OMB provide paperwork clearance for the information collection noted herein.

The FTC invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collections of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

All comments should be filed as prescribed in the ADDRESSES section above, and must be received on or before September 2, 2008.

1. Description of the collection of information and proposed use

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (‘‘FCRA’’) provides identity theft victims with certain rights, such as the ability to place fraud alerts on their credit files, designed to assist them in avoiding or mitigating the harms they suffer as a result of the crime.

The Commission intends to use consumer survey research to attain its understanding of the experiences of identity theft victims who interact with consumer reporting agencies (CRAs) and who seek to avail themselves of their FCRA remedies. The consumer research will include focus group interviews of approximately 30 consumers, to be followed by a pretesting phase consisting of phone interviews of another 30 consumers, and then mail surveys sent to individual consumers. The Commission seeks information from consumers who have been victims of identity theft and who have contacted one or more of the three nationwide CRAs for assistance. The information from consumers will be collected on a voluntary basis and will be maintained anonymously. The FTC staff will identify consumers to be contacted for each phase of the research from a random selection of consumers who have communicated with the FTC’s Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse database between January 1, 2008 and May 30, 2008. Staff is seeking approximately 1,000 returned surveys because that input would enable it to project the results from the sample to the population from which the sample was drawn with a maximum error rate of 3%. Assuming a response rate of about 25% - 30%, this would require staff to mail the survey to approximately 3,000 - 4,000 individuals.

Questions to identity theft victims in the research will address several topics, including but not limited to: victim experiences when they contacted one or more CRAs and whether they received the required notice of rights from CRAs; their access to free credit reports; and their ability to place fraud alerts on their files, dispute inaccurate information, and block information due to identity theft. The results of the focus groups and mail surveys will assist the FTC in assessing the experiences of identity theft victims when they interact with CRAs. This assessment will help to inform and guide the FTC’s future efforts to enforce provisions of the FCRA and to educate consumers and the consumer reporting industry of their rights and obligations under the FCRA.

2. Estimated hours burden

The FTC staff intends to include a total of 30 consumers divided between three separate focus groups, consisting of 10 per group, and estimates that each consumer will take approximately one hour to participate in the focus groups. Thus, the estimated annual burden imposed by the focus groups will be approximately 30 hours. The staff estimates that respondents to the mail survey will require, on average, approximately 8 minutes to answer the survey (based on anticipated variations among consumers when they interacted with CRAs). The staff will pretest the survey through phone interviews of approximately 30 respondents to ensure that all questions are easily understood. The pretest will take approximately 4 hours as a whole (30 respondents x 8 minutes each). For the full survey, the staff intends to mail 3,000-4,000 surveys and anticipates receiving a response rate as high as 30% of the consumer recipients (i.e., 900 - 1,200 responses). Assuming 1,200 consumers respond to the survey, the staff further estimates that the final survey will require approximately 160 hours to complete (1,200 respondents x 8 minutes each). Thus, cumulative burden hours for the clearance would total 194 hours.

3. Estimated cost burden

The cost per respondent should be negligible. Participation is voluntary and will not require start-up, capital, or labor expenditures by respondents.

William Blumenthal
General Counsel
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Designation of a Class of Employees for Addition to the Special Exposure Cohort

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice of a decision to designate a class of employees at the Kellex/Pierpont facility in Jersey City, New Jersey, as an addition to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. On May 30, 2008, the Secretary of HHS designated the following class of employees as an addition to the SEC:

All Atomic Weapons Employer (AWE) employees who worked at the Kellex/Pierpont facility in Jersey City, New Jersey, from January 1, 1943, through December 31, 1953, for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days occurring either solely under this employment or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the Special Exposure Cohort.

This designation will become effective on June 29, 2008, unless Congress provides otherwise prior to the effective date. After this effective date, HHS will publish a notice in the Federal Register reporting the addition of this class to the SEC or the result of any provision by Congress regarding the decision by HHS to add the class to the SEC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Larry Elliott, Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C–46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513–533–6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to OCAS@CDC.GOV.

Dated: June 16, 2008.

John Howard,
Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
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