board will carefully safeguard the last four digits of Social Security numbers provided by appellants in MSPB proceedings. This information will not generally be disclosed to third parties.

### Estimated Reporting Burden

In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the MSPB is soliciting comments on the public reporting burden for this information collection. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to vary from 20 minutes to 4 hours, with an average of 60 minutes per response, including time for reviewing the form and instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data necessary, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Specifically, the MSPB invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of MSPB's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the MSPB's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

### ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN

5 CFR Parts	Annual number of respondents	Frequency per response	Total annual response	Hours per response	Total hours
1201, 1208, and 1209 .....	7,150	1	7,150	1.0	7,150

Dated: September 15, 2006.

Bentley M. Roberts, Jr.,

Clerk of the Board.

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### NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NARA is giving public notice that the agency proposes to request extension of a currently approved

information collection used when former Federal civilian employees and other authorized individuals request information from or copies of documents in Official Personnel Folders or Employee Medical Folders from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The public is invited to comment on the proposed information collection pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.