

**Register** on January 29, 1999 (64 FR 4713).

At the request of the State agency, the Department reviewed the certification for workers of the subject firm. The workers produce (cut) men's pants and some other apparel. New findings show that there was a previous certification covering the same worker group, NAFTA-01200, issued on October 23, 1996. That certification expired October 23, 1998. To avoid an overlap in worker group coverage, the certification is being amended to change the impact date from December 27, 1997 to October 24, 1998 for the workers of Southwest Fashion, Inc., El Paso Texas.

The amended notice applicable to NAFTA-02814 is hereby issued as follows:

All workers of Southwest Fashion, Inc., El Paso, Texas who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after October 24, 1998 through January 19, 2001 are eligible to apply for NAFTA-TAA under Section 250 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 18th day of March, 1999.

**Grant D. Beale,**

*Acting Director, Office of Trade; Adjustment Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 99-7711 Filed 3-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

[NAFTA-2360, NAFTA-2360B and NAFTA-2360C]

#### **VF Knitwear, Inc., Hillsville, VA Commerce Plant, Commerce, GA and Ferrum Plant, Ferrum, VA; Amended Certification Regarding Eligibility To Apply for NAFTA-Transitional Adjustment Assistance**

In accordance with Section 250(a), Subchapter D, Chapter 2, Title II, of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 USC 2273), the Department of Labor issued a Certification of Eligibility to Apply for NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance on June 8, 1998, applicable to workers of VF Knitwear, Inc., Hillsville, Virginia. The notice was published in the **Federal Register** on July 13, 1998 (63 FR 37591).

At the request of the company, the Department reviewed the certification for workers of the subject firm. The company reports that worker separations occurred at the Commerce Plant, Commerce, Georgia and the Ferrum Plant, Ferrum, Virginia facilities of VF Knitwear, Inc. All workers will be separated from the Commerce, Georgia

and Ferrum, Virginia locations when they close permanently in June, 1999. The workers are engaged in the production of t-shirts and fleecewear.

The intent of the Department's certification is to include all workers of VF Knitwear, Inc. adversely affected by increased imports from Mexico. Accordingly, the Department is amending the certification to include workers of VF Knitwear, Inc., Commerce Plant, Commerce, Georgia and Ferrum Plant, Ferrum, Virginia.

The amended notice applicable to NAFTA-2360 is hereby issued as follows:

All workers of VF Knitwear, Inc., Hillsville, Virginia (NAFTA-2360), Commerce Plant, Commerce, Georgia (NAFTA-2360B) and Ferrum Plant, Ferrum, Virginia (NAFTA-2360C) who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 1, 1997 through June 8, 2000, are eligible to apply for NAFTA-TAA under Section 250 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Signed in Washington, D.C. this 11th day of March, 1999.

**Grant D. Beale,**

*Acting Director, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 99-7719 Filed 3-29-99; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

### **Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Application for Mediation Services, and Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Mediation Board, 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 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 National Mediation Board is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the Application for Mediation Services, and the Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute.

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 June 1, 1999.

Written comments should:

- 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 Reba F. Streaker, Records Officer, National Mediation Board, 1301 K Street, N.W., Suite 250 East, Washington, DC 20572. Telephone No. (202) 692-5050 and FAX No. (202) 692-5086.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **A. Application for Mediation Services, NMB-2**

##### *I. Background*

Section 5, First of the Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C., 155, First, provides that both, or either, of the parties to the labor-management dispute may invoke the mediation services of the National Mediation Board. Congress has determined that it is in the nation's best interest to provide for Governmental mediation as the primary dispute resolution mechanism to resolve labor-management disputes in the railroad and airline industries.

The Railway Labor Act is silent as to how the invocation of mediation is to be accomplished and the Board has not promulgated regulations requiring any specific vehicle. Nonetheless, 29 CFR 1203.1, provides that applications for mediation services be made on printed forms which may be secured from the National Mediation Board. This section of the regulations provides that applications should be submitted in duplicate, show the exact nature of the dispute, the number of employees involved, name of the carrier and name of the labor organization, date of agreement between the parties, date and

copy of notice served by the invoking party to the other and date of final conference between the parties. The application should be signed by the highest officer of the carrier who has been designated to handle disputes under the Railway Labor Act or by the chief executive of the labor organization, whichever party files the application.

## II. Current Actions

The extension of this form is necessary considering the information provided by the parties is used by the Board to structure a mediation process that will be productive to the parties and result in a settlement without resort to strike or lockout. The Board has been very successful in resolving labor disputes in the railroad and airline industries. Historically, some 97 percent of all NMB mediation cases have been successfully resolved without interruptions to public service. Since 1980, only slightly more than 1 percent of cases have involved a disruption of service. This success ratio would possibly be reduced if the Board was unable to collect the brief information that it does in the application for mediation services.

*Type of Review:* Extension of the expiration date of a currently approved collection without any change in the substance or in the method of collection.

*Agency:* National Mediation Board.  
*Title of Form:* Application for Mediation Services.

*OMB Number:* 3140-0001.

*Agency Number:* NMB-2.

*Frequency:* Daily.

*Affected Public:* Carrier and Union Officials, and employees of railroads and airlines.

*Number of Respondents:* 123 annually.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* The burden on the parties is minimal in completing the Application for Mediation Services. There is no improved technological method for obtaining this information.

*Total Estimated Cost:* \$1040.00.

*Total Burden Hours:* 43.

## B. Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute, NMB-3

### I. Background

Section 2, Fourth of the Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C. 152, Fourth, provides that railroad and airline employees shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. When a dispute arises among the employees as to who will be their

bargaining representative, the National Mediation Board is required by Section 2, Ninth to investigate the dispute, to determine who is the authorized representative, if any, and to certify such representative to the employer. The Board's duties do not arise until its services have been invoked by a party to the dispute. The Railway Labor Act is silent as to how the invocation of a representation dispute is to be accomplished and the Board has not promulgated regulations requiring any specific vehicle. Nonetheless, 29 CFR 1203.2 provides that requests to investigate representation disputes may be made on printed forms NMB-3. The application shows the name or description of the craft or class involved, the name of the invoking organization, the name of the organization currently representing the employees, if any, and the estimated number of employees in the craft or class involved. This basic information is essential to the Board in that it provides a short description of the particulars of dispute and the Board can begin determining what resources will be required to conduct an investigation.

## II. Current Actions

The extension of this form is necessary considering the information is used by the Board in determining such matters as how many staff will be required to conduct an investigation and what other resources must be mobilized to complete our statutory responsibilities. Without this information, the Board would have to delay the commencement of the investigation, which is contrary to the intent of the Railway Labor Act.

*Type of Review:* Extension of the expiration date of a currently approved collection without any change in the substance or in the method of collection.

*Agency:* National Mediation Board.  
*Title of Forms:* Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute.  
*OMB Number:* 3140-002.  
*Agency Number:* NMB-3.  
*Frequency:* Daily.

*Affected Public:* Union Officials, and employees of railroads and airlines.

*Number of Respondents:* 68 annually.  
*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* The burden on the parties is minimal in completing the Application for Investigation of Representation Dispute. There is no improved technological method for obtaining this information.

*Total Estimated Cost:* \$517.00.

*Total Burden Hours:* 24.50.

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.

**Reba Streaker,**

*Records Officer/Paperwork Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-7763 Filed 3-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7550-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket 72-17]

### Portland General Electric Company; Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding the Proposed Exemption From Certain Requirements of 10 CFR Part 72

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.82(e) to Portland General Electric Company (PGE). Exemption from 10 CFR 72.82(e) would release PGE from submitting the report of preoperational test acceptance criteria and test results concerning the operation of its independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The proposed ISFSI is to be located at the Trojan Nuclear Plant (Docket Nos. 72-17 and 50-344) in Columbia County, Oregon. The proposed ISFSI would store the spent nuclear fuel from the Trojan Nuclear Plant.

### Environmental Assessment (EA)

#### Identification of Proposed Action

By letter dated February 10, 1998, PGE requested an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 72.82(e) to submit a report of the preoperational test acceptance criteria and test results at least 30 days prior to the receipt of spent fuel or high-level radioactive waste.

The proposed action before the Commission is whether to grant this exemption under 10 CFR 72.7 to release PGE from submitting a report to NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 72.82(e).

#### Need for the Proposed Action

The applicant is preparing to build and operate the Trojan ISFSI as described in its application and SAR, subject to approval of the pending licensing application. The exemption from 10 CFR 72.82(e) is necessary because PGE is preparing to transfer the spent nuclear fuel from its current location in the Trojan Nuclear Plant spent fuel pool to the Trojan ISFSI, immediately following the completion of the preoperational testing.