

can potentially create. Several news organizations that participate in the DOL press lock-up are able to profit from their presence in the lock-up by selling, to traders, high speed data feeds of economic data formatted for computerized algorithmic trading. Because these news organizations have pre-release access, they are able to pre-load the data . . . allowing their clients to get this information faster than the general public, which has to wait to download the data after it gets posted to the Department of Labor websites.

The aforementioned report further recommends that BLS and ETA, “. . . implement a strategy designed to eliminate any competitive advantage that news organizations present in the lock-up and/or their clients may have; or, absent a viable solution, consider discontinuing the use of the press lock-up that provides news organizations pre-release access.”

It remains DOL’s policy to ensure the media are given time to prepare informed summaries and analysis of economic data for the general public. However, to protect the integrity of our data and promote wide dissemination of key economic data in an equitable, timely, secure, and cost-effective manner, as of March 1, 2020, DOL will eliminate use of all electronic devices in the lock-up facility. The change to eliminate use of all electronic devices in the lock-up facility seeks to minimize the risk of premature disclosure of the data and the risk of providing an unfair monetary advantage over the rest of the public due to the preparation time provided by their early access to the data. Specifically, this change will minimize the advantage of allowing lock-up participants to prepare electronic data tables that may be used for algorithmic trading ventures. The BLS and ETA will continue to make their data available to the general public immediately upon their 8:30 release through the Web and other sources.

II. Action

In an effort to protect the integrity of our data and ensure fairness in the dissemination of statistical information, DOL plans to eliminate use of all electronic devices in the DOL lock-up facility starting on March 1, 2020. After that date, credentialed press will continue to be allowed into the facility 30 minutes prior to release time, following existing security protocols. BLS and ETA staff will be present in the lock-up facility; will provide paper copies of releases and related material; and will be available to answer questions. Credentialed press will be allowed to take notes on paper. At release time, credentialed press will be able to leave the lock-up facility. DOL

staff will continue to escort TV press to their camera stations a few minutes before release time, following existing procedures. The purpose of these changes is to “ensure that all users have equitable and timely access to data that are disseminated to the public” as noted in OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 4.

BLS and ETA will provide access to the official news releases at their scheduled release times on the agency websites. In addition, the agencies will continue to announce the releases through social media channels and send the news releases to email subscribers. Agencies will continue to respond to questions about the data from the public following the release as well as questions from the media attending the lock-ups during and after the lock-up time period.

III. Necessity of Action

When DOL began providing embargoed data releases in the mid-1980s, media dissemination was an equitable and timely method to get data to the public. Today, technology and the internet permits the public and interested data users to obtain releases for themselves. Unlike media organizations in the lock-up facility, however, internet users do not have 30 minutes before the official release time to digest the data, and are disadvantaged relative to lock-up participants to the extent that internet postings may lag slightly behind lock-up transmissions. Furthermore, developments in high-speed algorithmic trading technology have also raised concerns about the possible impact of unequal access to sensitive economic data. As discussed above, DOL’s Inspector General has issued multiple reports with findings that maintaining the current press lock-up “creates an unfair competitive advantage for certain news organizations and their clients.”

In the time since the OIG recommendations were issued, BLS and ETA have devoted significant resources to introducing improved technologies that strengthen our infrastructure and ensure data are posted to the BLS or DOL websites immediately following the official release time. With the introduction of these improved technologies, DOL is positioned to eliminate the use of all electronic devices in the lock-up facility while still ensuring that all parties, including the media, commercial entities, and the general public, will have equitable and timely access to our most sensitive data.

Continuing use of electronic devices in the lock-up process also raises considerations of security and cost-

efficiency. Given the sensitive nature of DOL’s PFEI and limited non-PFEI data, we have devoted significant attention over the years to safeguarding embargoed data to prevent its release out of the lock-up facility prematurely. This has included establishing a secure technical and physical infrastructure, monitoring participants’ adherence to the rules, and continually upgrading security as cyber threats have evolved. Despite all these precautions, however, the risk of a premature data release is inherent in the nature of lock-ups and will be present as long as lock-ups exist. Discontinuing the use of electronic devices in the lock-up facility will significantly reduce our risk of premature release from this source.

IV. Result

The intended result of this notice of DOL’s planned elimination of the use of electronic devices in the lock-up facility as of March 1, 2020, is to protect the integrity of our data and preserve the public benefit from the informed products produced by the media shortly after release. In addition, it enables DOL to widely disseminate the DOL PFEI and non-PFEI news releases in an equitable, secure, and cost-effective manner so that all data release information is available to the public and the media, simultaneously at the official release time.

The Commerce Department’s Bureau of Economic Analysis and U.S. Census Bureau are also committed to the secure, timely, and equitable release of all Principal Federal Economic Indicators. As such, both Bureaus will continue to conduct embargoed media lock-ups at the Department of Labor’s facility and will align their procedures with the new process and timeline.

We are advising stakeholders now of this action planned in 2020 to facilitate a predictable and orderly process for stakeholders in the DOL lock-up facility.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 3rd day of February 2020.

William W. Beach,

Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

[FR Doc. 2020–02383 Filed 2–6–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–24–P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts

Submission for Office of Management and Budget Review: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Endowment for the Arts, on behalf of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, will submit the following public information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95): Application for International Indemnification. Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained at www.reginfo.gov.

DATES: Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the National Endowment for the Arts, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202/395-4718), within thirty days of this publication in the **Federal Register**. Copies of any comments should be provided to Patricia Loiko (National Endowment for the Arts, 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20506-0001, email loikop@arts.gov, telephone (202/682-5541)—this is not a toll-free number; fax (202/682-5721).

The OMB 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Endowment requests the review of its application guidelines. This entry is issued by the Endowment and contains the following information: (1) The title of the form; (2) how often the required information must be reported; (3) who will be required or asked to report; (4) what the form will be used for; (5) an estimate of the number of responses; (6) the average burden hours per response; (7) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the

form. This entry is not subject to 44 U.S.C. 3504(h).

Agency: National Endowment for the Arts.

Title: Application for International Indemnification.

OMB Number: 3135-0094.

Frequency: Renewed every three years.

Affected Public: Non-profit, tax exempt organizations, and governmental units.

Number of Respondents: 40 per year.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 45 hours.

Estimate Cost per Respondent: \$2,097.

Total Burden Hours: 1800.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: 0.

Total Annual Costs (Operating/Maintaining Systems or Purchasing Services): \$121,200.

Description: This application form is used by non-profit, tax-exempt organizations (primarily museums), and governmental units to apply to the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities (through the National Endowment for the Arts) for indemnification of eligible works of art and artifacts, borrowed from lenders abroad for exhibition in the United States, from within the United States when the foreign works of art are integral to the exhibition, or sent from the United States for exhibition abroad. The indemnity agreement is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. In the event of loss or damage to an indemnified object, the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities certifies the validity of the claim and requests payment from Congress. 20 U.S.C. 973 *et seq.* requires such an application and specifies information which must be supplied. This statutory requirement is implemented by regulation at 45 CFR 1160.4.

Dated: February 4, 2020.

Gregory Gendron,

Director, Administrative Services Office, National Endowment for the Arts.

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts

Submission for Office of Management and Budget Review: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Endowment for the Arts, on behalf of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities,

will submit the following public information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95): Application for Domestic Indemnification. Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained at www.reginfo.gov.

DATES: Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the National Endowment for the Arts, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202/395-4718), within thirty days of this publication in the **Federal Register**. Copies of any comments should be provided to Patricia Loiko (National Endowment for the Arts, 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20506-0001, email loikop@arts.gov, telephone (202/682-5541)—this is not a toll-free number; fax (202/682-5721).

The OMB 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.

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Agency: National Endowment for the Arts.