

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
REG-109481-99**

1. CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATING COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

Because of changes to section 417(a) by the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, sections 1.417(e)-1(b)(3)(iv)(B) and 1.417(e)-1(b)(3)(v)(A) of the regulation provide that participants in qualified plans and their spouses may elect certain forms of distributions that were previously provided automatically. The collection of information is required to ensure that the participant and the participant's spouse consent to a form of distribution from a qualified retirement plan that may result in reduced periodic payments.

2 USE OF DATA

This information will be used by the plan administrator to verify that the required consent has been given.

3. USE OF IMPROVED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE BURDEN

We have no plans to offer electronic filing. IRS Publications, Regulations, Notices and Letters are to be electronically enabled on an as practicable basis in accordance with the IRS Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998.

4. EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION

We have attempted to eliminate duplication within the agency wherever possible.

5. METHODS TO MINIMIZE BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESSES OR OTHER SMALL ENTITIES

Not applicable.

6. CONSEQUENCES OF LESS FREQUENT COLLECTION ON FEDERAL PROGRAMS OR POLICY ACTIVITIES

Not applicable.

7. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING DATA COLLECTION TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES IN 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2)

Not applicable.

8. **CONSULTATION WITH INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE OF THE AGENCY ON AVAILABILITY OF DATA, FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION, CLARITY OF INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS, AND DATA ELEMENTS**

A notice of proposed rulemaking was published in the **Federal Register** on January 17, 2001 (66 FR 3916). No public hearing was requested or held. A final regulation was published in the **Federal Register** on July 16, 2003 (68 FR 41906).

In response to the Federal Register Notice dated September 28, 2006 (71 F. R. 57024), we received no comments during the comment period regarding REG-109481-99.

9. **EXPLANATION OF DECISION TO PROVIDE ANY PAYMENT OR GIFT TO RESPONDENTS**

Not applicable.

10. **ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESPONSES**

Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential as required by 26 USC 6103.

11. **JUSTIFICATION OF SENSITIVE QUESTIONS**

Not applicable.

12. **ESTIMATED BURDEN OF INFORMATION COLLECTION**

Sections 1.417(e)-1(b)(3)(iv)(B) and 1.417(e)-1(b)(3)(v)(A) of the proposed regulations require that a participant and the participant's spouse (if any) consent to a form of distribution from a qualified retirement plan that may result in reduced periodic payments. We estimate that 50,000 individuals will be required annually to provide the consents and that 0.25 hours will be required for each consent. The total reporting burden is 12,500 hours.

Estimates of the annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens shown are not available at this time.

13. **ESTIMATED TOTAL ANNUAL COST BURDEN TO RESPONDENTS**

As suggested by OMB, our **Federal Register** notice dated October 7, 2003, requested public comments on estimates of cost burden that

are not captured in the estimates of burden hours, i.e., estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information. However, we did not receive any response from taxpayers on this subject. As a result, estimates of the cost burdens are not available at this time.

14. **ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Not applicable.

15. **REASONS FOR CHANGE IN BURDEN**

There is no change in the paperwork burden previously approved by OMB. We are making this submission to renew the OMB approval.

16. **PLANS FOR TABULATION, STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Not applicable.

17. **REASONS WHY DISPLAYING THE OMB EXPIRATION DATE IS INAPPROPRIATE**

We believe that displaying the OMB expiration date is inappropriate because it could cause confusion by leading taxpayers to believe that the regulations sunset as of the expiration date. Taxpayers are not likely to be aware that the Service intends to request renewal of the OMB approval and obtain a new expiration date before the old one expires.

18. **EXCEPTIONS TO THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT ON OMB FORM 83-I**

Not applicable.

Note: The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information in this submission:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

