

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Notice of Lodging of Consent Decrees
Pursuant to the Comprehensive
Environmental Response,
Compensation, and Liability Act**

In accordance with Departmental policy, notice is hereby given that on September 19, 2001, proposed consent decrees in the case captioned *United States v. Cohen, et al.*, Civil Action No. 96 C 7801 (N.D. Ill.), were lodged with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The proposed consent decrees relate to the Standard Scrap Metal/Chicago International Exporting Site located at 4004-4020 South Wentworth and 4000-4027 South Wells Streets in Chicago, Illinois. The proposed consent decrees would resolve civil claims of the United States for recovery of past response costs under section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9607, against Northern Indiana Public Service Company ("NIPSCO") and Tri-State Metal Company ("Tri-State"). The proposed consent decree with NIPSCO would require NIPSCO to pay the United States \$1.6 million in partial reimbursement of past response costs. The proposed consent decree with Tri-State would require Tri-State to pay the United States \$25,000 in partial reimbursement of past response costs.

The Department of Justice will receive, for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication, comments relating to the proposed consent decrees. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resource Division, Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530, and should refer to *United States v. Cohen, et al.*, Civil Action No. 96 C 7801 (N.D. Ill.), and DOJ Reference No. 90-11-3-1414A.

The proposed consent decrees may be examined at: (1) The Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, 219 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois, 60604; and (2) the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Region 5), 77 West Jackson

Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590. Copies of the proposed consent decrees may be obtained by mail from the Department of Justice Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044. In requesting copies, please refer to the above-referenced case and DOJ Reference Number and enclose a check for \$3.75 for the NIPSCO Consent Decree (15 pages at 25 cents per page reproduction cost), and \$3.75 for the Tri-State Consent Decree (15 pages at 25 cents per page reproduction cost) made payable to the Consent Decree Library.

William D. Brighton,

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

**Employment Standards
Administration; Proposed Collection;
Comment Request**

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program 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 program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of Notice of Controversion of Right to Compensation (LS-207).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below within December 10, 2001.

ADDRESSEES: Ms. Patricia A. Forkel, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S-3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-0339 (this is not a toll-free number), fax (202) 693-1451.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) administers the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LSWCA). The Act provides benefits to workers injured in maritime employment on the navigable waters of the United States or in an adjoining area customarily used by an employer in loading, unloading, repairing, or building a vessel. Pursuant to section 14(d) of the Act, if an employer controverts the right to compensation, he shall file with the district director in the affected compensation district on or before the fourteenth day after he has knowledge of the alleged injury or death, a notice, in accordance with a form prescribed by the Secretary, stating that the right to compensation is controverted. The LS-207 is used for this purpose.

II. Review Focus

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 estimate of the burden of 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 through 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.

III. Current Actions

The Department of Labor seeks the approval of the extension of this information collection in order to carry out its responsibility to meet the statutory requirements to ensure payment of compensation or death benefits under the Act.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Employment Standards Administration.

Title: Notice of Controversion of Right to Compensation.

OMB Number: 1215-0023.

Agency Number: LS-207.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.