

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 31 hrs. 51 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 54,145.

*The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:*

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: March 10, 2003.

**Carol Savage,**  
Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 03-6603 Filed 3-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

[PS-5-91]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this

opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, PS-5-91 (TD 8437), Limitations on Percentage Depletion in the Case of Oil and Gas Wells (Section 1.613A-3(e)).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before May 19, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Larnice Mack (202) 622-3179, or through the Internet ([Larnice.Mack@irs.gov](mailto:Larnice.Mack@irs.gov)), Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Limitations on Percentage Depletion in the Case of Oil and Gas Wells.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1251.

*Regulation Project Number:* PS-5-91.

*Abstract:* This regulation concerns oil and gas property held by partnerships. Because the depletion allowance with respect to production from domestic oil and gas properties is computed by the partners and not by the partnership, section 1.613A-3(e)(6)(i) of the regulation requires each partner to separately keep records of the partner's share of the adjusted basis in each oil and gas property of the partnership.

*Current Actions:* There is no change to this existing regulation.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,500,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 2 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 49,950.

*The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:*

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal

revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: March 10, 2003.

**Carol Savage,**  
Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 03-6604 Filed 3-18-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0165]

#### Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to evaluate claimant's eligibility for waiver of collection, payment plans or compromises on VA benefits debts.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed

collection of information should be received on or before May 19, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to David Sturm, VA Debt Management Center, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Room 156D, Ft. Snelling, MN 55123 or e-mail to: [DMCDSTUR@VBA.VA.GOV](mailto:DMCDSTUR@VBA.VA.GOV). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0165" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Sturm at (612) 970-5702 or FAX (612) 970-5687.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Financial Status Report, VA Form 5655.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0165.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Form 5655 is attached to first collection letters sent to debtors owing VA benefit debts. Submission of the completed form is voluntary on the part of the debtor unless he or she requests waiver of collection, makes a compromise offer, wishes to make installment payments or establish his or her inability to pay the debt under any circumstances. Federal employees subject to salary offset may use Form 5655 to support their contention that the proposed offset schedule would create extreme hardship. The information obtained is used to determine the financial status of the debtors, his/her ability to pay, and the feasibility of exploring compromise.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 45,553 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 1 hour.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 45,553.

Dated: February 26, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Martin L. Hill,**

*Acting Director, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-6612 Filed 3-18-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0386]

### Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits

Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to ensure that lenders correctly compute the funding fee and the maximum permissible loan amount for interest rate reduction refinancing loans.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before May 19, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or <mailto:irmnkess@vba.va.gov>. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0386" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each

collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan Worksheet, VA Form 26-8923.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0386.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Lenders are required to submit VA Form 26-8923 when requesting guaranty on an interest rate reduction refinancing loan. VA loan examiners must assure that the requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 and applicable VA regulations are met before the issuance of guaranty. The form ensures that lenders correctly compute the funding fee and the maximum permissible loan amount for interest rate reduction refinancing loans.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 16,667 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 10 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100,000.

Dated: February 26, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Martin L. Hill,**

*Acting Director, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-6613 Filed 3-18-03; 8:45 am]

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