

fair market value floor may be computed under the next paragraph, paragraph (2). That paragraph provides that fair market value may be computed with reference to average unit prices in sales from "other leases in the same region." Finally if a value cannot be equitably determined under paragraphs (1) or (2), an appropriate price may be determined by the Secretary. In operating the RIK pilot projects that involve public sales of offshore production, we intend to comply with the OCSLA requirement not to sell RIK production for less than its fair market value as defined by that statute. However, we anticipate that there may well be instances in which it may be impractical or otherwise inequitable to determine actual average prices from a lease or region during the same period in which an RIK sale is to be made. Strict conformance with paragraph (1) of the definition would require knowing at the time of the RIK sale what the lessees' actual concurrent sales prices were for the nonroyalty share of production from the lease. Applying paragraph (2) of the definition would also require instantaneous knowledge of the sales prices of other lessees in the region.

In theory, we could require that all RIK purchase prices be subject to post-sale adjustments when the lease price information becomes available to MMS. In our view, this would be excessively burdensome to all concerned and would effectively discourage, if not eliminate, participation in RIK sales. If bidders did participate, they would necessarily bid a lower price for the royalty production than they would otherwise because of the risk of post-sale adjustment, particularly if this adjustment could be made well after the actual sale. It is clear that such a process would not only be inequitable to potential purchasers, but could not effectively capture a fair market value as that term is intended and conventionally understood.

In those instances where it is not possible, practical, or equitable to determine—contemporaneous with an RIK sale—average prices from a lease or the region, we believe we can reliably estimate these values very closely. These close estimates would allow us to proceed under paragraph (3) of the OCSLA "fair market value" definition to "determine such value, at an appropriate price determined by the Secretary" in a way that assures consistency with the intent not to sell RIK production for less than the price obtained by the lessee for its share.

In preparation for each sale of royalty oil or gas from identified Federal leases, MMS would develop a reference price for each specific lease that is consistent

with the OCSLA "fair market value" requirement. To establish this reference price, MMS would analyze the pricing relationships for sales in the area and/or market centers appropriate for sales of production from those leases. One source of data for the analysis would be actual historical prices for royalty purposes for the identified leases, or if none are available, from leases in the same area. Other data used in the analysis could include published index prices and bids MMS may have received on other offerings of its royalty oil or gas from that area, as well as the many other factors that could influence the determination of fair market value. These might include: responses to other sales of similar Federal royalty production, seasonality, infrastructural changes (temporary and permanent), and other variable market conditions.

Our analysis of pricing relationships in the market would produce an estimate of the price the lessee will receive. This would form the basis for the lease's reference price. During a sale, this lease reference price would serve as our reserve price, below which bids to purchase RIK production from the lease would be considered inadequate.

To verify that the pricing relationship between lessees' sales prices and the market continues, MMS will require occasional reporting by lessees of sales prices on leases from which MMS is taking production in kind. These reported prices would only be used for information and analytical purposes, are necessary to assure that we continue to receive fair market value for RIK sales, and will not be available for any other use.

Transfer of RIK Oil and Gas to Other Federal Agencies

As authorized by statute, we also plan to transfer royalty production taken in kind to other Federal agencies for direct consumption by the government. The Federal Government's energy requirements are large and are in excess of its royalty share of oil and gas production.

While geography and logistics prevent efficient implementation in all locations where oil and gas are consumed, there are enormous opportunities to build energy supply relationships within the Federal Government. These internal supply relationships have the potential to generate significant synergies and lower the total cost of energy consumed by the Federal Government.

For onshore, the MLA provides in 30 U.S.C. 192 that the Secretary may offer RIK for sale "except whenever in his judgment it is desirable to retain the same for the use of the United States

* * * The OCSLA provides specific authority to the Secretary at 43 U.S.C. 1353(a)(3) to transfer RIK production to other Federal agencies, stating that, title to any royalty, net profit share, or purchased oil or gas may be transferred, upon request, by the Secretary to the Secretary of Defense, to the Administrator of the General Services Administration, or to the Secretary of Energy, for disposal within the Federal Government.

We have already developed and implemented innovative arrangements involving the transfer of RIK crude oil to the Department of Energy for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and transfer of natural gas to the General Services Administration (GSA) for use in Federal facilities. We plan to further explore the potential associated with direct, internal consumption of royalty oil and gas production taken in kind, and expand our relationship with GSA and other Federal agencies as appropriate.

The general principles set forth here are intended to allow flexible operation of RIK programs to adapt the technique efficiently to the wide range of conditions that exist in Federal oil and gas producing areas. MMS firmly believes our approach is market-responsive, consistent with best industry practices, economically and administratively efficient, and minimally disruptive to lessees and operators. We welcome comments from the public on any and all aspects of this notice.

Dated: July 8, 1999.

Walter D. Cruickshank,
Associate Director for Policy and Management Improvement.

[FR Doc. 99-17788 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

July 6, 1999.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection requests (ICRs) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of each individual ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor, Departmental Clearance Officer, Ira Mills ({202} 219-5096 ext. 143) or by E-Mail to Mills-Ira@dol.gov.

Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for BLS, DM, ESA, ETA, MSHA, OSHA, PWBA, or VETS, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316, within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB 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 submission of responses.

Agency: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: Employee Benefit Plan Claim Procedures under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

OMB Number: 1210-0053.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 6,690,345.

Number of Responses: 63,317,000.

Total Burden Hours: 504,000.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: \$0.

Total annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): \$54,520,000.

Description: ERISA section 503 and regulations at 29 CFR 2560.503-1 require employee benefit plans to establish procedures for notification on claim denials, disclosure of reasons, and notice of opportunity to obtain review of the denial.

Ira L. Mills,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-17665 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy; Renewal

The Secretary of Labor and the United States Trade Representative have taken steps to renew the Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy. The Committee and subcommittees will be chartered pursuant to section 135(c)(1-2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(c)(1-2)), as amended by section 1103 of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, Public Law 96-39, 93 Stat. 308, the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, Public Law 100-418, 102 Stat. 1107 (1988) and Executive Order No. 11846, March 27, 1975 (19 U.S.C. 2111 nt).

The Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy consults with, and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Labor and to the United States Trade Representative on issues of general policy matters concerning labor and trade negotiations, operations of any trade agreement once entered into, and other matters arising in connection with the administration of the trade policy of the United States.

The Committee will meet at irregular intervals at the call of the Secretary of Labor and the United States Trade Representative. The Steering Subcommittee will meet bi-monthly. Other subcommittees may meet on an ad hoc basis.

For further information contact: Jorge Perez-Lopez, Director, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Frances Perkins Building, Department of Labor, Room S-5325, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, Telephone: (202) 219-7597.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 2nd day of July, 1999.

Alexis M. Herman,

Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 99-17664 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-38-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of International Labor Affairs

International Child Labor Program; Solicitation for Grant Application: Develop and Publicize Factual Information About Child Labor, its Use and Solutions to the Problem of Child Labor Worldwide

AGENCY: Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) International Child Labor Program.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this SGA is to award grants to one or more private, nonprofit organizations for the purpose of developing and publicizing factual information about the use of child labor, creating innovative partnerships to address child labor, and organizing a public dialogue about best-practice solutions to the problem of child labor worldwide. The grant or grants will be administered by the International Child Labor Program (ICLP) of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB).

DATES: The closing date for receipt of a completed application in response to the SGA will be no later than 4:45 p.m. on July 30, 1999.

FOR COMPLETE APPLICATION SEND WRITTEN REQUEST TO: Lisa Harvey, Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, Telephone Number (202) 219-9335.

Signed at Washington, DC this 7th day of July, 1999.

Lawrence J. Kuss,

Grant Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-17778 Filed 7-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-28-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Proposed Information Collection; ETA 203, Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed; 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 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 Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the collection of the ETA 203, Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed. A copy of the proposed