

under its business loan assistance programs, as well as seeking comments on a proposed assessment of the effects of the Agency's 7(a) business loan program and 504 certified development company program upon the environment. The comment period closes on October 5, 2004. Due to a request from the public for an extension of time for comments and SBA's desire to have a meaningful dialogue on these issues, SBA is extending the time period for comments through December 15, 2004.

**DATES:** The comment period for the Notice of proposed change in procedures published August 6, 2004 (69 FR 47971) is extended through December 15, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by a reference to "NEPA Procedures Public Comments," by any of the following methods: Through the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>; by mail to Eric S. Benderson, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, 7th Floor, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416; by e-mail (include reference to "NEPA Procedures Public Comments" in the subject line) to [eric.benderson@sba.gov](mailto:eric.benderson@sba.gov); or via facsimile to (202) 205-7154.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eric S. Benderson, Associate General Counsel (202) 205-6636; [eric.benderson@sba.gov](mailto:eric.benderson@sba.gov).

Dated: September 28, 2004.

**Ronald E. Bew,**

*Associate Deputy Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 04-22187 Filed 10-1-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Pub. L. 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. The information collection packages that may be included in this Notice are for revisions to OMB-approved information collections and extensions (no change) of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its

quality, utility, and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance Officer. The information can be mailed and/or faxed to the individuals at the addresses and fax numbers listed below:

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Building, Room 10235, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503, Fax: 202-395-6974.

(SSA), Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1338 Annex Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-965-6400.

I. The information collections listed below are pending at SSA and will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, your comments should be submitted to SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain copies of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454 or by writing to the address listed above.

1. *Cessation or Continuance of Disability or Blindness Determination—20 CFR 404.1615, 20 CFR 404.1512, and 20 CFR 404.1588-1599—0960-0443.* The information on Form SSA-832-U3/C3 is used by SSA to document determinations as to whether an individual's disability benefits should be terminated or continued on the basis of his/her impairment. The respondents are State Disability Determination Service employees adjudicating Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability claims.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.  
*Number of Respondents:* 392,191.  
*Frequency of Response:* 1.  
*Average Burden Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 196,096 hours.

2. *Work Activity Report (Self-Employed Person)—20 CFR 404.1520(b), 20 CFR 1571-.1576, 20 CFR 404.1584-.1593, and 20 CFR 416.971-.976—0960-0598.* The information on Form SSA-820-F4 is used by SSA to determine initial or continuing eligibility for SSI or Social Security disability benefits. Under titles II and XVI of the Act, applicants for disability benefits must prove an inability to perform any kind of Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) generally available in the national economy for which they might be

expected to qualify on the basis of age, education, and work experience. SSA needs to secure information about this work in order to ascertain whether the applicant was (or is) engaging in SGA. Work after a claimant becomes entitled can cause the cessation of disability benefits. The information obtained from form SSA-820-F4 is needed to determine if a cessation of benefits should occur. The respondents are applicants and claimants for SSI or Social Security benefits.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 100,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 50,000 hours.

3. *Representative Payee Report—20 CFR 404.2035, 20 CFR 404.2065, 20 CFR 416.635, and 20 CFR 416.665—0960-0068.* The information on Forms SSA-623 and SSA-6230 is used by SSA to determine whether payments certified to the representative payee have been used for the beneficiary's current maintenance and personal needs, and to determine whether the representative payee continues to be concerned with the beneficiary's welfare. The respondents are representative payees.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 6,000,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,500,000 hours.

4. *Modified Benefit Formula Questionnaire—0960-0395.* The Social Security Administration uses the information collected by the SSA-150 to determine the correct formula to be used in computing the Social Security benefit for someone who receives a pension from employment not covered by Social Security. The SSA-150 collects the information needed to make all the necessary benefit computations. The respondents are claimants for Social Security benefits who are entitled to both Social Security and a pension not covered by Social Security.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 90,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 8 minutes.

*Estimated Average Burden:* 12,000 hours.

5. *Modified Benefit Formula Questionnaire-Employer—0960-0477.*

The information collected on Form SSA-58 is used by the SSA to verify the

claimant's allegations on Form SSA-150 (OMB No. 0960-0395). SSA must make a determination regarding whether the modified benefit formula is applicable and when to first apply it to a person's benefit. This form will be sent to an employer for pension-related information if the claimant is unable to provide it. The respondents are individuals who are eligible after 1985 for both Social Security benefits and a pension based on work not covered by Social Security.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 30,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 20 minutes.

*Estimated Average Burden:* 10,000 hours.

6. *Report by Former Representative Payee—20 CFR 404.2060 and 20 CFR 404.2065—0960-0112.* SSA collects the information on Form SSA-625 when a mental facility is terminating its payee services and a successor payee is to be named. The information is needed to determine the proper disposition of any conserved funds. The respondents are State institutions or agencies which are no longer serving as representative payee(s) for beneficiaries who are incapable of managing benefits.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 8,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Average Burden:* 2,000 hours.

7. *State Death Match—20 CFR 404.301, 20 CFR 404.310-311, 20 CFR 404.316, 20 CFR 404.330-341, 20 CFR 404.350-352, 20 CFR 404.371, and 20 CFR 416.912—0960-NEW*

**Background**

Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act requires SSA to contract with the States to obtain death certificate

information in order to compare it to SSA's payment files. This match ensures the accuracy of our payment files by detecting unreported or inaccurate deaths of beneficiaries.

Entitlement to retirement, disability, wife's, husband's or parent's benefits under the provisions of the Social Security Act terminates when the beneficiary dies. About 2.5 million people die in the United States each year. Approximately 2.0 million are SSA beneficiaries. Therefore, the information is instrumental in maintaining payment integrity.

SSA is seeking clearance of both the current state death match reporting process and the new Web-based Electronic Death Registration (EDR) process described below:

*State Death Match—Current Process*

The first participants in the death registration process, usually funeral directors, are charged by State law to complete the demographic information on the decedent and obtain necessary physicians' signatures to complete the death registration. Once the death registration information is completed, the first participant sends the information to the State's bureaus of vital statistics (SBVS). The SBVS officially registers the death and is the official keeper of the death record. Each State then furnishes this information to SSA, using current technology including Vital Information Systems Network (VISN), electronic Vital Information Systems Network (eVISN), and ConnectDirect. Under this process SSA must independently verify the State death data before taking a termination action. The respondents are the SBVS.

*State Death Match—EDR Online Verification of the Social Security Number in State Death Registration Process*

The States are now updating and further automating the death registration

processes. This State reengineering effort is widely known as the Electronic Death Registration (EDR) initiative. The EDR system permits electronic transfer of the death certificate. Under EDR the first participant completes a portion and electronically sends the document to the next participant for completion and submission to the BVS.

An additional feature of EDR is the Online Verification System (OVS) developed by the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information System (NAPHSIS) in conjunction with SSA. The process allows the first participants in the death registration process to enter the decedent's demographic information including the social security number (SSN) into the EDR system. The system will verify the SSN online in real time and creates an electronic death certificate as well as a fact of death report. The States have agreed that the on-line verification of the SSN at the first point of collection in the registration process will satisfy the requirement to independently verify the SSN.

EDR reduces the processing time needed to register deaths and greatly improves the business practices of the various participants in death registration process. EDR will result in the State's ability to send SSA the report with a verified SSN within 5 days of the date of death and within 24 hours of receipt in the State repository. SSA is using a phased-in approach to EDR. When fully implemented, SSA will save significant program dollars and work years annually. The respondents are the SBVS.

*Type of Request:* New information collection.

*Estimated Annual Cost for all respondents:*

Collection format	Number of respondents	Frequency of responses	Average cost per record request	Estimated annual cost burden
State death match—current registration process.	52	50,000 per state .....	.67	\$1,742,000
State death match—electronic death registration (EDR).	3	50,000 per state .....	\$2.48	\$372,000

\*\* Please note that both of these data matching processes are entirely electronic and there is no hourly burden for the respondent to provide this information.

**II. The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance.**

Your comments on the information collection would be most useful if received by OMB and SSA within 30 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454, or by writing to the address listed above.

*Request for Waiver of Special Veterans Benefits (SVB) Overpayment Recovery or Change in Repayment Rate—0960—NEW*

**Background**

Section 251 of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, Pub. L. 106-169, added Title VIII (Special Benefits for Certain World War II veterans) to the Social Security Act. Title VIII allows for the payments of monthly benefits to qualified World War II veterans who reside outside the United States. When an overpayment in SVB occurs, the beneficiary can request a waiver of recovery of the overpayment or a change in the overpayment rate.

*The Information Collection*

Form SSA-2032-BK will be used by SSA to obtain the information necessary to determine whether the provisions of the Act regarding waiver of recovery of the overpayment are met. The information on the form is needed to determine a repayment rate if repayment cannot be waived. The information will be collected by personnel in SSA field offices, U.S. Embassies or consulates, or the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in the Philippines. Respondents to the SSA-2032 are beneficiaries who have overpayments on their Title VIII record and wish to file a claim for waiver of recovery or change in repayment rate.

*Type of Request:* New Information Collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 39.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 120 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 78 hours.

Dated: September 28, 2004.

**Elizabeth A. Davidson,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.*

[FR Doc. 04-22219 Filed 10-1-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4191-02-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice 4849]

**Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Summary Environmental Assessment: Express Pipeline in Montana and Wyoming**

**AGENCY:** Department of State, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy.

**ACTION:** Notice.

The proposed action is to issue a Presidential Permit to Express Pipeline LLC ("Express") to authorize it to construct, connect, operate and maintain six new pump stations for an existing 24-inch outer diameter pipeline to convey crude petroleum from Hardisty, Alberta in Canada, to Casper, Wyoming. The Department of State (the "Department") issued a Presidential Permit on August 30, 1996 to construct, connect, operate, and maintain the 24-inch-diameter buried steel pipeline that is currently capable of transporting 172,000 bpd of petroleum from Hardisty, Alberta, Canada to Casper, Wyoming. On behalf of Express, Westech Environmental Services of Helena, Montana, prepared a draft environmental assessment ("EA") for the proposed action under the guidance and supervision of the Department. The Department placed a notice in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 33691 (June 16, 2004)) regarding the availability for inspection of the Express permit application and the draft environmental assessment, and initiating a 30-day public comment period. No public comments were submitted on the draft environmental assessment.

Numerous Federal and State agencies independently reviewed the Express Permit application and the draft environmental assessment. They include: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy.

Comments received from the Federal and State agencies were either responded to directly, or addressed directly by incorporation into the analysis contained in the draft environmental assessment. In addition to inclusion in the analyses of impacts and risks, Federal and State agency comments were used to develop measures to be undertaken by Express to prevent or mitigate potentially adverse environmental impacts, which were included as commitments by Express

and its operator Terasen Pipelines, Inc., in the EA and are to be included in the permit to be issued.

The summary environmental assessment, comments submitted by the Federal and State agencies, responses to those comments, and the draft environmental assessment, as amended, together constitute the Final Environmental Assessment of the proposed action.

**Introduction**

The Express Pipeline is a 24-inch-diameter buried steel pipeline currently capable of transporting approximately 172,000 bpd of petroleum from Hardisty, Alberta, Canada to Casper, Wyoming. The U.S. portion of the Express Pipeline was authorized by a Presidential Permit issued by the Department on August 30, 1996 which permitted the operation of five pump stations, several mainline valves and other pipeline related facilities on the basis of an environmental impact statement that is an annex to this environmental assessment. The Express Pipeline was constructed in the fall and winter of 1996-1997, and became operational in early 1997.

The 1996 Presidential Permit was issued to Express Pipeline partnership, a Delaware partnership. On August 1, 2001, Express Pipeline partnership filed a certificate of conversion to a limited liability company with the Delaware Secretary of State, thereby automatically converting to a domestic limited liability company, Express Pipeline LLC. On January 9, 2003, Encana Corporation of British Columbia sold Express Pipeline LLC to a consortium comprised of Terasen, Inc., of British Columbia, the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System and the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan Board, each holding an equal one-third interest. Terasen Pipelines (USA) Inc., ("Terasen") operates and maintains the existing system on behalf of Express Pipeline LLC.

Express Pipeline LLC ("Express") owns the portion of the Express Pipeline system from the Canada/U.S. border to Casper, Wyoming. Express is now applying for a Presidential Permit from the U.S. Department of State to construct, operate and maintain six additional pump stations on the Express Pipeline in Montana and Wyoming and to transfer the existing Presidential Permit from Express Pipeline partnership to Express (the "Proposed Action"). This expansion of the capacity of the Express Pipeline in the United States would enable Express to respond to the market demand of Rocky Mountain and Midwest refiners for