

Individuals who experience an involuntary termination of employment after experiencing a qualifying event that consists of a reduction of hours MUST be provided this notice within 60 days of the termination of employment. Individuals with qualifying events that occurred at some time on or after March 1, 2010 for which notice of the availability of the premium reduction available under ARRA was not given MUST be provided this notice before the end of the required time period for providing a COBRA election notice.⁶ The Department has created a model Supplemental Information Notice. Using this model to provide notice to these individuals satisfies the requirements of ARRA, as amended by TEA.

f. Notice of Extended Election Period

The Notice of Extended Election Period is required to be sent by plans that are subject to COBRA continuation provisions under Federal or State law. It must include the information described above and be provided to ALL individuals who experienced a qualifying event that was a termination of employment at some time on or after March 1, 2010, were provided notice that did not inform them of their rights under ARRA, as amended by TEA, and either chose not to elect COBRA continuation coverage at that time OR elected COBRA but subsequently discontinued that coverage. This notice MUST be provided before the end of the required time period for providing a COBRA election notice.⁷ The Department has created a model Notice of Extended Election Period. Using this model to provide notice to these individuals satisfies the requirements of ARRA, as amended by TEA.

III. For Additional Information

For additional information about ARRA's COBRA premium reduction provisions as amended by TEA, contact the Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration's Benefits Advisors at 1-866-444-3272. In addition, the Employee Benefits Security Administration has developed a dedicated COBRA Web page <http://www.dol.gov/COBRA> that will contain information on the program as it is developed. Subscribe to this page to get up-to-date fact sheets, FAQs, model notices, and applications.

⁶ ARRA section 3001(a)(7) provides that COBRA election notices provided for qualifying events occurring during the effective dates of the premium reduction program are not complete if they fail to include information on the availability of the premium reduction.

⁷ See note 6 above.

IV. Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number; further, the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

OMB has approved the Department's no-material, non-substantive change request for the updated notices under OMB Control Number 1210-0123. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately 3 minutes per respondent, including time for gathering and maintaining the data needed to complete the required disclosure. There is also an additional \$0.44 average cost per response for mailing costs. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Departmental Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-1301, Washington, DC 20210 or e-mail DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0123.

V. Models

The Department has decided to make the model notices available in modifiable, electronic form on its Web site: <http://www.dol.gov/COBRA>.

VI. Statutory Authority

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1027, 1059, 1135, 1161-1169; Sec. 3001, Pub. L. 111-5, 123 Stat. 115; Sec. 1010, Pub. L. 111-118, 123 Stat. 3409; Sec. 3, Pub. L. 111-144, 124 Stat. 42; and Secretary of Labor's Order 6-2009, 74 FR 21524 (May 7, 2009).

Signed at Washington, DC this 15th day of March 2010.

Phyllis C. Borzi,

Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (10-031)]

NASA Advisory Council; Science Committee; Astrophysics Subcommittee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announces a meeting of the Astrophysics Subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC). This Subcommittee reports to the Science Committee of the NAC. The Meeting will be held for the purpose of soliciting from the scientific community and other persons scientific and technical information relevant to program planning.

DATES: Monday, April 12, 2010, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will take place telephonically and by WebEx. Any interested person may call the USA toll free conference call number (800) 779-1627, pass code APS, to participate in this meeting by telephone. International callers may contact Ms. Marian Norris for country-specific conference call numbers. For WebEx information, please contact Ms. Marian Norris.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Marian Norris, Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-4452, fax (202) 358-4118, or mnorris@nasa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

- Astrophysics Division Update.
- Kepler Data Release Policy.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants.

Dated: March 16, 2010.

P. Diane Rausch,

Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Space Administration.

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