

and other efficiencies improved the reliability of CPS data at the State level, resulting in the current criterion on monthly and annual average data of an 8 percent coefficient of variation on the level of unemployment when the unemployment rate is 6 percent. In addition, North Carolina joined the group of direct-use States. In 1989, variable coefficient time-series models for monthly estimation of State employment and unemployment were introduced for 39 States and the District of Columbia. Further improvement was effected with the implementation of signal-plus-noise models in 1994. These models rely heavily on monthly CPS data, as well as current wage and salary employment and unemployment insurance statistics. State labor force estimation for the direct-use States was based the time series modeling approach beginning in January 1996.

Improvements introduced with the redesign in January 2005 ensured that State estimates add to the national estimates of employment and unemployment each month, through real-time benchmarking. In doing so, the benchmark changed from annual State-level estimates of employment and unemployment to monthly national estimates of these measures. In this way, economic shocks are reflected in the State estimates on a real-time basis, and end-of-year revisions are significantly smaller.

Historical benchmarking is part of the annual processing activities performed on the models. The first two steps, revision of inputs and model re-estimation, are the same for both the not-seasonally-adjusted (NSA) series and the seasonally-adjusted series. The final step, benchmarking to historical control totals, differs by series. The NSA estimates are benchmarked to monthly Division model controls which have been controlled to monthly national CPS estimates. This ensures that the monthly State NSA estimates sum to the national CPS estimates. The annual average of the NSA estimates is used to control the monthly seasonally-adjusted model estimates. This process preserves the underlying smoothness in the model estimates that would be lost by applying the monthly benchmarking procedure.

However, the current procedure had an unanticipated impact on the historical benchmarking for the seasonally-adjusted estimates during 2008. Unemployment rose steeply in the nation and all States during 2008. The benchmark methodology that required the use of the annual average as the historical control total for the seasonally-adjusted estimates meant that unemployment rates were adjusted

downward during the latter months of 2008. This impacted comparisons with January 2009 unemployment estimates that continued to reflect the steep economic decline. In addition to issues with historical benchmarking, the monthly real-time benchmarking procedure introduces volatility into the current seasonally-adjusted estimates, producing estimates with spurious turning points that are difficult to explain to data users.

II. Current Action

To address these serious issues, the BLS proposes modifying the procedures for the seasonally-adjusted estimates and implementing a smoothing methodology for both current and historical seasonally-adjusted series. Smoothing the current series will reduce the number of spurious turning points in the estimates. For historical estimates, the first two steps in annual processing: revising model inputs and re-estimating the series, are unchanged. The last step, benchmarking to control totals, will be revised for the seasonally-adjusted estimates. The use of the annual average of the NSA series as the control total will be dropped. Instead, as in current monthly estimation, the historical seasonally-adjusted series will be adjusted by the same pro-rata factor used in adjusting the NSA estimates to the national control totals. Since the pro-rata factors fluctuate from month-to-month, this procedure will introduce additional variability into the historical series, which could dominate the monthly change in the benchmarked series. Smoothing the series following the application of the pro-rata adjustment will reduce the volatility added. The smoother selected is the Henderson Trend Filter (H13).

Detailed descriptions of the current and proposed approaches are available from the office listed above.

III. Desired Focus of Comments

Comments and recommendations are requested from the public on the use of the Henderson Trend Filter (H13) to smooth the LAUS current and historical seasonally adjusted estimates.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 17th day of November 2009.

Kimberley Hill,

Acting Chief, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[FR Doc. E9-27930 Filed 11-19-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Request for Certification of Compliance—Rural Industrialization Loan and Grant Program

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration is issuing this notice to announce the receipt of a "Certification of Non-Relocation and Market and Capacity Information Report" (Form 4279-2) for the following:

Applicant/Location: Legacy Senior Care Group, LLC/Richfield, Ohio.

Principal Product/Purpose: The loan, guarantee, or grant application is to enable a new business venture to construct and manage an assisted living facility that also offers memory care. The NAICS industry code for this enterprise is: 623311 Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

DATES: All interested parties may submit comments in writing no later than December 4, 2009. Copies of adverse comments received will be forwarded to the applicant noted above.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Anthony D. Dais, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S-4231, Washington, DC 20210; or e-mail Dais.Anthony@dol.gov; or transmit via fax (202) 693-3015 (this is not a toll-free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony D. Dais, at telephone number (202) 693-2784 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 188 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 1972, as established under 29 CFR Part 75, authorizes the United States Department of Agriculture to make or guarantee loans or grants to finance industrial and business activities in rural areas. The Secretary of Labor must review the application for financial assistance for the purpose of certifying to the Secretary of Agriculture that the assistance is not calculated, or likely, to result in: (a) A transfer of any employment or business activity from one area to another by the loan applicant's business operation; or, (b) An increase in the production of goods, materials, services, or facilities in an area where there is not sufficient

demand to employ the efficient capacity of existing competitive enterprises unless the financial assistance will not have an adverse impact on existing competitive enterprises in the area. The Employment and Training Administration within the Department of Labor is responsible for the review and certification process. Comments should address the two bases for certification and, if possible, provide data to assist in the analysis of these issues.

Signed at Washington, DC this 10th of November, 2009.

Jane Oates,

Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

[FR Doc. E9-27871 Filed 11-19-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-FN-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection, Comment Request

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request clearance for this collection. In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are providing opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting OMB clearance of this collection for no longer than three years.

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information of respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be received by January 19, 2010, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the information collection and

requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 295, Arlington, VA 22230, or by e-mail to splimpton@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzanne Plimpton on (703) 292-7556 or send e-mail to splimpton@nsf.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Quantitative Evaluation of the ADVANCE Program.
OMB Control No.: 3145-NEW.
Expiration Date of Approval: Not applicable.

Abstract: The ADVANCE Program was established by the National Science Foundation in 2001 to address the underrepresentation and inadequate advancement of women on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) faculties at postsecondary institutions. The evaluation being conducted by Westat focuses on the outcomes of two ADVANCE program components: (a) The first two (2001 and 2003) cohorts of Institutional Transformation (IT) awardees, and (b) both (2002 and 2004) cohorts of individuals receiving ADVANCE Fellows awards. The study will rely on a thorough review of project documents and relevant literature; a survey (facilitated online via WebEx) and an outcome indicator data form (distributed and completed electronically) for the 19 IT awardee institutions; and, a mail survey, with telephone followup as needed, of all 59 former Fellows. In addition, the study will use data from the 2001 and 2008 administrations of the Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) for comparison purposes.

The evaluation of the IT component has two primary goals: to compare selected gender equity outcomes for STEM faculty at the 19 IT Cohorts 1 and 2 institutions and at other similar U.S. four-year colleges and universities that have not subsequently received ADVANCE IT awards, and to develop innovative institutional-level measures of changes in gender equity climate and practices that can be applied to evaluating the outcomes of the IT award. The primary goal of the Fellows evaluation is to compare the career trajectories of ADVANCE Fellows with those of similar individuals who were not awarded these fellowships.

Respondents: Faculty and staff at institutions of higher education and individuals holding doctoral degrees in STEM fields awarded an NSF ADVANCE Fellowship.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 139.

Burden on the Public: 1859 hours.

Dated: November 17, 2009.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. E9-27928 Filed 11-19-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-282 and 50-306; NRC-2009-0507]

Northern States Power Company; Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2; Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplement 39 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, the License Renewal of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plants, Units 1 and 2

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) has published a draft plant-specific supplement to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants (GEIS), NUREG-1437, regarding the renewal of operating licenses DPR-42 and DPR-60 for an additional 20 years of operation for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1 and Unit 2 (PINGP 1 and 2). PINGP 1 and 2 are located in Red Wing, Minnesota, on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Goodhue County. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources.

The draft Supplement 39 to the GEIS is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The Accession Number for the draft Supplement 39 to the GEIS is ML093170484. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737,