

personnel must oversee all marking, trenching, and backfilling operations.

Furthermore, PHMSA reminds pipeline operators that although excavation is not explicitly addressed in 49 CFR parts 192 and 195, excavation is considered a covered task under the pipeline operator qualifications regulations (49 CFR 192.801–809 and 195.501–509). These regulations require that pipeline operators and contractors be qualified to perform pipeline excavation activities. A qualified individual is one who has been evaluated and can perform assigned covered tasks and can recognize and react appropriately to abnormal conditions.

In particular, PHMSA recommends pipeline operators review the adequacy of covered tasks involving line locating, one-call notifications, and inspection of excavation activities. Operators should also review the adequacy of required training, evaluation and qualification methods for each of these covered tasks to ensure that each employee and contractor is qualified to perform that task.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. Chapter 601; 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 10, 2005.

**Theodore L. Willke,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 06–387 Filed 1–13–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–60–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of Call for Redemption: 13<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> Percent Treasury Bonds of 2006–11, Washington, DC

1. As of January 13, 2006, public notice is hereby given that all outstanding 13<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> percent Treasury Bonds of 2006–11 (CUSIP No. 912810 CV 8) dated May 15, 1981, due May 15, 2011, are hereby called for redemption at par on May 15, 2006, on which date interest on such bonds will cease.

2. Full information regarding the presentation and surrender of such bonds held in coupon and registered form for redemption under this call will be found in Department of the Treasury Circular No. 300 dated March 4, 1973, as amended (31 CFR part 306), and from the Definitives Section of the Bureau of the Public Debt (telephone (304) 480–7936), and on the Bureau of the Public Debt's Web site, <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov>.

3. Redemption payments for such bonds held in book-entry form, whether on the books of the Federal Reserve Banks or in Treasury Direct accounts, will be made automatically on May 15, 2006.

**Donald V. Hammond,**

*Fiscal Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 06–360 Filed 1–13–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810–40–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

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

**SUMMARY:** The OCC, 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 a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OCC is soliciting comment concerning its information collection titled, "Community and Economic Development Entities, Community Development Projects—12 CFR part 24." The OCC also gives notice that it has sent the information collection to OMB for review and approval.

**DATES:** You should submit comments by February 16, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Communications Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Public Information Room, Mailstop 1–5, Attention: 1557–0194, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219. In addition, comments may be sent by fax to (202) 874–4448, or by electronic mail to [regs.comments@occ.treas.gov](mailto:regs.comments@occ.treas.gov). You can inspect and photocopy the comments at the OCC's Public Information Room, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219. You can make an appointment to inspect the comments by calling (202) 874–5043.

Additionally, you should send a copy of your comments to OCC Desk Officer, 1557–0194, by mail to U.S. Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., #10235, Washington, DC 20503, or by fax to (202) 395–6974.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You can request additional information or a copy of the collection from Mary Gottlieb, OCC Clearance Officer, or Camille Dixon, (202) 874–5090, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 7, 2005, the OCC published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 67536) a notice concerning the revision of this information collection. The OCC received no public comments and is now submitting its request to OMB for approval.

*Title:* Community and Economic Development Entities, Community Development Projects—12 CFR 24.

*OMB Number:* 1557–0194.

*Description:* This submission covers an existing regulation and involves no change to the regulation or to the information collection requirements. The OCC requests only that OMB approve its revised estimates and extend its approval of the information collection.

Section 24.5(a) provides that an eligible bank may make an investment without prior notification to, or approval by, the OCC if the bank submits an after-the-fact notification of an investment within 10 days after it makes the investment.

Section 24.5(a)(4) provides that a national bank that is not an eligible bank but that is at least adequately capitalized may submit a letter to the OCC requesting authority to self-certify investments.

Section 24.5(b) provides that if a national bank does not meet the requirements for after-the-fact notification, the bank must submit an investment proposal to the OCC.

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

*Affected Public:* Individuals; Businesses or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 250.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 250.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.  
*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 371 hours.

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 has 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 on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

(e) Estimates of capital or startup costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: January 9, 2006.

**Stuart Feldstein,**

*Assistant Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division.*

[FR Doc. E6-405 Filed 1-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-33-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### VA Directive and Handbook 5021, Employee/Management Relations

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

**SUMMARY:** Section 302 of the Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset and Business Improvement Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-170), dated December 6, 2003, authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to appoint chiropractors as permanent full-time title 38 employees under 38 U.S.C. 7401(1). Also appointed under this authority are physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, nurses, nurse anesthetists, physician assistants and expanded-function dental auxiliaries. Upon successful completion of probationary status as required by 38 U.S.C. 7403(b), these title 38 employees may file an appeal to a Disciplinary Appeals Board if they are subjected to major adverse action that is based in whole or in part on a question of professional conduct and competence.

As part of its implementation of Public Law 108-170, the Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to revise its Directive and Handbook 5021, Employee/Management Relations, to clarify that chiropractors now have the same right to appeal major adverse actions to Disciplinary Appeal Boards and grieve certain actions as other title 38 employees. The revisions that are the subject of this notice will amend portions of the following regulations: VA Directive 5021, Appendix A, sections A.3, B.1.b.(1), B.2.b, B.2.c., B.4.a-d., and B.4.f. The revisions also would amend the following portions of VA Handbook 5021: Part 1, Chapter 3, section 3.a.; Part III, Chapter 1, section 1, third note to section 2., and sections

3.a., and 3.h.(5); and Part IV, Chapter 3 (title), sections 1.b.(1), 2.b. and 2.c. In some of these sections, the word "chiropractors" has been added to a listing of occupations appointed under 38 U.S.C. 7401(1). In the other sections, Public Law 108-170 has been added to an existing list of statutory references. In all cases, the words or phrases that are proposed to be added to the regulations are shown in brackets. Only those sections of the existing regulations that contain proposed changes are included in this notice.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 16, 2006. The proposed effective date of these amendments is 30 days after publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Director, Regulations Management (00REG1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Ables, Director, Employee Relations and Performance Management Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Human Resources Management and Labor Relations (051), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Mr. Ables may be reached at (202) 273-9827.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title 38 U.S.C. 7461(e) requires that "[w]henver the Secretary proposes to prescribe regulations [relating to Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures] under this subchapter, the Secretary shall publish the proposed regulations in the **Federal Register** for notice and comment not less than 30 days before the day on which they take effect."

### Proposed Revisions to VA Directive 5021, Employee/Management Relations

#### *Appendix A. Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures*

Section A. Disciplinary and Major Adverse Actions

3. *Definitions.* Unless otherwise noted, the following definitions apply to this appendix only.

a. [*Admonishment.* An official letter of censure to an employee for minor act(s) of misconduct or deficiency in competence. This letter normally remains in the employee's personnel folder for two years].

b. [*Discharge.* The involuntary separation of an employee from employment based on conduct or performance].

c. [*Disciplinary Actions.* These are adverse actions, other than major adverse actions, which include

admonishment and reprimand based on conduct or performance].

d. [*Disciplinary Appeals Board.* The three member board designated to hear an employee's appeal of a major adverse action which is based in whole or in part on a question of professional conduct or competence].

e. [*Grade.* The established grades for the positions covered by this chapter will be as defined by 38 U.S.C. 7404, and the qualification standards issued pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 7402. (See part II of VA Handbook 5005, Staffing.)]

f. [*Major Adverse Actions.* These are suspension, transfer, reduction in grade, reduction in basic pay, and discharge based on conduct or performance].

g. [*Mixed Case.* This is a case that includes both (1) a major adverse action arising out of (or including) a question of professional conduct or competence, and (2) a major adverse action which does not arise out of a question of professional conduct or competence, or a disciplinary action].

h. [*Professional Conduct or Competence.* A question of professional conduct or competence involves direct patient care and/or clinical competence. The term clinical competence includes issues of professional judgment].

i. [*Reduction in Basic Pay.* The involuntary reduction, based on conduct or performance, of the annual rate of basic pay to which an employee is entitled under 38 U.S.C. 7404, including above minimum entrance rates and special salary rates authorized under 38 U.S.C. 7455. This does not apply to reductions in pay other than basic pay, such as the loss of physician or dentist special pay or head nurse differential, other differentials, allowances or premium pay such as standby, on-call, shift, overtime, Sunday, holiday, night work, hazardous duty, and interim geographic adjustment].

j. [*Reduction in Grade.* The involuntary assignment to a lower grade on the same pay schedule based on conduct or performance].

k. [*Reprimand.* An official letter of censure to an employee for an act of misconduct or deficiency in competence. A reprimand is a more severe disciplinary action than an admonishment. This letter normally remains in the employee's personnel folder for three years].

l. [*Suspension.* The involuntary placement of an employee, for disciplinary reasons, in a non-duty, non-pay status for a temporary period of time].

m. [*Transfer.* The involuntary movement of an employee from one VA facility to another (under separate