

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) seeks comments on its intention to request an extension of two currently approved information collections. OPM uses the two collections, a Price Survey and a Background Survey, to gather data it uses to determine cost-of-living allowances the Government provides to certain Federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. OPM conducts Price Surveys in the Washington, DC, area on an annual basis and once every 3 years in each allowance area on a rotating basis. Prior to these surveys, OPM conducts Background Surveys that are similar to the Price Survey, but much more limited in scope. OPM uses the results of the Background Surveys to prepare for the Price Surveys.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before July 1, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Send or deliver comments to Charles D. Grimes III, Deputy Associate Director for Performance and Pay Systems, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Room 7300B, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415-8200; fax: (202) 606-4264; or e-mail: [COLA@opm.gov](mailto:COLA@opm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 5941 of title 5, United States Code, authorizes Federal agencies to pay cost-of-living allowances (COLAs) to white-collar Federal and U.S. Postal Service employees stationed in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Executive Order 10000, as amended, delegates to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) the authority to administer nonforeign area COLAs and prescribes certain operational features of the program. OPM conducts Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance Price Surveys and Background Surveys in each allowance area and in the Washington, DC, area to determine whether, and to what degree, COLA area living costs are higher than those in the DC area.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance Price Survey and Background Survey will expire on August 31, 2008. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) plans to request OMB approval for a 3-year extension of these currently approved information collections and is seeking comments prior to submitting the collections to OMB for review.

Comments are particularly invited on whether: (1) These collections of

information are necessary for the proper performance of OPM functions, (2) they will have practical utility, (3) our estimate of the public burden of these collections of information is accurate and based on valid assumptions and methodology, and (4) there are ways in which we can minimize respondent burden of the collections of information through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358, fax (202) 418-3251, or e-mail [mbtoomey@opm.gov](mailto:mbtoomey@opm.gov). Please include a mailing address with your request.

#### Overview of Information Collections

*Title:* Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance Price Survey and Background Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 3206-0199.

*Summary:* OPM uses the COLA Price Survey to collect price data in survey areas located in the nonforeign allowance areas and in the Washington, DC, area. The allowance areas are located in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. OPM conducts Price Surveys annually in the DC area and once every 3 years in the allowance areas on a rotating basis. OPM uses the COLA Background Survey to collect information to identify the services, items, quantities, outlets, and locations OPM will survey in the Price Surveys. OPM also uses Background Surveys to collect information on local trade practices, consumer buying patterns, taxes and fees, and other economic characteristics related to living costs. OPM conducts Background Surveys annually on a limited basis.

*Need/Use for Surveys:* The COLA Price Survey is necessary for collecting living-cost data OPM uses to determine COLAs received by General Schedule, U.S. Postal Service, and certain other Federal employees in the allowance areas. OPM uses the survey results to compare prices in the allowance areas with prices in the Washington, DC, area and to derive COLA rates where local living costs significantly exceed those in the DC area. The COLA Background Survey is necessary to determine the continued appropriateness of items, services, and businesses selected for the annual price surveys. OPM uses the information collected under the Background Survey to identify items to be priced and the outlets at which OPM will price the items in the Price Surveys.

*Respondents:* OPM will survey selected retail, service, realty, and other

businesses and local governments in the allowance areas and in the Washington, DC, area. OPM will contact approximately 2,000 establishments in each annual Price Survey and approximately 100 establishments in each annual Background Survey. Participation in the surveys is voluntary.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:* Based on experience, OPM estimates that the average Price Survey interview takes approximately 6 minutes, for a total burden of 200 hours. Also based on experience, OPM estimates that the average Background Survey interview will take approximately 6.5 minutes, for a total burden of 11 hours.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Howard Weizmann,**

*Deputy Director.*

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#### OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**Comment Request for Review of an Expiring Information Collection: Establishment Information Form, Wage Data Collection Form, Wage Data Collection Continuation Form; DD 1918, DD 1919, and DD 1919C**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13, May 22, 1995), the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) seeks comments on its intention to request Office of Management and Budget clearance of three currently approved information collection forms. The Establishment Information Form, the Wage Data Collection Form, and the Wage Data Collection Continuation Form are wage survey forms developed by OPM for use by the Department of Defense to establish prevailing wage rates for Federal Wage System employees.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before July 1, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Send or deliver comments to Charles D. Grimes III, Deputy Associate Director for Performance and Pay Systems, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Room 7H31, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415-8200; e-mail [pay-performance-policy@opm.gov](mailto:pay-performance-policy@opm.gov); or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Madeline Gonzalez, (202) 606-2838; e-mail [pay-performance-policy@opm.gov](mailto:pay-performance-policy@opm.gov); or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The Department of Defense contacts approximately 21,200 businesses annually to determine the level of wages paid by private enterprise establishments for representative jobs common to both private industry and the Federal Government. Each survey collection requires 1-4 hours of respondent burden, resulting in a total yearly burden of approximately 75,800 hours.

Comments are particularly invited on (1) Whether this information is necessary for the proper performance of OPM functions, (2) whether it will have practical utility, (3) whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate and based on valid assumptions and methodology, and (4) ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358; e-mail [MaryBeth.Smith-Toomey@opm.gov](mailto:MaryBeth.Smith-Toomey@opm.gov); or fax (202) 418-3251. Please include a mailing address with your request.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Howard Weizmann,**

*Deputy Director.*

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION****Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549.

*Extension:* Investor Form, SEC File No. 270-485, OMB Control No. 3235-0547.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) that the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

In both 2006 and 2007, the Commission received over a million contacts from investors who have complaints or questions on a wide range of investment-related issues. These contacts generally fall into the following three categories:

(a) Complaints against Commission-regulated individuals or entities;

(b) questions concerning the federal securities laws, companies or firms that the Commission regulates, or other investment-related questions; and

(c) tips concerning potential violations of the federal securities laws.

Investors who submit complaints, ask questions, or provide tips do so voluntarily. To make it easier for the public to contact the agency electronically, the Commission created a series of investor complaint and question Web forms. Investors can access these forms through the SEC Center for Complaints and Enforcement Tips at <http://www.sec.gov/complaint.shtml>. The Commission is now going to consolidate those forms into one form (the Investor Form) which will ask for the same information, but also provide several drop down options to choose from in order to categorize the investor's complaint, and possibly provide the investor with information about that issue. The investor will have the same opportunity to describe their complaint, and they will be free to submit it without their name or contact information.

Although the Investor Form provides a structured format for incoming investor correspondence, the Commission does not require that investors use any particular form or format when contacting the agency. To the contrary, investors may submit complaints, questions, and tips through a variety of other means, including telephone, letter, facsimile, or e-mail. Approximately 20,000 investors each year voluntarily choose to use the complaint and question forms.

Investors who choose not to use the Investor Form receive the same level of service as those who do. The dual purpose of the form is to make it easier for the public to contact the agency with complaints, questions, tips, or other feedback and to streamline the workflow of the Commission staff who handle those contacts.

The Commission has used—and will continue to use—the information that investors supply on the complaint and question forms, and the Investor Form to review and process the contact (which may, in turn, involve responding to questions, processing complaints, or, as appropriate, initiating enforcement

investigations), to maintain a record of contacts, to track the volume of investor complaints, and to analyze trends.

As with the previous forms, the Investor Form will ask investors to provide information concerning, among other things, their names, how they can be reached, the names of the individuals or entities involved, the nature of their complaint or tip, what documents they can provide, and what, if any, actions they have taken.

Use of the Investor Form is strictly voluntary. Moreover, the Commission does not require investors to submit complaints, questions, tips, or other feedback. Absent the forms, the public still has several ways to contact the agency, including telephone, facsimile, letters, and e-mail. Nevertheless, the Commission created these forms to make it easier for the public to contact the agency with complaints, questions, or tips. The forms further streamline the workflow of Commission staff who record, process, and respond to investor contacts.

The staff of the Commission estimates that the total reporting burden for using the complaint and question forms is 5,000 hours. The calculation of this estimate depends on the number of investors who use the forms each year and the estimated time it takes to complete the forms: 20,000 respondents × 15 minutes = 5,000 burden hours.

Written comments are invited on: (a) 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; (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 collected; and (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. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an e-mail to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: April 28, 2008.

**Florence E. Harmon,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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