COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Kansas Advisory Committee to plan for a public hearing regarding civil rights and voting requirements in the State. The discussion will include approving an agenda of speakers, and logistical setup for the event.

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Kansas Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold a meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. CST for the purpose of discussing preparations for an upcoming hearing on voting rights in the State.

This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 888–427–9376, conference ID: 1744905. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. The conference call operator will ask callers to identify themselves, the organization they are affiliated with (if any), and an email address prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–977–8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public can listen to the discussion. This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 1–888–510–1785, conference ID: 764821. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. The conference call operator will ask callers to identify themselves, the organization they are affiliated with (if any), and an email address prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–977–8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are invited and welcomed to make statements at the end of the conference call. In addition, members of the public may submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office by January 2, 2016. Written comments may be mailed to the Southern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 61 Forsyth Street, Suite 16T126, Atlanta, GA 30303. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (404) 562–7005, or emailed to Regional Director, Jeffrey Hinton at jhinton@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Southern Regional Office at (404) 562–7000.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Southern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meeting will be available at the South Carolina Advisory Committee link at http://faca database.gov/committee/meetings.aspx?cid=273 and clicking on the “Meeting Details” and “Documents” links. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission’s Web site, http://www.usccr.gov, or may contact the Southern Regional Office at the above email or street address.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. EST.


Agenda
Welcome and Introductions of new advisory committee members
Walter Caudle, Chairman
South Carolina Advisory Committee discussion of potential project topics
Walter Caudle, Chairman
Open Comment
Advisory Committee Public Participation
Adjournment

David Mussatt,
Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

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public viewing prior to and after the meeting at https://database.faca.gov/committee/meetings.aspx?cid=249 and clicking on the “Meeting Details” and “Documents” links. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Unit, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission’s Web site, http://www.usccr.gov, or may contact the Regional Programs Unit at the above email or street address.

AGENDA:
Welcome and Introductions
Elizabeth Kronk Warner, Chair
Preparatory Discussion for Public Hearing on Voting Rights in Kansas
Kansas Advisory Committee
Open Comment
Public Participation
Adjournment

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. CST.

PUBLIC CALL INFORMATION:
Dial: 888–427–9376
Conference ID: 1744905

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Melissa Wojnaroski, DFO, at 312–353–8311 or mwojnaroski@usccr.gov

Dated: October 29, 2015.

David Mussatt,
Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.
Title: Business R&D and Innovation Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0607–0912.
Form Number(s): BRDI–1, BRDI–1(S).
Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.
Number of Respondents: BRDI–1 = 7,000; BRDI–1(S) = 38,000.
Average Hours per Response: BRDI–1 = 15 hours; BRDI–1(S) = 38 minutes.
Burden Hours: 126,500.

needs and uses: The Census Bureau is requesting clearance to conduct the Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS) for the 2015–2017 survey years with the revisions outlined in this document. Companies are the major performers of research and development (R&D) in the United States, accounting for over 70 percent of total U.S. R&D outlays each year. A consistent business R&D information base is essential to government officials formulating public policy, industry personnel involved in corporate planning, and members of the academic community conducting research. To develop policies designed to promote and enhance science and technology, past trends and the present status of R&D must be known and analyzed. Without comprehensive business R&D statistics, it would be impossible to evaluate the health of science and technology in the United States or to make comparisons between the technological progress of our country and that of other nations.

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950 as amended authorizes and directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) “...to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal government.” One of the methods used by NSF to fulfill this mandate is the Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS)—the primary federal source of information on R&D in the business sector. NSF together with the Census Bureau, the collecting and compiling agent, analyze the data and publish the resulting statistics.

NSF has published annual R&D statistics collected from the Survey of Industrial Research and Development (1953–2007) and BRDIS (2008–2014) for 61 years. The results of the surveys are used to assess trends in R&D expenditures by industry sector, investigate productivity determinants, formulate science and tax policy, and compare individual company performance with industry averages. This survey is the Nation’s primary source for international comparative statistics on business R&D spending. BRDIS will continue to collect the following types of information:

• R&D expense based on accounting standards.
• Worldwide R&D of domestic companies.
• Business segment detail.
• R&D related capital expenditures.
• Detailed data about the R&D workforce.
• R&D strategy and data on the potential impact of R&D on the market.
• R&D directed to application areas of particular national interest.
• Data measuring innovation and intellectual property protection activities.

The following changes will be made to the 2015–2017 BRDIS compared to the 2014 BRDIS:

• Section 3: Adding question on domestic R&D performed by others and paid for by the Federal Government.
• Section 4: Deleting four questions on R&D with technology focus of photonics/optics.
• Section 4: Adding four questions on the Research/Development split for foreign R&D.

Information from BRDIS will continue to support the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 as well as other R&D-related initiatives introduced during the clearance period. Other initiatives that have used BRDIS statistics include: The Innovation Measurement—Tracking the State of Innovation in the American Economy (U.S. Department of Commerce); Science of Science and Innovation Policy (NSF); and Rising Above the Gathering Storm (National Research Council).

Policy officials from many Federal agencies rely on these statistics for essential information. Businesses and trade organizations rely on BRDIS data to benchmark their industry’s performance against others. For example, total U.S. R&D expenditures statistics have been used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to update the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs) and, in fact, the BEA recently has recognized and incorporated R&D as fixed investment in the NIPA. Accurate R&D data are needed to continue the development and effect subsequent updates to this detailed satellite account. Also, NSF, BEA and the Census Bureau periodically update a data linking project that utilizes BRDIS data to augment global R&D investment information that is obtained from BEA’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (USDIA) surveys. Further, the Census Bureau links data collected by BRDIS with other statistical files. At the Census Bureau, historical company-level R&D data are linked to a file that contains information on the outputs and inputs of companies’ manufacturing plants. Researchers are able to analyze the relationships between R&D funding and other economic variables by using micro-level data. Individuals and organizations access the survey statistics via the Internet in annual InfoBriefs published by NSF’s