DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA–2018–0005]

Healthcare Worker Whistleblower Stakeholder Meeting

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is announcing a public meeting to solicit comments and suggestions from stakeholders on issues facing the agency in the administration of the whistleblower laws it enforces.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on May 18, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., ET via telephone and virtually via Zoom. Persons interested in attending the meeting must register by May 11, 2022. In addition, comments relating to the “Scope of Meeting” section of this document must be submitted by May 11, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Electronically: You may submit materials, including attachments, electronically at http://www.regulations.gov, which is the Federal eRulemaking portal. Follow the on-line instructions for submissions. All comments should be identified with Docket No. OSHA–2018–0005.

Registration to Attend and/or to Participate in the Meeting: If you wish to attend the public meeting, make an oral presentation at the meeting, or participate in the meeting, you must register using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healthcare-worker-whistleblower-stakeholder-meeting-tickets-292455832267 or this link for registration in Spanish https://www.eventbrite.com/e/entradas-reunion-para-partes-interesadas-sobre-los-denunciantes-que-son-trabajadores-293378431787 by close of business on May 11, 2022. Each participant will be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes. If there is extra time at the end of the meeting, participants may be given extra time to speak. There is no fee to register for the public meeting. After reviewing the requests to present, OSHA will contact each participant prior to the meeting to inform them of the speaking order. We will provide Spanish-language translation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For press inquiries: Mr. Frank Meilinger, Director, OSHA Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone: (202) 693–1999; email: meilinger.francis2@dol.gov.

For general information: Mr. Anthony Rosa, Deputy Director, OSHA Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone: (202) 693–2199; email: osha.dwpp@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Scope of Meeting

OSHA is interested in obtaining information from the public on key issues facing the agency’s whistleblower program. This meeting is the ninth in a series of meetings requesting public input on this program. The agency is seeking suggestions on how it can improve the program, particularly where healthcare workers are concerned. Please note that the agency does not have the authority to change the statutory language and requirements of the laws it enforces. In particular, the agency invites input on the following:

1. How can OSHA deliver better whistleblower customer service?
2. What kind of assistance can OSHA provide to help explain the agency’s whistleblower laws to employees and employers?
3. What can OSHA do to ensure that healthcare workers are protected from retaliation for raising concerns related to COVID–19?

B. Request for Comments

Regardless of attendance at the public meeting, interested persons may submit written or electronic comments (see ADDRESSES above). Electronic comments include recorded oral comments. Comments may be submitted in any language. Submit a single copy of electronic comments or two paper copies of any mailed comments. To permit time for interested persons to submit data, information, or views on the issues in the “Scope of Meeting” section of this notice, please submit comments by May 11, 2022, and include Docket No. OSHA–2018–0005. If you have questions regarding how to submit comments, please contact osha.dwpp@dol.gov or 202–693–2199.

C. Access to the Public Record

Electronic copies of this Federal Register notice are available at: http://www.regulations.gov. This notice, as well as news releases and other relevant information, is also available on the Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs’ web page at: http://www.whistleblowers.gov.

Authority and Signature

James S. Frederick, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, authorized the preparation of this notice under the authority granted by Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 660(c)); Secretary’s Order 08–2020 (May 15, 2020).

James S. Frederick,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA–2022–0006]

Stakeholder Meeting on OSHA Initiatives To Protect Workers From Heat-Related Hazards

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholder meeting.

SUMMARY: OSHA invites interested parties to participate in a stakeholder meeting on the agency’s initiatives to protect workers from heat-related hazards. OSHA will provide an overview of its ongoing activities to protect workers from heat-related hazards, as well as an introduction to the agency’s rulemaking process and ways for the public to participate in that process. Additionally, participants are invited to provide public comments and ask questions related to OSHA’s ongoing efforts to prevent heat injury and illness in outdoor and indoor work settings.

DATES: The stakeholder meeting will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET on May 3, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place virtually using Zoom.

Registration: If you would like to attend, provide public comment, or ask questions, please register online at https://projects.erg.com/conferences/oshaosha-heat.html. If you are interested in providing public comments, you must indicate that while registering. In order to accommodate many speakers, public comments will be limited to no more than three minutes during this meeting. The duration of speaking time is subject to change, and the time allotted for each speaker will be finalized upon the close of registration. Although OSHA welcomes all comments and seeks to accommodate many speakers at the meeting, it may not be possible to accommodate all stakeholder requests to speak at the meeting. The order of speakers will be determined based on affiliation and will be confirmed with speakers prior to the event.
Those who cannot attend the meeting and those who are unable or choose not to make verbal comments during the meeting are invited to submit their comments in writing to OSHA via the instructions below.

Public Comments: Those who cannot attend the meeting and those who are unable or choose not to make verbal comments during the meeting are invited to submit their comments in writing. You may submit comments and additional materials electronically until August 1, 2022.

Comments may be submitted as follows:

Electronically: You may submit comments and attachments, identified by Docket No. OSHA—2022–0006, electronically at www.regulations.gov, which is the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. All written submissions must include the agency’s name and the docket number for this public meeting (Docket No. OSHA—2022–0006).

Docket: To read or download comments or other material in the docket go to https://www.regulations.gov, identified by Docket No. OSHA—2022–0006. Documents in the docket are listed in the https://www.regulations.gov index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through this website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection through the OSHA Docket Office. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693–2350 (TTY (877) 889–5627) for assistance in locating docket submissions.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency’s name and the docket number for this meeting (Docket No. OSHA—2022–0006). All comments, including any personal information you provide, are placed in the public docket without change and may be made available online at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting information they do not want made available to the public or submitting materials that contain personal information (either about themselves or others), such as Social Security Numbers and birthdates.

Requests for special accommodations: Please submit requests for special accommodations for this stakeholder meeting during registration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Press Inquiries: Contact Frank Meilinger, Director, Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone (202) 693–1999; email meilinger.francis2@dol.gov.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Workers in both outdoor and indoor work settings without adequate climate-controlled environments are at risk of hazardous heat exposure. Workers of color are disproportionately exposed to hazardous levels of heat in essential jobs across these work settings. Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of hazardous heat events, which puts more workers at risk of hazardous heat exposure, including in areas of the U.S. not historically impacted by hazardous heat. OSHA has several ongoing initiatives to reduce occupational heat illnesses, injuries, and fatalities. During this stakeholder meeting, OSHA will present an overview of its ongoing activities to protect workers from heat-related hazards, as well as an introduction to the agency’s rulemaking process and ways for the public to participate in that process. The agency will also provide an overview of the following topics:

1. The agency’s Heat Illness Prevention Campaign,
2. Compliance assistance activities, and
3. Enforcement efforts.

At the end of each OSHA information session, stakeholders will have an opportunity to ask questions about the presentations.

Additionally, this meeting will include periods for public comment and testimony during which OSHA is interested in receiving feedback from stakeholders on how OSHA can more effectively serve the public through its heat injury and illness prevention activities. OSHA is requesting comment from interested parties, including from state and local governments, tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, labor unions, academia, business and industry, tribal/indigenous organizations, and community-based organization stakeholders, as well as individuals, affected workers, regarding these topics. Case studies, real world examples, and any data to support the comments are encouraged.

II. Meeting Format

The meeting will feature brief presentations from OSHA on the topics outlined in this notice, followed by opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions about the presentations. There will also be public comment and testimony periods during which OSHA is interested in receiving feedback from stakeholders. Participants should focus on providing comment on the topics provided in this notice. OSHA plans to use this meeting to establish an open dialogue with stakeholders, and information presented to the agency may be used to inform future activities on preventing heat illness and injury in indoor and outdoor workplaces. Written comments may also be provided to OSHA at the conclusion of the meeting, or as a follow-up to the meeting. Those who cannot attend the meeting and those who are unable or choose not to make verbal comments during the meeting are also invited to submit their comments in writing. The meeting will take place virtually using Zoom and will be available for concurrent viewing by the public on the DOL YouTube channel. The meeting will be broadcast in English and Spanish and may be archived for future viewing. More information on registration is provided above.

Authority and Signature

Douglas L. Parker, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210, authorized the preparation of this document pursuant to the following authorities: 29 U.S.C. 653, 655, and 657, Secretary’s Order 8–2020 (85 FR 58393; Sept. 18, 2020), and 29 CFR part 1911.

Douglas L. Parker,
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Overpayment Recovery Questionnaire (OWCP–20)

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed revision for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, “Overpayment Recovery Questionnaire (OWCP–20). This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all written comments received by June 6, 2022.