

or median arbitration fees and days spent on cases, and the timeliness of the awards rendered. This notice request is for extension of this form with no change in the substance or method of collection.

Burden Statement: FMCS receives approximately 5,000 responses per year. The form is only filled out once and the time required is approximately ten minutes. FMCS uses this form to review arbitrator conformance with its fee and expense reporting requirements. This data is compiled under the individual arbitrator's name and is used to provide requesting parties with a panel of arbitrators to meet their needs.

II. Request for Comments

FMCS solicits comments to:

(i) 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;

(ii) 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;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) 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, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

III. The Public Docket

The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this document. FMCS will transfer all electronically received comments into printed paper form as they are received. This record is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

List of Subjects

Arbitration, Information collection requests.

Dated: April 9, 1996.

Wilma Liebman,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 96-9321 Filed 4-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6372-01-M

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the major information collection form for FMCS mediation services, FMCS F-7 form, "Notice to Mediation Agencies," OMB No. 3076-0004, which expires on November 11, 1996, is coming up for renewal. Before submitting this renewal package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FMCS is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the collection as described below, mainly its request for a three-year extension of this currently approved form with the one revision—to produce a form without three attached copies—to save printing and postal costs.

COMMENTS: Comments must be submitted on or before July 1, 1996

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments identified by the FMCS F-7 by mail to: Office of General Counsel, FMCS, 2100 K Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20427, Room 603, ATTN: Tammi Strozier, Public Response Section. Copies of the complete F-7 form may be obtained from the Office of General Counsel at the above address or by contacting the person whose name appears under the section headed **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Comments and data may also be submitted by fax at (202) 606-4253 or electronically by sending electronic mail (E-mail) to fmcs02@eros.com. All comments and data in electronic form must have the F-7 number on them. No confidential business information (CBI) should be submitted through E-mail.

All written comments will be available for inspection in Room 600 at the Washington, D.C. address above from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eileen B. Hoffman, General Counsel, FMCS, 2100 K Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20427. Telephone: (202) 606-5444, fax (202) 606-4253, E-mail: fmcs02@erols.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the F-7 form are available from the Office of General Counsel, Public Access Section, by calling, faxing, or writing to Ms. Tammi Strozier, Office Manager at the above address. Please ask for the form by its number and title.

1. Information Collection Request

FMCS is seeking comments on the following information collection request:

Title: Notice to Mediation Agencies. FMCS Form F-7. OMB No. 3076-0004. Expiration date: November 30, 1996.

Affected Entities: Parties affected by this information collection are private

sector employers and labor unions involved in interstate commerce who file notices for mediation services to the FMCS and state, local, and territorial agencies, who receive copies of these notices filed.

Abstract: Under the National Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, 29 U.S.C. § 158 (d)(3), Congress listed specific notice provisions creating a duty to bargain collectively so that no party to a collective bargaining agreement could terminate or modify that contract, unless the party wishing to terminate or modify the contract sent a written notice to the other party, sixty days prior to the expiration date (Section 8(d)(1), and offered to meet and confer with the other party for the purpose of negotiating a new or modified contract (Section 8(d)(2)). Furthermore, the Act requires that the party notify the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service within thirty days after such notice of the existence of a dispute and simultaneously notify any State or Territorial agency established to mediate and conciliate disputes within the State or Territory where the dispute occurred (Section 8(d)(3)). The 1974 amendments to the NLRA, which extended coverage to nonprofit health care institutions, also created a notification procedure in the health care industry requiring the parties to notify each other 90 days in advance of termination and 60 days to the mediation service. This amendment also required notification of initial bargaining situations (notification of the existence of a dispute) to the FMCS, within 30 days.

To facilitate handling of more than 85,000 such notices a year, FMCS has created a specific information collection form. The purpose of this information collection activity is for FMC's Notice Processing Unit (NPU) to comply with FMCS's statutory duty to receive these notices, to facilitate assignment of mediators to assist in labor disputes, and to assist the parties in knowing whether or not proper notice was given. The information from these notices is sent to the five regional offices and field offices to inform mediators so they may contact labor and management quickly, efficiently, and offer their dispute resolution services, where applicable.

Either party to the contract may make a request in writing for a copy of the notice filed with FMCS. These notices are critical to the function of FMCS and fulfill a statutory purpose as well.

The F-7 form was created to establish conformity throughout interstate commerce and to allow FMCS to gather desired information in a uniform manner. The collection of such

information, including the name of employer or employer association, address and phone number, official contact, bargaining unit and establishment size, location of affected establishment and negotiations, industry or type of business, principal product or service, union address, phone number, and official contact, contract expiration date or renewal date, whether the notice is filed on behalf of the union or employer, and whether this is a health care industry notice for initial contracts or existing contracts, is critical for reporting and mediation purposes.

Burden Statement: The current annual respondent burden estimate is approximately 100,000 respondents. This one-page form takes about 10 minutes to complete, for a total of 50,000 annual hours. Each respondent is required to respond only once per event (i.e., 30 day notice for mediation). The frequency is once per collective bargaining contract.

In response to an employee's cost saving suggestion, FMCS investigated and determined that a substantial amount of printing, postal, storage, and distribution costs could be saved by creating a form without the three attached copies. The present form has three copies (the original to FMCS, the second copy to the appropriate state or territorial agency; the third copy to the opposite party involved in negotiations, and the fourth copy to be retained by the party filing the notice). In this era of computers and faxes, it is very likely that this 3-copy form is outdated and with optical scanners coming in the future, there may be an even easier format available. The current cost of the F-7, as printed by the U.S. Government Printing Office in quantities of 100,000 4-part units is .06 cents each. FMCS estimates a savings of approximately \$11,600 from printing and shipping costs with this change today and further cost savings in the future. In addition, FMCS has learned that while most filers send the original copy to FMCS, they do not use the other copies but send photocopies or faxes to the relevant state agency and opposite party. For each notice required to be filed with FMCS, there may not be a state or territorial agency involved or the contract may cover more than one state location. In either case, the party filing can more easily create photocopies of the form. Since FMCS is required by statute only to maintain the notices filed with it, FMCS seeks to create savings by changing the number of copies of its form. FMCS, however, also seeks comments from state and territorial

agencies as well as labor and management officials about this change.

II. Request for Comments

FMCS solicits comments to:

(i) 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;

(ii) 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;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) 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 submission of responses.

III. Public Docket

A record has been established for this action. A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Room 600 of the Office of General Counsel, Washington, D.C. 20427 as is maintained by the Public Access Section, Office Manager, Tammi Strozier. FMCS will transfer all electronically received comments into printed paper form as they are received.

List of Subjects

Mediation, Information collection requests, Notices.

Dated: April 9, 1996.

Wilma Liebman,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 96-9322 Filed 4-15-96; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Notice of information collection to be submitted to OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

SUMMARY: In accordance with requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) hereby gives notice that it plans to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for review of the information collection system described below. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 16, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments, which should refer to the OMB control number, should be addressed to the OMB desk officer for the Board: Milo Sunderhauf, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, DC 20503. Comments should also be addressed to William W. Wiles, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, DC 20551, or delivered to the Board's mail room between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., and to the security control room outside of those hours. Both the mail room and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, N.W. Comments received may be inspected in room M-P-500 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except as provided in section 261.8 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.8(a).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (OMB 83-I), supporting statement, and other documents that have been submitted to OMB for review and approval may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below.

Mary M. McLaughlin, Federal Reserve Board Clearance Officer (202-452-3829), Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact Dorothea Thompson (202-452-3544), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

Proposal to request approval from OMB of the extension, without revision, of the following report:
Title: Report of Assets and Liabilities of a Non-U.S. Branch that is Managed or