

[FR Doc. 98-4063 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Investigations Regarding Certifications of Eligibility To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance

Petitions have been filed with the Secretary of Labor under Section 221(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 ("the Act") and are identified in the Appendix to this notice. Upon receipt of these petitions, the Acting Director of the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance, Employment and Training Administration, has instituted

investigations pursuant to Section 221(a) of the Act.

The purpose of each of the investigations is to determine whether the workers are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Title II, Chapter 2, of the Act. The investigations will further relate, as appropriate, to the determination of the date on which total or partial separations began or threatened to begin and the subdivision of the firm involved.

The petitioners or any other persons showing a substantial interest in the subject matter of the investigations may request a public hearing, provided such request is filed in writing with the Acting Director, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance, at the address shown below, not later than March 2, 1998.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the subject matter of the investigations to the Acting Director, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance, at the address shown below, not later than March 2, 1998.

The petitions filed in this case are available for inspection at the Office of the Acting Director, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20210.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of January, 1998.

Grant D. Beale,

Acting Director, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance.

APPENDIX—PETITIONS INSTITUTED ON 01/26/98

TA-W	Subject firm (petitioners)	Location	Date of petition	Product(s)
34,169	VF Knitwear, Inc (Comp)	Stoneville, NC	01/12/98	Tee and Fleece Shirts.
34,170	Scientific Atlanta (Comp)	Tempe, AZ	01/16/98	Cable Boxes.
34,171	Key Tronic Corp (Comp)	Las Cruces, NM	12/29/97	Personal Computer Keyboards.
34,172	Lone Pine Forest Products (Wrks)	Bend, OR	12/29/97	Grape Box Ends, Pine Furniture Parts.
34,173	Quiltex Co (UNITE)	Brooklyn, NY	12/31/97	Infant Crib Sets.
34,174	United Technologies Auto (Comp)	Columbus, MS	01/09/98	Fractional Horse Power Electric Motors.
34,175	Great Connections (Wrks)	Lititz, PA	01/12/98	Home and Office Furniture.
34,176	Hewlett Packard (Wrks)	Vancouver, WA	01/06/98	Printed Circuit Assemblies for Printers.
34,177	Paul-Bruce/L.V. Myles (Wrks)	Scotland Neck, NC	01/08/98	Children's and Ladies' Sleepwear.
34,178	Allied Signal Aerospace (USW)	Stratford, CT	01/13/98	Assemblies and Components for Engines.
34,179	Proam Corp (Wrks)	Long Island City, NY	01/12/98	Ladies' Jackets.
34,180	Comac (Wrks)	Columbia, TN	01/08/98	Sand/Prepared Saturn Autos for Paint.
34,181	Specialty Manufacturers (Wrks)	Bristol, TN	01/05/98	T-Shirts, Baby Bibs and Visors.
34,182	Mountainsmith (Wrks)	Cotter, AR	01/09/98	Backpacks.
34,183	Ashmore Sportswear (Wrks)	Womelsdorf, PA	01/12/98	T-Shirts.
34,184	Forsyth Industries, Inc (Comp)	East Aurora, NY	01/15/98	Metal Stampings and Wire Forms.
34,185	Oryx Energy Co (Comp)	Dallas, TX	01/16/98	Oil and Gas.
34,186	Biljo, Inc (Comp)	Dublin, GA	01/14/98	Men's and Boys' Slacks.
34,187	Overly Door Co (USWA)	Greensburg, PA	01/16/98	Hollow Metal Doors.
34,188	Badger Paper Mill (UPIU)	Peshtigo, WI	01/19/98	Bond, Twisting, Dry, Wax Gum, Candy Wrap.

[FR Doc. 98-4057 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Job Training Partnership Act: Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs Under Title IV-A Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation

process to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This process helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burdens are minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed reinstatement of the previously-approved planning and reporting system for Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)

title IV-A, section 402 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs for three more program years (July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2000). A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before April 20, 1998.

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate for the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Thomas M. Dowd, Acting Chief, Division of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4641, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-8502 ext 119 (VOICE) or (202) 219-6338 (FAX) (these are not toll-free numbers) or INTERNET: DOWDT@doleta.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor is requesting reinstatement of its previously-approved planning and

reporting system for Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) title IV-A, section 402 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker grantees for three more program years (July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2000). In evaluating the last two years' planning and reporting experience of the grantees who receive funding under section 402, the Department has decided that the system does not require any major changes beyond those instituted for PY 1995 when the Standardized Participant Information Report (SPIR) was adopted to replace the Farmworker Annual Status Report [FASR—ETA 8599]. This position is reached in part because of pending new workforce legislation, which would possibly require extensive revisions to the current planning and reporting system.

II. Current Actions

The proposed ICR will be a reinstatement of a previously approved system that will be used by approximately 34 section 402 grantees as the primary planning and reporting vehicle for enrolled individuals, their characteristics, training and services provided, outcomes, including job placement and employability enhancements, as well as detailed financial data on program expenditures. Section 402 grantees are currently required to submit annual participant data on the SPIR, which will not be

affected by this continuation. SPIR burdens are covered separately under OMB Clearance No. 1205-0350 (expiration date 6/30/98), and have not been included in the following burden estimates. For ease of analysis, the following burden estimate is broken down into the three main components of section 402 program operation: (1) planning; (2) recordkeeping; and (3) reporting.

Type of Review: REINSTATEMENT.

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration.

Title: Planning and reporting system for JTPA title IV-A, section 402 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker grantees.

OMB Number: 1205-0215.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 17.252.

Recordkeeping Requirements:

Grantees shall retain supporting and other documents necessary for the compilation and submission of the subject reports for three years after submission of the final financial report for the grant in question [29 CFR 97.42 and/or 29 CFR 95.53].

Affected Public: Private non-profit organizations; State agencies; consortia of any of the above.

Total Estimated Burden: 65,152 hours.

Detailed breakdown of the above-estimated burden hour requirements for the JTPA section 402 program:

Required activity	MSFW form Nos.	Number of respondents	Responses per year	Total responses	Hours per response	Total burden hrs.
(Plan.) Master Agreement .....	.....	34	1	34	0.5	17
(Plan.) Narrative .....	.....	34	1	34	22	748
Budget Information Sum	ETA 8595	34	1	34	15	510
Program Planning Sum	ETA 8596	34	1	34	16	544
Recordkeeping .....	.....	34	.....	35,224	1.75	61,667
(Reporting) FSR	ETA 8597	34	4	102	7	952
Program Status Summary	ETA 8598	34	3	102	7	714
Totals .....	.....	34	11	35,564	69.25	65,152

Note: Recordkeeping estimates are based on the actual number of termines reported on the SPIR for PY 1995 (35,224) times an estimated average of 1.75 hours per participant record.

The individual time per response (whether plan, record, or report) varies widely depending on the degree of automation attained by individual grantees. Grantees also vary according to the numbers of individuals served in each program year. If the grantee has a fully-developed and automated MIS, the response time is limited to one-time programming plus processing time for each response. It is the Department's desire to see as many section 402 grantees as possible become

computerized, so that response time for planning and reporting will eventually sift down to an irreducible minimum with an absolute minimum of human intervention.

Estimated Grantee Burden Costs: (There are no capital/start-up costs involved in any section 402 activities).

Planning: 1,819 hours times an estimated cost per grantee hour of \$20.00 (including fringes) = \$36,380 per year.

Recordkeeping: 61,667 hours times the same \$20.00 per hour = \$1,233,340.

Reporting: 1,666 hours times \$20.00 = \$33,320 per year.

Total estimated burden costs: \$1,303,040 (nationwide).

As noted, these costs will vary widely among grantees, from nearly no additional cost to some higher figure, depending on the state of automation attained by each grantee and the wages paid to the staff actually completing the various forms.

All costs associated with the required submissions outlined above, whether for planning, recordkeeping, or reporting purposes, are allowable grant expenses.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 11th day of February, 1998.

Anna W. Goddard,

Director, Office of Special Targeted Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-4050 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Labor Certification Process for the Temporary Employment of Aliens in Agriculture and Logging in the United States: 1998 Adverse Effect Wage Rates, Allowable Charges for Agricultural and Logging Workers' Meals, and Maximum Travel Subsistence Reimbursement

AGENCY: U.S. Employment Service, Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of adverse effect wage rates (AEWRs), allowable charges for meals, and maximum travel subsistence reimbursement for 1998.

SUMMARY: The Director, U.S. Employment Service, announces 1998 adverse effect wage rates (AEWRs) for employers seeking nonimmigrant alien (H-2A) workers for temporary or seasonal agricultural labor or services, the allowable charges employers seeking nonimmigrant alien workers for temporary or seasonal agricultural labor or services or logging work may levy upon their workers when they provide three meals per day, and the maximum travel subsistence reimbursement which a worker with receipts may claim in 1998.

AEWRs are the minimum wage rates which the Department of Labor has determined must be offered and paid to U.S. and alien workers by employers of nonimmigrant alien agricultural workers (H-2A visaholders). AEWRs are established to prevent the employment of these aliens from adversely affecting wages of similarly employed U.S. workers.

The Director also announces the new rates which covered agricultural and logging employers may charge their workers for three daily meals.

Under specified conditions, workers are entitled to reimbursement for travel subsistence expense. The minimum reimbursement is the charge for three daily meals as discussed above. The Director here announces the current maximum reimbursement for workers with receipts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 18, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John R. Beverly, III, Director, U.S. Employment Service, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4700, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: 202-219-5257 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Attorney General may not approve an employer's petition for admission of temporary alien agricultural (H-2A) workers to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature in the United States unless the petitioner has applied to the Department of Labor (DOL) for an H-2A labor certification. The labor certification must show that: (1) There are not sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, and qualified and who will be available at the time and place needed to perform the labor or services involved in the petition; and (2) the employment of the alien in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States similarly employed. 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a), 1184(c), and 1188.

DOL's regulations for the H-2A program require that covered employers offer and pay their U.S. and H-2A workers no less than the applicable hourly adverse effect wage rate (AEWR). 20 CFR 655.102(b)(9); see also 20 CFR 655.107. Reference should be made to the preamble to the July 5, 1989, final rule (54 FR 28037), which explains in great depth the purpose and history of AEWRs, DOL's discretion in setting AEWRs, and the AEWR computation methodology at 20 CFR 655.107(a). See also 52 FR 20496, 20502-20505 (June 1, 1987).

A. Adverse Effect Wage Rates (AEWRs) for 1998

Adverse effect wage rates (AEWRs) are the minimum wage rates which DOL has determined must be offered and paid to U.S. and alien workers by employers of nonimmigrant (H-2A) agricultural workers. DOL emphasizes, however, that such employers must pay the highest of the AEWR, the applicable prevailing wage or the statutory minimum wage, as specified in the regulations. 20 CFR 655.102(b)(9). Except as otherwise provided in 20 CFR Part 655, Subpart B, the nationwide AEWR for all agricultural employment (except those occupations deemed inappropriate under the special circumstances provisions of 20 CFR 655.93) for which temporary alien agricultural labor (H-2A) certification is being sought, is equal to the annual

weighted average hourly wage rate for field and livestock workers (combined) for the region as published annually by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA does not provide data on Alaska). 20 CFR 655.107(a).

The regulation at 20 CFR 655.107(a) requires the Director, U.S. Employment Service, to publish USDA field and livestock worker (combined) wage data as AEWRs in a **Federal Register** notice. Accordingly, the 1998 AEWRs for work performed on or after the effective date of this notice, are set forth in the table below:

TABLE—1998 ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATES (AEWRs)

State	1998 AEWR
Alabama	\$6.30
Arizona	6.08
Arkansas	5.98
California	6.87
Colorado	6.39
Connecticut	6.84
Delaware	6.33
Florida	6.77
Georgia	6.30
Hawaii	8.83
Idaho	6.54
Illinois	7.18
Indiana	7.18
Iowa	6.86
Kansas	7.01
Kentucky	5.92
Louisiana	5.98
Maine	6.84
Maryland	6.33
Massachusetts	6.84
Michigan	6.85
Minnesota	6.85
Mississippi	5.98
Missouri	6.86
Montana	6.54
Nebraska	7.01
Nevada	6.39
New Hampshire	6.84
New Jersey	6.33
New Mexico	6.08
New York	6.84
North Carolina	6.16
North Dakota	7.01
Ohio	7.18
Oklahoma	5.92
Oregon	7.08
Pennsylvania	6.33
Rhode Island	6.84
South Carolina	6.30
South Dakota	7.01
Tennessee	5.92
Texas	5.92
Utah	6.39
Vermont	6.84
Virginia	6.16
Washington	7.08
West Virginia	5.92
Wisconsin	6.85
Wyoming	6.54

B. Allowable Meal Charges

Among the minimum benefits and working conditions which DOL requires