

Implementation Act and in accordance with Section 250(a), Subchapter D, Chapter 2, Title II, of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 USC 2331), an investigation was initiated on April 30, 1998, in response to a petition filed on April 23, 1998 on behalf of workers at The Paper Magic Group Inc., Reynosa, Mexico.

During the course of the investigation it was revealed that the workers' firm was located outside of the United States. Therefore, further investigation would serve no purpose and the investigation has been terminated.

Signed in Washington, DC this 15th day of June 1998.

Grant D. Beale,

Acting Director, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance.

[FR Doc. 98-17645 Filed 7-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Prohibited Transaction Exemption 94-71

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides 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 (PRA 95), 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 Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of a currently approved collection of information, Prohibited Transaction Exemption 94-71. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the contact section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 31, 1998.

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 clarify 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: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210, (202) 219-4782 (this is not a toll-free number), FAX (202) 219-4745.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Class Exemption 94-71 exempts certain transactions authorized by a settlement agreement resulting from an investigation of an employee benefit plan pursuant to the authority of section 504(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) from prohibitions set forth in sections 406 and 407(a) of ERISA. The conditions of the exemption include certain notice and disclosure requirements, which are intended to protect the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries. At least 30 days prior to engaging in the transaction described in the settlement agreement, a party who will be engaging in the transaction or activity must provide written notice to affected participants and beneficiaries in a manner reasonably calculated to result in receipt of the notice. The notice and method of distribution must be approved by the Department's office which negotiated the settlement.

II. Current Actions

The ICR included in this exemption is intended to facilitate voluntary settlements arising from investigations involving Title I of ERISA, while ensuring that participants and beneficiaries have adequate information concerning matters which may affect their benefits. In the absence of Prohibited Transaction Exemption 94-71, parties wishing to enter into certain

types of transactions pursuant to settlement agreements would be required to apply for individual exemptions. Therefore, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration intends to request Office of Management and Budget approval of this ICR beyond its September 30, 1998 expiration date.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: Prohibited Transaction

Exemption 94-71.

OMB Number: 1210-0091.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Individuals.

Total Respondents: 10.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Responses: 10.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1010 hours.

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 will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 26, 1998.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-17565 Filed 7-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) Technical Release 91-1

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides 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 (PRA 95) (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 Pension and Welfare

Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of a currently approved collection of information, ERISA Technical Release 91-1. A copy of the proposed information collection of information (ICR) can be obtained by containing the individual listed below in the contact section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 31, 1998.

The Department of Labor (Department) 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: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210, (202) 219-4782 (not a toll-free number), FAX (202) 219-4745.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

ERISA section 101(e) sets forth certain notice requirements which must be satisfied before an employer may transfer excess assets from a defined benefit plan to a retiree health benefit account as otherwise permissible after satisfying the conditions set forth in section 420 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Code). Section 101(e)(1) describes the plan administrator's obligation to provide advance written notification of such transfers to participants and beneficiaries. Section 101(e)(2)(A) describes the employer's obligation to provide advance written notification to the Secretaries of Labor and Treasury, the administrator, and each employee organization representing participants in the plan. The ICR included in ERISA Technical Release 91-1 provides guidance on the type of information to

be provided in the notices to both the participants and beneficiaries and the Secretaries.

II. Current Actions

The advance notice requirements with respect to transfers of excess assets from defined benefit plans to retiree health benefit account are specifically established in ERISA section 101(e). The provisions of ERISA Technical Release 91-1 are intended to assist plan sponsors in complying with these statutory requirements and to ensure that plan participants and beneficiaries receive information concerning transactions that may affect their benefits. As such, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration intends to request an extension of this ICR beyond its September 30, 1998, expiration date.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: ERISA Technical Release 91-1.

OMB Number: 1210-0084.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Individuals.

Total Respondents: 40.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Responses: 140,000.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 3,540.

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

Dated: June 26, 1998.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-17566 Filed 7-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 81-6

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides 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 (PRA 95) 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 Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of a currently approved collection of information, Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 81-6. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the contact section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 31, 1998.

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: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210, (202) 219-4782 (this is not a toll-free number), FAX (202) 219-4745.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 81-6 permits an employee benefit plan to lend securities to a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or to a bank, provided certain conditions are met. In the absence of an exemption, securities lending transactions would be prohibited under circumstances where the borrowing broker-dealer or bank is a party in interested or disqualified person with respect to the plan under