

Office of Professional Responsibility exercises the authority of the former Director of Practice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Hahn, Enrollment Program Advisory Committee, 202-694-1823.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with 41 CFR 101-6.1015(a)(1), the Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility hereby gives notice of the renewal of the Enrollment Program Advisory Committee ("EPAC"), which was formerly known as the "Special Enrollment Examination Advisory Committee." The EPAC has been renewed under the authority of section 14(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App.

Section 330 of 31 U.S.C. authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to require that representatives before the Department demonstrate their "competency to advise and assist persons in presenting their cases." Pursuant to that statute, the Secretary has promulgated the regulations governing practice before the IRS, which are found at 31 CFR part 10, and are separately published in pamphlet form as Treasury Department Circular No. 230 (to order call 1-800-829-3676).

The regulations provide that enrolled agents are among the classes of individuals eligible to practice before the IRS. The Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility is also authorized to pass upon applications for enrollment and to grant enrollment to applicants who demonstrate special competence in tax matters by written examination administered by the IRS. This written examination is the Special Enrollment Examination (SEE).

The primary purpose of the Committee is to advise the Office of Professional Responsibility on the SEE. The Committee's advisory functions will include, but will not necessarily be limited to: (1) Identifying Federal tax services sought by taxpayers, identifying the knowledge that would permit enrolled agents to provide such services, and developing examination topics and questions that will test for such knowledge; (2) recommending completed examinations for use—in the SEE Program; and (3) reviewing the work product of any organization authorized by contract or otherwise to write, compile, administer and grade the SEE, report the scores to SEE candidates, and provide advice thereon to the Director.

Dated: August 1, 2003.

**Brien T. Downing,**

*Director, Office of Professional Responsibility.*  
[FR Doc. 03-20292 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Bureau of the Public Debt

#### Proposed Collection: Comment Request

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

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, 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)). Currently the Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Authorization for purchase and request for change of United States Savings Bonds.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before October 7, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, or [Vicki.Thorpe@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:Vicki.Thorpe@bpd.treas.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Authorization For Purchase And Request For Change United States Savings Bonds.

*OMB Number:* 1535-0111.

*Form Numbers:* SB 2362, 2378, and 2383.

*Abstract:* The information is requested to support a request by employees to authorize employers to allot funds from their pay for the purchase of savings bonds.

*Current Actions:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,300,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 1 minute.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 21,667.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. 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 shall have 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 of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: August 4, 2003.

**Vicki S. Thorpe,**

*Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.*

[FR Doc. 03-20233 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-39-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Draft National Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Plan

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document concerns VA's health care planning process known as CARES, or Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services. The CARES process was designed to enable the veterans health care system to more effectively use its resources to deliver more care, to more veterans, in places where veterans need it most. We are providing interested persons the opportunity to review and submit written comments to the independent CARES Commission concerning the draft National CARES Plan of the Under Secretary for Health.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted until further notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments can be mailed to Richard E. Larson, Executive Director, CARES Commission, 00CARES, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20480; or faxed to (202) 501-2196; or e-mail to <http://www.carescommission.va.gov>.

Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to the "Notice; Draft National Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Plan."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Janice R. Sloan, CARES Commission, at (202) 501-2000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** VA's mission to provide quality health care for America's veterans has not changed since its inception. But how that care is provided—at what kind of facilities, where they are located and which types of procedures are used—has been subject to dynamic change. Medical advances, modern health care trends, and veteran migrations all have an impact on the medical care landscape. In a dynamic health care environment, VA must plan to embrace change so it can best serve veterans health care needs in the future.

The draft National CARES Plan embodies the plan for managing a vital element of that change: The Department's capital infrastructure. The plan is based on a systematic, national assessment of the future needs of veterans and the present location and condition of the physical plant that delivers their health care. The draft National CARES Plan identifies gaps where there is an imbalance between

current infrastructure and future needs. It then makes recommendations to solve these imbalances and assure that VA is best positioned to meet veterans health care needs into the future.

The draft Plan incorporates new community-based primary and specialty outpatient clinics. Additionally, four new Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Units have been proposed, along with two new Blind Rehabilitation Centers. Other enhancements include expansion of numerous existing outpatient clinics, renovations of inpatient beds, diagnostic and ancillary services, as well as two new hospitals.

The full plan, all appendices, and related information can be viewed at <http://www.va.gov/CARES>. It also is available for inspection in the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Room 1063B, Washington, DC 20420. The draft National CARES Plan, including an appendix that summarizes individual network plans, which was prepared by VA's Under Secretary for Health after review of present and projected user data, as well as input from a wide range of sources and stakeholders and the

individual network plans will be published in another **Federal Register** notice in the near future.

The independent CARES Commission, appointed by the VA Secretary, is evaluating this draft National CARES Plan, which incorporates individual network Market Plans. Members of the Commission include individuals with special knowledge or interest relating to VA health care, as well as representatives from stakeholders' groups.

This notice provides interested persons an opportunity to submit written comments concerning the draft National CARES Plan to the CARES Commission. The Commission will consider these comments in developing its recommendations to the VA Secretary. Under the CARES process, the Secretary will either accept or reject the Commission's recommendations, without modification.

Dated: August 6, 2003.

**Tim S. McClain,**  
*General Counsel.*

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