

membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, the following company, ORSCO, Inc., Madison Heights, MI, is no longer a participant in the "Spindles Project."

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and NCMS intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On February 20, 1987, NCMS filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on March 17, 1987 (52 FR 8375).

On June 6, 1994, NCMS filed its original ("Spindle Project") notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on July 15, 1994 (59 FR 36218).

**Constance K. Robinson,**

*Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### 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 preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed an/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 Department of Labor is soliciting comments concerning the proposed new collection, the Applicant Background Questionnaire. A copy of the proposed

information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before October 20, 1997. The Department of Labor 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.

**ADDRESSES:** Anderson Glasgow, U.S. Department of Labor, Human Resources Services Center, 200 Constitution Ave. N.W. Room C-5516, Washington, D.C. 20210; Phone: 202-219-6555 ext. 115; fax: 202-219-5820; internet: aglasgow@dol.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The Department of Labor, as part of its obligation to provide equal employment opportunities, is charged with ensuring that qualified individuals in groups that have historically been underrepresented in various employments, are included in applicant pools for Department positions. See 5 U.S.C. 7201(c); 29 U.S.C. 791; 29 U.S.C. 2000e-16; 5 C.F.R. 720.204; 29 C.F.R. 1614.101(a). To achieve this goal, DOL employment offices have outreach to a variety of sources, including educational institutions, professional organizations, newspapers and magazines. DOL has also participated in career fairs and conferences, that reach high concentrations of Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, and persons with disabilities.

At the present, DOL does not have the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of any of these targeted recruiting strategies because collection of racial

and national origin information only occurs at the point of hiring. DOL needs to collect data on the pools of applicants which result from the various targeted recruitment strategies listed above. After the certification and selection process has been completed, it is necessary to verify individual applications by name and social security number within a merit staffing file in order to analyze the data collected. With the information from this new collection, DOL can adjust and redirect its targeted recruitment to achieve the best result. DOL will also be able to respond to requests for information received from OPM in the course of OPM's evaluation and oversight activities.

##### II. Current Actions

This new collection will consist of a series of questions to be answered by all job applicants external to DOL, and submitted together with the job application. The collection will request the applicant's name, sex, race and/or national origin, whether or not disabled, and the source of information about the vacancy applied for (e.g., newspaper, school recruitment, internet, etc.)

*Type of Review:* New.

*Agency:* U.S. Department of Labor.

*Title:* Applicant Background Questionnaire.

*Agency Number:* 1225-0000.

*Affected Public:* Applicants for positions in the Department of Labor who are not current DOL employees.

*Total Respondents:* 5000 per year (estimate).

*Frequency:* one time per respondent.

*Total Responses:* 5000 per year (estimate).

*Average Time per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 417 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$2285.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* \$2238.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 18, 1997.

**Larry K. Goodwin,**

*Director of Human Resources.*

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