

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Idaho Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Idaho Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 1997, at the Red Lion Hotel, the Garnet Room, 29th and Chinden, Boise, Idaho 83714. The purpose of the meeting is to review current civil rights developments in the State, and plan future program activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Gladys Esquibel, 208-678-3835, or Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, December 9, 1996.
Carol-Lee Hurley,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-31910 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the New Mexico Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the New Mexico Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 11:30 a.m. and adjourn at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, 1997, at the Pastoral Center of the Catholic Diocese, 1280 Med Park Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the Farmington subcommittee report on a recommended course of action for additional civil rights evaluation, and review civil rights developments in the State.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Lynda Eaton, 505-326-4338, or Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will

attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, December 9, 1996.
Carol-Lee Hurley,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-31911 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Oregon Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Oregon Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 1997, at the Red Lion Hotel Columbia River, 1401 North Hayden Island Drive, Nestucca Room, Portland, Oregon 97217. The purpose of the meeting is to review current civil rights developments in the State and plan future program activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Thomas J. Sloan, 503-626-7527, or Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, December 9, 1996.
Carol-Lee Hurley,
Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 96-31913 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

National Employers Survey; Proposed Agency Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, 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)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Steven Rudolph, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, EPCD-FB3, Washington, DC 20233, (301) 457-2594 or (301) 457-4433 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

In the Fall of 1994, the Census Bureau conducted the National Employers Survey (NES) for the National Center on the Employment Quality of the Workforce (EQW), a non-profit research group. The NES collected data for a regression-based econometric study of how employment, hiring, training, investment, and productivity relate to each other. We surveyed a representative panel of just over 3,000 domestic business establishments with 20 or more employees. In the Spring of 1995, we conducted the NES-II, a follow-up survey of the business establishments that completed the interviews in the original survey. These surveys were the first attempts to measure these factors. The EQW began issuing findings from the study in February 1995 and the results generated great interest from all levels. Subsequently, they released several studies and they are performing additional analyses which will generate further studies.

(The EQW's continued work on how employment, hiring, training, investment, and productivity relate to each other is now being sponsored by the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) and the new National Center for Postsecondary Improvement (NCPI). CPRE is located at the University of Pennsylvania and the NCPI is a joint endeavor of Stanford University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Michigan.)

Major findings included information on what attributes firms looked for when hiring employees. They found that attitude and communications skills were highly valued by employers while grades and teachers' recommendations were not. Their analysis indicates that investment in human capital (training) had at least as big a return, (in many groups, including services, a bigger return) on investment in physical capital. They also were able to estimate production functions, using regression-based techniques, from the data sets. These findings provide a baseline for employers, public and private, for formulating and gauging human resources decisions and policies in a manner that will provide the most effective return on productivity in the workplace.

The NES-3 is designed to provide more precise measurements of the relationship between employers and the providers of educational and training services. It will ask questions that will identify the apparent disconnect between schools and employers the previous surveys found.

In all, we plan to complete 6,500 interviews with business establishments throughout the United States. In order to reduce burden and increase information, the NES-3 will exclude those with under 20 employees as this group accounts for a large number of establishments (with a relatively small number of employees) that generally do little training and do not have complex hiring and workplace-related practices. If these smaller establishments were included in the panel, it would have increased the number of businesses substantially while providing little information. The panel oversamples the large establishments and those in manufacturing as these units have programs and policies the survey is measuring.

The NES-3 panel has three components:

- A national sample of 4,000 that will produce about 3,000 completed observations.
- A sample of five States (California, Kentucky, Michigan, Maryland and Pennsylvania) of about 3,300 that will produce 2,500 completed interview that will include a few questions on State-specific programs to explain their effect and to relate their impact to the Nation as a whole.
- Those business establishments that completed the first two NES surveys—about 1,300—that will produce about 1,000 completed interviews to investigate stability and dynamics.

In addition to the Department of Education, other governmental agencies have shown a strong interest. These include the General Accounting Office and the Department of Labor. Education, in particular, has a direct interest in and need for some of the information from the proposed survey. They have requested that the survey include questions to collect information to measure two indicators (job turnover and remedial education) that will be used by the Department of Education to assess the progress and results from the implementation of the School-To-Work Act.

II. Method of Collection

We will continue to use Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) to collect the information from the respondents in the NES-3, as it proved very efficient and effective. CATI minimizes improper responses as the interviewers are well trained and the data can be edited and corrected while the respondent is on the phone. In this survey, CATI should also minimize response time by automatically skipping unnecessary questions based on prior responses or specific characteristics and by ensuring that the proper person or office answers the questions. We have designed the interview to be as conversational as possible. Most of the questions request information on characteristics, programs and policies. Quantitative questions are very broad and we encourage reasonable estimates as it keeps the flow of information moving. On the whole, respondents of the previous surveys found the interview to be fast paced and even enjoyable. Response rates for these voluntary survey were quite good—around 75 percent. As with the original surveys we will provide all respondents with a copy of the findings.

We will send an advance letter to 8,600 businesses in the panel, giving a basic overview of the survey. We estimate that it will take the respondent ten minutes to read the letter. It will not ask them to answer any questions in advance of the interview. As the survey requests only general information and accepts estimates, we expect the respondent would require very minimal time to prepare for the interview. Based on our experience with the previous surveys, the NES-3 interview should require an average of thirty minutes to complete.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0787.

Form Number: NES-3.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Businesses with 20 or more employees.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8,600 (6,500 interviewed cases and 2,100 other cases).

Estimated Time Per Response: 40 minutes (letter and interview) for interviewed cases, 10 minutes (letter only) for other cases.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,683.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$279,000.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 8 and 9.

IV. Request for Comments

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 (including hours and cost) 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 or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: December 11, 1996.

Linda Engelmeier,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 96-31981 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

1998 Dress Rehearsal—Special Place Facility Questionnaire

ACTION: Proposed Agency Information Collection Activity; Comment Request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, 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)).