

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD**Sunshine Act Notice**

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m. (EDT), May 14, 2001.

PLACE: 4th Floor, Conference Room, 1250 H Street, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. National Finance Center Record Keeping and New TSP System.
2. Congressional/Agency/Participant Liaison
3. Benefits and Investments
4. Participant Communications
5. Approval of the minutes of the April 9, 2001, Board member meeting
6. Thrift Savings Plan Activity Report by the Executive Director
7. Approval of the Update of the FY 2001 Budget and FY 2002 Estimates
8. Investment Policy Review
9. Status of Audit Recommendations

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.

Elizabeth S. Woodruff,

Secretary to the Board, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 01-11404 Filed 5-2-01; 12:58 pm]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension**

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission (FTC or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The information collection requirements described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The FTC is seeking public comments on its proposal to extend through August 31, 2004 the current PRA clearance for information collection requirements contained in its regulations under the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 ("Smokeless Tobacco Act" or the "Act"). That clearance expires on August 31, 2001.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 3, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room H-159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. All comments should be captioned "Smokeless Tobacco Regulations: Paperwork comment."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information requirements should be addressed to Rosemary Rosso, Attorney, Division of Advertising Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326-2174.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" means agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. 44 U.S.C. 3502(3); 5 CFR 1320.3(c). As required by section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, the FTC is providing this opportunity for public comment before requesting that OMB extend the existing paperwork clearance for the Smokeless Tobacco Act regulations (OMB Control Number 3084-0082).¹

The FTC invites comments on: (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection 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.

Description of the collection of information and proposed use: The Smokeless Tobacco Act requires that manufacturers, packagers, and importers of smokeless tobacco products include

¹ The Commission seeks comment on the costs and burdens imposed by the existing smokeless tobacco regulations. In March 2000, the Commission commenced a regulatory review of its smokeless tobacco regulations to determine whether there is a continuing need for the regulations and, if so, what revisions, if any, should be made. 65 FR 11944 (Mar. 7, 2000). In addition to comments sought on the costs and benefits of the existing regulations, the Commission requested comment on whether the regulations are effective in meeting the Smokeless Tobacco Act's format and display requirements and whether the current "safe harbor" approach is sufficiently enforceable. If the Commission determines that the regulations should be amended, it will commence a rulemaking proceeding. Should resulting amendments materially affect PRA burden, the Commission will notify OMB and seek amended clearance.

one of three specified health warnings on packages and in advertisements. The Act also requires that each manufacturer, packager, and importer of smokeless tobacco products submit a plan to the Commission specifying the method to rotate, display, and distribute the warning statement required to appear in advertising and labeling. The Commission is required by the Act to determine that these plans provide for rotation, display, and distribution of warnings in compliance with the Act and implementing regulations. With one exception, all of the affected companies have previously filed plans. However, the plan submission requirement continues to apply to a company that amends its plan, or to a new company that enters the market.

Burden Statement

Estimated annual hours burden: 1,000 hours (rounded). The FTC is retaining its existing burden estimate of 1,000 hours. This amount is based on the burden previously estimated for fourteen smokeless tobacco companies to prepare and submit amended compliance plans, and to permit at least three new companies to submit initial compliance plans. Though staff's calculations underlying the estimate totaled 560 hours, staff then conservatively rounded up its estimate to 1,000 hours. Staff firmly believes that this prior rounded estimate will fully incorporate any incremental effects of an additional three companies submitting plans.

Virtually all affected companies long ago filed their plans with the Commission. Additional annual reporting burdens would occur only if those companies opt to change the way they display the warnings required by the Smokeless Tobacco Act. Although it is not possible to predict whether any of these companies will seek to amend an existing approved plan (and possibly none will), staff conservatively assumes that each company will file one amendment per year. This estimate is conservative because, over the past three years, the Commission has reviewed only two minor amendments to plans and the Commission has not changed the relevant regulations.² The

² In March 2000, the Commission commenced a regulatory review of its smokeless tobacco regulations to determine whether there is a continuing need for the regulations and, if so, what revisions, if any, should be made. In addition to questions concerning the costs and benefits of the existing regulations, the Commission requested comment on whether the regulations are effective in meeting the Smokeless Tobacco Act's format and display requirements and whether the current "safe harbor" approach is sufficiently enforceable. If the

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