result, payroll and other direct deposit files could be rejected or delayed, which might increase concerns regarding the reliability of the ACH mechanism and retard the growth of electronically initiated payments.

In addition, the Board requests comment on the extent to which the ACH system would become less attractive to institutions required to prefund their credit transactions if those institutions were required to modify their internal procedures. The expanded prefunding requirement would require ODFIs that are monitored in real time to fund ACH transactions earlier than is currently the case and might require processing changes at the ODFI or its designated sending point(s). The earlier funding would increase the cost of processing ACH transactions to those institutions. Further, the ODFI may be required to submit separate batches for credit transactions and debit transactions to avoid the possibility that debit transactions included in mixed batches might be held.

In the case of an ODFI that settles through the account of a correspondent settlement agent, the Board is interested in commenters' views on whether the Federal Reserve should base the prefunding requirements on the condition of the correspondent or the ODFI. Currently, Reserve Banks require prefunding based on the financial condition of the ODFI and not that of the correspondent. In either case, if transactions could not be processed because the correspondent's account had an insufficient account balance to prefund ACH credit transactions originated by the ODFI, both the ODFI and the correspondent would be notified. Further, if the Reserve Banks based their prefunding requirement on the risk profile of the correspondent settlement agent, the correspondent would not be permitted to terminate a settlement designation for transactions that have been accepted by the Federal Reserve for processing.

Finally, the Board is interested in commenters' suggestions regarding alternative risk control approaches, different from that described in this notice, that would establish risk controls equivalent to those used in the Fedwire funds transfer service and in the enhanced settlement service and that may be better suited to the ACH environment.

IV. Competitive Impact Analysis

In assessing the competitive impact of improving the finality for the settlement of ACH credit transactions, the Board considers whether there will be a direct and material adverse effect on the ability of other service providers to compete with the Federal Reserve due to differing legal powers or due to the Federal Reserve's dominant market position deriving from such legal differences.[5]

Although the Federal Reserve's ACH does not derive its dominant market position from legal differences, the fact that the Federal Reserve maintains accounts directly or indirectly for all depository institutions to settle may make it easier from some institutions' perspective to use the Federal Reserve's services. The enhanced settlement service was designed, in part, to offset that potential advantage by making it easier for a private-sector entity to function settlement entries to depository institutions nationwide. As was mentioned earlier, the enhanced settlement service will check the available account balance of all depository institutions that are being monitored in real time. If the Reserve Banks were to improve the settlement finality for the ACH transactions they process without implementing similar risk controls, competitive questions might be raised. The Board, however, believes that the expanded use of prefunding provides risk controls commensurate with those of the enhanced settlement service.

While private-sector operators that use the Fedwire-based or enhanced settlement service will be able to offer settlement-day finality for the ACH credit transactions they process, differences would remain between the characteristics of their settlement finality and those of the Federal Reserve's ACH service, assuming the Board adopts settlement-day finality as described in this notice. In particular, the need to reverse ACH credit transactions that cannot be funded would largely be eliminated in the Federal Reserve's ACH service because of the prefunding of those transactions by ODFIs with higher risk profiles. In contrast, private operators, to the extent that they accept participants with higher risk profiles, would need to reverse ACH credit transactions that had been previously processed and delivered to RDFIs if the OFDI could not fund its net debit position on the settlement day. (Private ACH operators, however, generally do not provide services to institutions that do not meet their criteria for admission and participation. These criteria are based, in part, on the financial condition of the institutions.) From the perspective of the RDFIs, avoiding the risk of reversing transactions that had already been posted to receivers' accounts may make the risk management associated with the Federal Reserve's ACH service more attractive than that of the private operators. From the perspective of some ODFIs, however, the Federal Reserve's risk management would likely be considered more burdensome and therefore less attractive than that of the private operators. The Federal Reserve's ACH service would require some ODFIs to fund their gross ACH credit originations before transactions are processed while private-sector operators require ODFIs to fund their net positions at the time of settlement. The provision of as-of adjustments for prefunding, however, could mitigate this burden somewhat. In general, the Board does not believe that settlement-day finality for ACH credit transactions processed by the Federal Reserve and conditioned on the expanded use of prefunding would adversely affect competition in the provision of interbank ACH services.

[5] The Federal Reserve in the Payments System, FRRS 7–145.2

By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 14, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98–33575 Filed 12–17–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Bioethics Advisory Commission; Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; American Investigators' Attitudes Regarding U.S. Human Subjects Regulations

SUMMARY: 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 National Bioethics Advisory Commission will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

BACKGROUND: The National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC), appointed by President Clinton, is examining international research ethics as one of its focus areas. NBAC has commissioned this study to analyze how American investigators view current regulatory requirements. The results of this study will contribute to NBAC's examination of whether U.S. policies regarding human subjects research in developing countries should

be changed and, if so, to develop recommendations for such change.

Proposed Collection: Title: American Investigators' Attitudes Regarding U.S. Human Subjects Regulations. *Type of Information Collection Request:* New. *Need and Use of Information Collection:* This is an effort by the National Bioethics Advisory Commission to provide information that is currently not available to assist the Commission in its upcoming deliberations on international bioethics issues. The respondents are individual U.S. researchers who have conducted or are currently conducting research in developing countries, funded by the U.S. government and therefore subject to U.S. human subject protection regulations. The following research questions will be addressed: What are the attitudes and experiences of US-based health researchers working in developing countries regarding US-generated ethical guidelines and human subjects regulations? What recommendations do such researchers make for revising the U.S. guidelines for research conducted in developing world settings? This study will employ two phases: Phase 1 will consist of focus groups with American investigators; and Phase 2 will entail mailing a self-administered survey to a randomly selected sample of researchers funded by the Federal government or private entities to conduct health research in developing countries. *Frequency of Response:* One time. *Affected Public:* Individuals. *Type of Respondents:* Researchers . The annual reporting burden is as follows: *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 245; *Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1; *Average Burden Hour per Respondent:* .776; and *Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours Requested:* 190. The annualized cost to respondents is estimated at $4,750. There are no Operating or Maintenance Costs to report.

Request for Comments: Written comments and/or suggestions from public individuals or organizations should be sent to 6100 Executive Boulevard, Suite 5B01, Rockville, MD 20892–7508, or to the Commission's website at www.bioethics.gov. Responses can also be faxed to 301–480–6900. Responses should address ways that enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information sought.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, contact in writing Ms. Patricia Norris at the address shown above or via the NBAC website.

Comments Due Date: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having a full effect if received within 60 days of the date of this publication.

Dated: December 14, 1998.

Eric M. Meslin,

Executive Director, National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

[FR Doc. 98–33488 Filed 12–17–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–17–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Office of Public Health and Science; Request for Nominations for Members of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Coordinating Committee

The Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) requests nominations for representatives to serve on the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Coordinating Committee (CFSCC). Nominations are solicited for representatives in the following categories: (1) Individuals who are biomedical research scientists with demonstrated achievements in biomedical research relating to chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS); and, (2) individuals with expertise in health care services, disability issues, or who are representatives of private health care insurers.

INFORMATION REQUIRED: Each nomination shall consists of a package that at a minimum includes:

A. A letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the nominator's basis for the nomination, and the category for which the person is nominated;

B. The name, return address, and daytime telephone number at which the nominator may be contacted. Organizational nominators must identify a principal contact person in addition to contact information.

C. A copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.

All nomination information for a nominee must be provided in complete single package. Incomplete nominations cannot be considered. Nomination materials must bear original signatures and facsimile transmissions or copies are not acceptable.

DATES: All nominations must be received at the address below by no later than 4 p.m. EDT on January 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All nomination packages shall be submitted to Lillian Abbey, Executive Secretary, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Solar Building, Room 3A26, 6003 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lillian Abbey at the above address or at (301) 496–1884 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. EDST.

Dated: December 10, 1998.

David Satcher,

Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General.

[FR Doc. 98–33567 Filed 12–17–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee (MSHRAC): Notice of Recharter

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92–463) of October 6, 1972, that the Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee (formerly known as the Mine Health Research Advisory Committee), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, of the Department of Health and Human Services, has been rechartered for a 2-year period, through November 30, 2000.

For further information, contact Larry Grayson, Ph.D., Executive Secretary, MSHRAC, CDC, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 715–H, Humphrey Building, Washington, D.C. 20201. Telephone 202/401–2192, fax 202/260–4464, e-mail lhg9@cdc.gov.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services office has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: December 11, 1998.

Carolyn J. Russell,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 98–33542 Filed 12–17–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–P