

**Federal Register** notice, we calculated that established businesses would need 150 hours annually toward maintenance of associated computer programs. We have now reduced that figure further after determining that most maintenance and upkeep of computer systems would be part of ordinary business practice in the industry. The OMB regulation that implements the PRA defines "burden" to exclude any effort that would be expended regardless of any regulatory requirement. 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(2).

No provisions in the Mail or Telephone Order Merchandise Rule have been amended or changed in any manner. All of the Rule's requirements relating to disclosure and notification remain the same. We have, however, reduced the 1995 total burden estimate for the following reasons.

Most of the 1995 estimated burden hours were associated with one-time start up tasks associated with establishing implementing standard systems and processes. This is because the Rule had recently been amended (in 1994) to include the telephone order industry. The mail order industry, in contrast, had been subject to the basic provisions of the Rule since 1976. Thus, most of the 230 burden hours that we estimated per firm related to the development and installation of computer systems to handle telephone ordering, and not to the maintenance of such systems.

As noted above, the OMB regulation that implements the PRA defines "burden" to exclude any effort that would be expended regardless of any regulatory requirement. 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(2). In past rulemaking proceedings, industry trade associations and individual witnesses have testified that compliance with the Rule is now widely regarded by direct marketers as being good business practice. The Rule's notification requirements would be followed in any event by most merchants to meet consumer expectations with respect to timely shipment, notification of delay, and prompt and full refunds. Providing consumers with notice about the status of their orders encourages repeat purchase behavior that is essential to the survival of direct mail or telephone order businesses.

Also, the industry is highly automated; notices are produced mechanically and little labor is involved. Nonetheless, even for established businesses, there may be some burden attributable strictly to the existence of the rule. For example, some merchants rely on contractors to handle orders and must therefore monitor how the contractor complies with the Rule.

This entails reviewing consumer complaints to determine whether appropriate delay notification is being provided. The Rule allows merchants to use as much or as little time as necessary to assure that notification and disclosure requirements are being met. Companies employ a broad range of energy, time, and resources for performing these tasks. Also, while established companies spend some time maintaining existing compliance systems, their expenditures are only a fraction of those by new businesses required to establish entirely new systems. An exact figure is difficult to quantify; however, based on staff's familiarity with the industry, we have determined that the average among the industry is unlikely to be more than 50 hours per year.

Staff responsible for the Rule have also estimated that approximately 1,000 additional companies have entered the market since 1995 (for a total of 71,560 incumbent firms) and that, due to escalating sales, approximately 1,000 new companies will enter the market during the coming year. We estimate that these 1,000 new companies will each expend 230 hours per year (the 1995 figure of 229.78 rounded to 230) to establish compliance measures associated with system start-up, although it could be argued once again that most of these efforts would be undertaken even absent the Rule. Nonetheless, we have estimated the total burden imposed by the disclosure and notification requirements at approximately 3,808,000 hours (1,000×230=230,000)+(71,560×50+3,578,000).

**Debra A. Valentine,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 97-31728 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 3090-0221]

### Proposed Collection; GSA Board of Contract Appeals Rules Procedure

**AGENCY:** GSA Board of Contract Appeals (GSBCA), GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comments regarding reinstatement to a previously approved OMB clearance (3090-0221).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Office of Acquisition Policy has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) a request to review and approve a reinstatement of a previously approved information collection requirement concerning GSA Board of Contract Appeals Rules Procedure. A request for public comments was published at 62 FR 49518, September 22, 1997. No comments were received.

**DATES:** Comment Due Date: January 2, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: Edward Springer, GSA Desk Officer, Room 3235, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and to Marjorie Ashby, General Services Administration (MVP), 1800 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Margaret Pfunder, Deputy Chief Counsel, GSA Board of Contract Appeals, (202) 501-0272.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### A. Purpose

The GSA is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reinstate information collection, 3090-0221, concerning the GSA Board of Contract Appeals Rules Procedure. The GSBCA requires the information collected in order to conduct proceedings in contract appeals and petitions, and cost applications. Parties include those persons or entities filing appeals, petitions, and cost applications, and government agencies.

### B. Annual Reporting Burden

*Respondents:* 86; *annual responses:* 86; *average hours per response:* .20; *burden hours:* 10.2.

*Copy of Proposal:* A copy of this proposal may be obtained from the GSA Acquisition Policy Division (MVP), Room 4011, GSA Building, 1800 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20405, or by telephoning (202) 501-3822, or by faxing your request to (202) 501-3341.

Dated: November 24, 1997.

**Ida M. Ustad,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy.*

[FR Doc. 97-31487 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-61-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Notice of a Meeting of the Genetics Subcommittee, National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC)

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as

amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is given of a meeting of the Genetics Subcommittee of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission. The subcommittee members will continue addressing issues concerning genetics and genetic testing. The meeting is open to the public and opportunities for statements by the public will be provided.

**DATES:** Tuesday, December 9, 1997, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** The subcommittee will meet at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The President established the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) by Executive Order 12975 on October 3, 1995. The mission of the NBAC is to advise and make recommendations to the National Science and Technology Council and other entities on bioethical issues arising from the research on human biology and behavior, and in the applications of that research including clinical applications.

#### **Tentative Agenda**

The subcommittee will continue discussion on issues surrounding tissue samples including what they are, how they are collected and stored; the moral decisions involved in donation; religious, ethnic, and cultural differences in attitudes; and other related issues.

#### **Public Participation**

The meeting is open to the public with attendance limited by the availability of space. Members of the public who wish to present oral statements should contact Ms. Patricia Norris by telephone, fax machine, or mail as shown below as soon as possible, prior to the meeting. The Chair of the subcommittee will reserve time for presentations by persons requesting an opportunity to speak. The order of speakers will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Individuals unable to make oral presentations are encouraged to mail or fax their comments to the NBAC at least two business days prior to the meeting for distribution to the subcommittee members and inclusion in the record.

Persons needing assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other special accommodations, should contact NBAC staff at the address or telephone number listed below as soon as possible.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Patricia Norris, National Bioethics Advisory Commission, MSC-7508, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Suite 5B01,

Rockville, Maryland 20892-7508, telephone 301-402-4242, fax number 301-480-6900.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

**Henrietta D. Hyatt-Knorr,**  
*Deputy Executive Director, National Bioethics Advisory Commission.*

[FR Doc. 97-31463 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-17-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Agency for Health Care Policy and Research**

#### **Notice of Meeting**

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2) announcement is made of the following special emphasis panel scheduled to meet during the month of December 1997:

*Name:* Health Care Policy and Research Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date and Time:* December 10-11, 1997, 8:00 a.m.

*Place:* Doubletree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Conference Room TBA, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Open December 10, 1997, 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Closed for remainder of meeting.

*Purpose:* This Panel is charged with conducting the initial review of grant applications for research and demonstration projects on the use of measurements in improving the quality of health care. Applications are sought in three areas: (1) methods and measures to allow translation of scientific information about medical care into quality measures and strategies to improve clinical practice; (2) studies of the relationship between organizational change and quality measurement and improvement in health care; and (3) studies of the use of information derived from measurement about quality of care by consumers, patients, employers, providers, and insurers to make decisions.

*Agenda:* The open session of the meeting on December 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. will be devoted to a business meeting covering administrative matters and reports. During the closed sessions, the Panel will be reviewing and discussing grant applications dealing with health services research issues. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, section 10(d) of 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2 and 5 U.S.C., 552b(c)(6), the Administrator, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, has made a formal determination that these latter sessions will be closed because the discussions are likely to reveal personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications. This information is exempt from mandatory disclosure.

Anyone wishing to obtain a roster of members, minutes of the meeting, or other relevant information should contact Sheila S.

Simmons, Committee Management Officer, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, Suite 400, Executive Office Center, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, Maryland 20852, Telephone (301) 594-1452 ext. 1627.

Agenda items for all meetings are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

**John M. Eisenberg,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 97-31589 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-90-M

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[INFO-98-05]

#### **Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations**

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 639-7090.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques for other forms of information technology. Send comments to Wilma Johnson, CDC Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

#### **Proposed Projects**

1. National Exposure Registry (0923-0006)—Extension—The information collected is part of the Agency for Toxic Substances' on-going National Exposure Registry (NER)—a database composed of a listing of persons, along with health and demographic information, with documented exposure to selected toxic substances subregistries). The NER was