

Signed at Washington D.C. this 19th day of June, 1997.

**Greg Watchman,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor.*

[FR Doc. 97-16670 Filed 6-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

#### Working Group on Studying the Merits of Defined Contribution vs. Defined Benefit Plans; Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefits Plans; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 512 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. 1142, the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans Working Group established to Study the Merits of Defined Contribution vs. Defined Benefit Plans With an Emphasis on Small Business Concerns will hold a public meeting on July 17, 1997 in Room N-5437 A&B, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210.

The purpose of the open meeting, which will run from 1:00 p.m. until approximately 3:30 p.m., is for Working Group members to take testimony on the trends in the formation of defined benefit plans from the perspective of organized labor.

Members of the public are encouraged to file a written statement pertaining to any topic concerning ERISA by submitting 20 copies on or before July 7, 1997, to Sharon Morrissey, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Working Group on Studying the Merits of Defined Contribution vs. Defined Benefit Plans With an Emphasis on Small Business Concerns should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8753. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, but an extended statement may be submitted for the record. Individuals with disabilities, who need special accommodations, should contact Sharon Morrissey by July 7, at the address indicated in this notice.

Organizations or individuals may also submit statements for the record without testifying. Twenty (20) copies of such statements should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Advisory

Council at the above address. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before July 7.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 18th day of June, 1997.

**Olena Berg,**

*Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.*

[FR Doc. 97-16667 6-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

#### Working Group Studying Employer Assets In ERISA Employer-Sponsored Plans; Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefits Plans; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 512 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. 1142, a public meeting will be held on July 17, 1997 of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans Working Group studying Employer Assets in ERISA Employer-Sponsored Plans.

The purpose of the open meeting, which will run from 9:30 a.m. until noon in Room N-5437 A&B, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, is for Working Group members to continue taking testimony on the topic of employer assets in ERISA employer-sponsored plans. The group will be especially interested in seeking testimony from organizations or persons not in favor of allowing employer securities as significant plan assets of defined contribution plans. The group also hopes to discuss other assets held by the plan such as real estate leased to the plan sponsor.

Members of the public are encouraged to file a written statement pertaining to any topic concerning ERISA by submitting 20 copies on or before July 7, 1997, to Sharon Morrissey, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Working Group on Employer Assets in ERISA Employer-Sponsored Plans should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8753. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, but an extended statement may be submitted for the record. Individuals

with disabilities, who need special accommodations, should contact Sharon Morrissey by July 7, 1997, at the address indicated in this notice. Organizations or individuals may also submit statements for the record without testifying. Twenty (20) copies of such statements should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Council at the above address. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before July 7.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 18th day of June, 1997.

**Olena Berg,**

*Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.*

[FR Doc. 97-16668 Filed 6-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

#### Working Group Studying Soft Dollar Arrangements and Commission Recapture; Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefits Plans; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 512 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. 1142, a public meeting will be held July 16 of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans Working Group formed to study Soft Dollar Arrangements and Commission Recapture.

The session will take place in Room N-5437 A&B, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. The purpose of the all-day open meeting, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to approximately noon and from 1:00 p.m. until approximately 3:30 p.m., is for Working Group members to take testimony from members of the financial community discussing their views on soft dollar and directed brokerage practices. Most testimony will be favorable to continuing the current practice with disclosure to clients. Already scheduled to appear is Ronald Machold from the New Jersey Investment Board, who will discuss soft dollar usage in a large internally-managed pension system.

Members of the public are encouraged to file a written statement pertaining to any topic concerning ERISA by submitting 20 copies on or before July 7, 1997, to Sharon Morrissey, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-

5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Working Group on Soft Dollar Arrangements and Commission Recapture should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8753. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, but an extended statement may be submitted for the record. Individuals with disabilities, who need special accommodations, should contact Sharon Morrissey by July 7, at the address indicated in this notice.

Organizations or individuals may also submit statements for the record without testifying. Twenty (20) copies of such statements should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Council at the above address. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before July 7.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 18th day of June, 1997.

**Olena Berg,**

*Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.*

[FR Doc. 97-16669 Filed 6-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### **NSF Survey of Research and Development Funding and Performance by Nonprofit Organizations; Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation, 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)).

**COMMENT DUE DATE:** Written comments must be submitted by August 25, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to Gail A. McHenry, NSF Reports Clearance Officer, by fax (702) 306-0210, e-mail at gmchenry@nsf.gov, or by mail to National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 245, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gail A. McHenry, the NSF Reports Clearance Officer on (703) 306-1125

x2010 or send e-mail to gmchenry@nsf.gov. You may also obtain a copy of the data collection instrument and instructions from Mrs. McHenry.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Abstract**

NSF Survey of Research and Development Funding and Performance by Nonprofit Organizations (NPOs) will collect information on the science and engineering (S&E) research and development (R&D) activities of nonprofit organizations for the two most recently completed years. (On an historic note, a prior study with similar objectives was conducted in 1973.) The purposes of the study are to: (1) Develop estimates of the amounts of R&D funding provided by NPOs and the types of organizations supported; (2) develop estimates of the amount of R&D performed by NPOs; and (3) develop estimates of R&D employment in NPOs. Two different survey questionnaires will be used. R&D performers will be asked for R&D expenditures by source of funds, by field of science and engineering, by category of work (Basic, Applied, Development), by state, and amounts expended for capital improvements, and for employment. R&D funders will be asked for amount of S&E R&D they fund at various categories of R&D performers. The information is needed to update available data on the R&D activities of the nonprofit segment. The Gallup Organization will conduct the study for NSF.

Two samples will be drawn: one of NPO R&D performers and a second of NPO R&D funders. The R&D performers' sample will be drawn from organizations filing a 990 tax return. An initial sample of roughly 3,500 potential NPO R&D performers will be selected and sent a short screening questionnaire to establish eligibility for the main study. An unweighted response rate of 90 percent is anticipated, and about 90 percent of the participating organizations are expected to be eligible. These 2,800 organizations will be sent a main questionnaire that is expected to yield a final working sample size of about 2,500. To be included with certainty in the sample of 3,500 are the 450 respondents to the 1973 NSF R&D nonprofit institutions survey and the 15 Federally Funded Research and Development Centers that are administered by NPOs.

The R&D funders sample will be drawn from both 990PF tax returns for private foundations and 990 returns for public charities. As with the performers, a sample of potential NPO R&D funders

will be selected to receive a short screening questionnaire to establish eligibility (N=700). Of these, 90 percent are expected to participate and 90 percent of these are expected to be eligible to participate. The roughly 560 eligible organizations will be sent a main questionnaire that is expected to yield a total working sample of 500.

To minimize burden on small entities and to make sure that a high proportion of the nonprofit sector's R&D funding and performance is captured, the sample will be designed with probabilities proportional to size. Thus, a large NPO has a higher probability of being selected than a small NPO has. This method is justified because large NPOs are more likely to perform R&D than small NPOs are. Size will be determined by budgets, assets, or awards.

The main questionnaires will be distributed in hardcopy and via the World Wide Web. To minimize burden, the World Wide Web questionnaires will be computer-assisted to ease user input, provide automatic totals of numerical information and aid users in error correction.

Security procedures will minimize the risk of unwanted disclosure over the Internet. Definitions of key survey terms have been made consistent with OMB Circulars A-122, Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations, and A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Non-Profit Institutions, to minimize potential confusion and unnecessary effort by survey respondents.

Information being collected is not considered to be sensitive. In general, assurances of data confidentiality will not be provided to respondents to the NSF Survey of Research and Development Funding and Performance by Nonprofit Organizations. The utility of the data will be increased by allowing access to collected data. Results of pretesting and discussions with possible respondents have suggested this approach for handling confidentiality.

#### **Use of the Information**

The purpose of this study is to collect data about R&D funding and performance by nonprofit organizations. The NSF will publish a separate report of the findings and also include them in other NSF compilations such as National Patterns of R&D Resources and Science and Engineering Indicators. A public release file of collected data will be made available to researchers on the World Wide Web. The results of the survey will help policy makers in decisions on R&D funding, regulations, and reporting guidelines.