

Membership remains open and the Forum intends to file additional written notifications disclosing all membership changes.

On April 10, 1992, the Forum filed its original notification pursuant to section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on July 2, 1992 (57 FR 29537). The last notification was filed on April 11, 1997. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 1997 (62 FR 27277).

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 97-19651 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—NMR Project Participation Agreement Joint Venture

Notice is hereby given that, on June 20, 1997, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301, *et seq.* ("the Act"), Western Atlas Logging Services Division of Western Atlas International, Inc., on behalf of the participants of the NMR Project Participation Agreement joint venture has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and with the Federal Trade Commission disclosing (1) the identities of the parties and (2) the nature and objectives of the venture. The notifications were filed for the purpose of invoking the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, the identities of the current parties in the joint venture are: AGIP Petroleum Company, Houston, TX; Amoco Production Company, Houston, TX; Arco Exploration and Production Technology, a unit of Atlantic Richfield Company, Plano, TX; Chevron Petroleum Technology Company, a division of Chevron, U.S.A., La Habra, CA; Conoco, Inc., Houston, TX; Exxon Production Research Company, Houston, TX; Marathon Oil Company, Littleton, CO; Mobil Exploration & Technology Company, Dallas, TX; NUMAR Corporation, Houston, TX; Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville, OK; Schlumberger Well Services, Sugar Land, TX; Shell Oil Company, Houston, TX and Western Atlas Logging Services Division of

Western Atlas International, Inc., Houston, TX.

The nature and objective of this joint venture performed in accordance with a Cooperative Agreement is to establish a procedure for the participants to administer and scientifically conduct an integrated logging and core study using nuclear resonance ("NMR") techniques concerning the permeability and producibility of carbonate reservoirs. The Project has two primary goals: (1) To improve NMR predictions of permeability and producibility in carbonate reservoirs from NMR logging data; and (2) to improve predictions of permeability and producibility in carbonated reservoirs by integrating NMR and other logging data. The NMR Project objectives are: (1) Acquiring additional small coring plug samples from a known test well; (2) analyzing the small coring plug samples taken from the test well; (3) logging the test well using current commercially available NMR logging techniques; and (4) making available all previously conducted logging and standard coring data from the test well, the data from the small plug coring analysis and the NMR logging data obtained from the test well to all participants of the Project for their interpretation and analysis to meet the goals of the Agreement. It is not the purpose of the joint venture under this agreement to produce a product, process or service.

Information regarding this joint venture may be obtained from Darryl M. Springs, Western Atlas Logging Services Division of Western Atlas International, Inc., Houston, TX.

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 1867-97]

Immigration and Naturalization Service User Fee Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

Committee meeting: Immigration and Naturalization Service User Fee Advisory Committee.

Date and time: November 12, 1997, at 10:00 a.m.

Place: Immigration and Naturalization Service Headquarters 425 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20536, Kelly Conference Room—6th Floor

Status: Open. 16th meeting of this Advisory Committee.

Purpose: Performance of advisory responsibilities to the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service pursuant to section 286(k) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. 1356(k) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act 5 U.S.C. app. 2. The responsibilities of this standing Advisory Committee are to advise the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service on issues related to the performance of airport and seaport immigration inspection services. This advice should include, but need not be limited to, the time period during which such services should be performed, the proper number and deployment of inspection officers, the level of fees, and the appropriateness of any proposed fee. These responsibilities are related to the assessment of an immigration user fee pursuant to section 286(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. 1356(d). The Committee focuses attention on those areas of most concern and benefit to the travel industry, the traveling public, and the Federal Government.

Agenda

1. Introduction of the Committee members.
2. Discussion of administrative issues.
3. Discussion of activities since last meeting.
4. Discussion of specific concerns and questions of Committee members.
5. Discussion of future traffic trends.
6. Discussion of relevant written statements submitted in advance by members of the public.
7. Scheduling of next meeting.

Public participation: The meeting is open to the public, but advance notice of attendance is requested to ensure adequate seating. Persons planning to attend should notify the contact person at least two (2) days prior to the meeting. Members of the public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting to the contact person for consideration by this Advisory Committee. Only written statements received by the contact person at least five (5) days prior to the meeting will be considered for discussion at the meeting.

Contact person: Charles D. Montgomery, Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Inspections, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Room 4064, 425 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20536, telephone number (202) 616-7498 or fax number (202)514-8345.

Dated: July 16, 1997.

Doris Meissner,

Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs

[OJP(BJS)-1139]

RIN 1121-ZA85

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

AGENCY: Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of Program Plan.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is publishing this notice to announce the continuation of the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) in Fiscal Year 1997. Copies of this Announcement can also be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol G. Kaplan at (202) 307-0759 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Program Implements the Grant Provisions of

- The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Brady Act), Public Law 103-159, 107 Stat. 1536 (1993), codified as amended at 18 U.S.C. Sections 921 *et seq.*;
- The National Child Protection Act of 1993 (Child Protection Act), Public Law 103-209, 107 Stat. 2490 (1993), codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. Sections 3759, 5101 note, 5119, 5119a, 5119b, 5119c;
- Those provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Omnibus Act), Public Law 90-351, 82 Stat. 197 (1968), codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. Sections 3711 *et seq.*, as amended; and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Violent Crime Control Act), Public Law 103-322, 108 Stat. 1796 (1994), codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. Sections 13701 *et seq.*, which pertain to the establishment, maintenance, analysis, or use of criminal history records and criminal record systems; and,
- Related legislation pertaining to the identification, collection, analysis and interstate exchange of records relating to domestic violence and stalking (including protective orders) and to the

establishment of, and exchange of data between, sexual offender registries.

The NCHIP Program to Date

The NCHIP program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, was initiated in 1995. During FY 1995 and 1996, from the total appropriation of \$126.5 Million, direct awards were made to all states and eligible territories in an amount totaling over \$112 Million. Six million dollars was also transferred to the FBI for implementation of the Federal segment of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) which will provide instant interstate access to records prohibiting the sale of a firearm. About \$5 Million was awarded to provide direct technical assistance to states, to evaluate the program, and to collect statistics and research data on presale firearm programs.

To date, under the NCHIP program, all States have received funds to upgrade criminal record systems (including establishing and upgrading Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS)) and to support efforts to participate in the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (III) which permits instant exchange of criminal records among the States. Eighteen States also received additional funding under the Advanced State Award Program to initiate efforts to identify persons other than felons who are prohibited from purchasing firearms.

Consistent with the 1996 appropriation language, beginning in 1996, NCHIP program funds could also be used by States to upgrade record systems to identify and flag persons convicted of child, elderly and disabled abuse offenses. Funds could also be used to offset some of the costs of providing rapid and reliable background checks on individuals who wish to work with these sensitive populations.

Additionally, starting in 1996, NCHIP program funds could be used to develop and implement procedures for classifying and entering data regarding stalking and domestic violence (including protective orders) into local, State, and national crime information databases consistent with the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

The 1997 Program

Consistent with the 1997 appropriation, funds awarded under the 1997 NCHIP program may be used to improve criminal record systems, to support interstate exchange of records through the FBI, and for authorized purposes consistent with the NCPA and the identified sections of the VAWA, as

described above, and, more fully, in later sections of this Announcement.

Commitment to Participation in the Interstate Identification Index (III)

Participation by all States in the Interstate Identification Index (III) is critical to ensuring that the most accurate and complete criminal records are available instantly in response to background check inquiries regarding persons seeking positions involving national security, persons with responsibility for children, the elderly or the disabled, and persons attempting to purchase firearms. Instant interstate availability of complete records is also vital to supporting effective law enforcement strategies involving pretrial release, determinate sentencing, and correctional assignment.

Section 103(b) of the Brady Act requires that the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) become operational in November 1998. At that time, Federal "waiting period" requirements will no longer be applicable and presale firearm inquiries will be based on an inquiry to the NICS. Effective operation of the NICS requires that complete State criminal records be instantly available to the NICS system through the III.

At present, 32 states are participants in III. In response to a survey conducted by the Attorney General pursuant to the Brady Act, the majority of the remaining states indicated that they would become III participants before the November 1998 date for NICS implementation. In light of the importance of III participation, BJS has identified III participation as a priority goal of the 1997 program and anticipates that States which are not currently III members will focus 1997 NCHIP funds on activities which further this goal.

The 1997 Awards

Awards may be for up to 12 months. States will have the flexibility to begin activities under the award as early as October 1, 1997 and as late as the summer of 1998. Activities must be completed by June 1, 1999.

The NCHIP program was designed as a multi-year effort and States were asked to submit three-year plans as part of the FY 1995 application. Since FY 1997 NCHIP funds will support continuing implementation of these multi-year programs as well as new or ongoing efforts relating to domestic violence, stalking and child/elderly/disabled abuse, applicants are encouraged to incorporate or reference pages of previously submitted materials, when appropriate.

For designated State agencies to be eligible for 1997 NCHIP funds, an