

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): 0.*  
*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): 0.*

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 also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 2nd day of April, 1996.

Peter T. Spolarich,

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

[FR Doc. 96-8487 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "Report on Occupational Employment." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before June 4, 1996.

BLS is particularly interested in comments which help the agency to:

- 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.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Karin G. Kurz, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3255, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC 20212. Ms. Kurz can be reached on 202-606-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a Federal/State establishment survey of wage and salary workers designed to produce data on current occupational employment and wages. OES survey data assist in the development of employment and training programs established by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) of 1982 and the Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984. Planners are required to use OES data in justifying the need for training programs related to specific occupations.

The OES program operates a periodic mail survey of a sample of nonfarm establishments conducted by all fifty States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. Over three-year periods, data on occupational employment are collected by industry classification. The past OES cycles surveyed manufacturing industries, agricultural services, and hospitals during the first year; mining, construction, finance, real estate, and services (except hospitals and education) during the second year; and trade, transportation, communications, public utilities, education, and government services during the third year.

The OES wage survey addresses a critical void in the Federal statistical effort in a manner that is both cost effective and responsive to data quality concerns. Until recently, wage information was not provided across all occupations, industries, and States. The OES program started collecting wage data with two pilot surveys in 1989 and 1990. Follow-up response analysis surveys (RAS's) were conducted for both test years to assess the quality of the data collected. Based upon the

positive results of the RAS's, BLS made the decision to offer a voluntary wage survey option to all States beginning in 1991. Fifteen States opted to collect OES wage data.

In 1995, a consortium comprised of officials from State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) proposed collection of OES wage data in each State as a means of creating a consistently-developed national wage data base and for use in the Alien Labor Certification process.

##### The Immigration Act of 1990

The Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-649—Nov. 29, 1990) and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regulations require that aliens seeking to enter the U.S. permanently or temporarily for the purpose of employment be excluded from admission unless the Department of Labor (DOL) certifies to INS and the Department of State that qualified U.S. workers are not available, and that the aliens' employment will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers similarly employed.

This process is known as labor certification. In order to obtain a labor certification, the alien must have an employer who is willing to make an offer of employment and apply for a labor certification on behalf of the alien. Any employer applying for a labor certification on behalf of an alien is required to conduct a good faith test of the labor market for qualified U.S. workers, and must document all efforts made to recruit such workers. This good faith test must include offering wages which equal or exceed the prevailing wage applicable to similarly employed individuals in the same geographical area.

Therefore, the certification process relies heavily upon having accurate prevailing wage information readily available. Prevailing wage data currently are not collected in a systematic manner by the States. This has led to a process of determining prevailing wages that is both labor-intensive and cumbersome to the employer and the State agencies.

##### Difficulties of the Current System of Data Collection

Most States currently conduct occupational wage surveys. In many instances, State wage surveys have been administered on an ad hoc basis, meaning they conduct the survey only as the need arises.

Often this results in several surveys being done a year, each surveying different occupations for different

purposes. The methodologies employed by these State surveys vary widely and the resulting data, therefore, are sometimes of suspect quality. Often the surveys do not include basic instructions needed to adequately complete the form; others solicit information without properly defining key concepts for the respondent. These deficiencies lead to large non-sampling errors and produce unreliable estimates. In addition, ad hoc State surveys often lack statistically valid sampling techniques.

#### Advantages of Using the OES Survey

##### (1) *Produces Valid, Reliable Data*

The OES wage survey meets ETA's need for valid, reliable wage data. The OES wage survey offers comprehensive coverage of more than 750 occupations. Since these occupations are representative of our entire industrial and service economy, virtually all of the most frequently reported occupations requested for Alien Labor Certification are covered by the survey.

The survey covers sufficient geographic detail. Using the OES survey, it is possible to have any level of geographic detail as specified before sample selection. BLS currently provides funding for States to collect State-level data. A number of States use other funding sources to collect OES data by sub-State areas. Sampling could be expanded to the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) level and other sub-State areas to provide occupational wage information for a specific area or labor market.

The OES wage survey, through extensive pilot testing, has developed statistically reliable methods of collecting and calculating a mean, median, and distribution of wage rates for surveyed occupations from 11 OES wage ranges. These mean and median wage rate estimates are valid measures of central tendency based on statistical research and validity testing.

The OES survey is a pure probability-based survey employing a large stratified sample size. The sampling techniques and the rigorous attention to statistical methods make the OES survey a reliable source of occupational employment and wage information. The OES survey generates data which are comparable across States and areas. The various SESAs that collect OES survey data follow a uniform set of guidelines established by BLS. This consistency of methodology and process ensures that data are comparable across States, sub-State areas, regions, and the nation.

##### (2) *Eliminates Many Individual State Surveys Reducing Respondent Burden*

The OES survey would significantly reduce the burden on respondents by eliminating numerous State wage surveys that have a total sample of approximately 1.2 million units per year. Eliminating these surveys would be especially advantageous for employers operating in several States who (under the present collection system) could be asked to furnish differing levels of wage data in various State surveys. The OES survey would reduce the burden on multi-State units by consolidating the collection method into one survey and by soliciting information, at most, once every three years.

Currently, the OES survey's average annual sample size is 240,000. Added to the 1,200,000 units surveyed by other annual State surveys, the total number of survey respondents per year is 1,440,000. The proposed change in the OES survey sample would result in 406,000 units being surveyed per year. The net reduction in respondents would be around 1,034,000 per year.

##### (3) *Standardizes the Survey Instrument*

Additionally, using the OES survey nationwide would help reduce respondent burden by standardizing the survey instrument. The OES wage survey has complete coverage of all occupations in an establishment. With the OES wage survey, the respondent simply provides the number of employees in each occupation broken out into 11 wage range categories.

##### (4) *Reduces Costs*

One of the most significant advantages of the OES survey would be the cost-savings to the taxpayer. Currently the ETA spends about \$20 million a year to obtain data needed for Alien Labor Certification purposes. States spend around \$5 million to conduct their own non-Alien Certification related wage surveys from Wagner Peyser or LMI funds. Additionally, Federal and State governments spend approximately \$6 million on models that estimate occupational data for sub-State areas from State-wide OES data. The data, resulting from the proposed increased OES sample size, would preclude the need for these models. Expanding the OES wage survey nationwide would cost an estimated 24 million dollars, generating a net savings of approximately 7 million dollars.

#### Additional Uses of OES Wage Data

Historically, occupational employment data obtained by the OES survey have been used to develop information regarding current and projected employment needs and job opportunities. These data assist in the development of State vocational education plans. Nationwide collection of OES wage data can further develop labor market and occupational information at the Federal, State, and local levels. The survey meets the needs of organizations involved in planning and delivering services provided by the JTPA and the Perkins Vocational Education Act.

National OES wage data collection can provide a significant source of information to support a number of different Federal, State, and local efforts. For instance, occupational wage data can be extremely useful in the area of Unemployment Insurance (UI). Generally, UI clients must meet work-search requirements and take jobs with pay equivalent to their previous employment. Wage data by occupation can help employment services identify occupations that meet the requirements of these individuals. Similarly, the dislocated workers program under JTPA uses previous employment wages as a guide in preparing dislocated workers for employment. Depending on individual State laws, the OES survey can provide a standard source of occupational wage data to assist these workers.

Wage data at the occupational level can assist States in carrying out vocational rehabilitation programs or assist in the Social Security disability adjudication process. The data can support U.S. military interests by providing State and local career information for Department of Defense workers and uniformed personnel leaving military service.

OES wage data provide vocational education trainers and enrollees with information on what occupations are present in the economy as well as their corresponding wage rates. These data will assist the National and State Occupational Information Coordinating Committees to develop occupational information systems designed to aid job searches and career counselors.

#### Summary

At present, the Alien Labor Certification and other educational, training, and employment programs lack uniform, reliable wage data. The wage consortium comprised of State agencies has proposed using the OES survey, nationwide, to produce these data for

five main reasons: (1) The OES survey produces valid, reliable data; (2) it significantly reduces the burden on the respondent; (3) it produces the first national wage rate survey with comparable methodology across all locales; (4) it standardizes the collection process; and (5) it costs \$7 million less than the current system.

As indicated, in addition to the use of wage data with the Alien Labor Certification process, reliable wage data have many other practical uses. Wage data can enhance information currently provided under the JTPA and Perkins Act. OES wage data also can inform important legal and administrative decisions such as Social Security adjudication, Unemployment Insurance work-search requirements, or minimum wage deliberations. Timely and reliable wage information is a valuable commodity to vocational trainers and enrollees.

## II. Current Actions

BLS plans to revise the collection method of the OES survey. The revised OES survey will continue to be a probability-based sample survey of nonfarm establishments. Beginning in 1996, the OES survey will implement three major changes: (1) The sample will include all industries each year; (2) Estimates will be produced for 360 sub-State areas; and (3) Wage information will be collected for all States.

Although OES will continue to operate on a three-year cycle, under the revised sampling procedures the OES survey will collect both occupational employment and wage information each year for all nonagricultural industries. To minimize response burden, the new sampling system will include an establishment, at most, once every three years. With the revised sampling procedures, the OES survey will produce employment and wage estimates on an annual basis.

The OES sample is designed to yield reliable estimates by industry at the national, State, and sub-State levels. The revised OES survey will allow for estimates in 360 areas (310 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and other specified sub-State areas.) The sampling frame will stratify units by industry, geographic area, and by size of establishment. Establishments that employ 250 or more employees at a single worksite will be sampled with certainty once every three years.

The revised survey solicits occupational employment information by wage ranges. A respondent participating in the OES survey will provide the number of employees by occupation, broken out across 11 wage

range categories. The survey will be a cost-effective, statistically reliable method of producing occupational wage distributions as well as mean and median wage estimates. To comply with the Alien Labor Certification legislation, State agencies will use the OES survey in place of current State wage surveys. The overall effect on respondents will be a decrease in burden placed on them by Federal and State government agencies.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* Report on Occupational Employment.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0042.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, local, or tribal governments.

*Total Respondents:* 406,000.

*Frequency:* BLS will conduct the survey annually. Reporting units will be sampled, at most, once every three years.

*Total Responses:* 316,680.

*Average Time Per Response:* 45 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 237,510 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* 0.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* 0.

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 ICR; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 2nd day of April, 1996.

Peter T. Spolarich,

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

[FR Doc. 96-8488 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 96-039]

### NASA Advisory Council; Meeting.

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Advisory Council.

**DATES:** April 23, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and April 24, 1996, 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Room 9H40, 300 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20546-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Anne L. Accola, Code Z, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546-0001, (202) 358-0682.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Shuttle Contract Consolidation Status
- Space Operations Management Initiatives
- Reusable Launch Vehicle Concepts and Technologies
- Strategic Management and Planning Status
- NASA Response to Prior Council Recommendations
- Committee/Task Force Reports
- Discussion of Findings and Recommendations

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: April 1, 1996.

Leslie M. Nolan,

Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

[FR Doc. 96-8467 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-M

[Notice 96-038]

### Notice of Prospective Patent License

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of prospective patent license.

**SUMMARY:** NASA hereby gives notice that CASI, Inc., of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, has applied for a partially exclusive license to practice the inventions described and claimed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,166,679; 5,214,388; 5,363,051; 5,373,245; and 5,442,347—entitled, respectively, "Driven Shield Capacitive Proximity Sensor," "Phase Discrimination Capacitive Array Sensor System," "Steering Capaciflector Sensor," "Capaciflector Camera," and "Double-Driven Shield Capacitive Type Proximity Sensor," and for the following NASA inventions disclosed in NASA Case Nos. GSC-13,563-1; GSC-13,614-1; GSC-13,618-1; and GSC-13,701—entitled, respectively, "Current Measuring OP-AMP Devices," "Capaciflector-Guided Mechanisms," "Frequency Scanning Capaciflector,"