LCB File No. R155-03

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND REHABILITATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INTENT TO ADOPT A REGULATION

To establish the Unemployment Insurance Tax Rate Schedule for Calendar year 2004 (NAC 612.270)

The Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation will hold a public hearing to receive comments from all interested persons regarding the adoption of a regulation to establish the unemployment insurance tax rate schedule for eligible employers for calendar year 2004.

The tax rate schedule being proposed is the same schedule currently in effect for calendar year 2003, and will result in an estimated 1.29% average tax rate on taxable wages. The schedule was recommended by the Employment Security Council at a workshop held on October 17, 2003, as required by NRS 233B.061.

Date: Friday, November 21, 2003

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Live Meeting: Legislative Building

401 S. Carson Street, Room 3138

Carson City, NV 89701

<u>Video Conference:</u> Grant Sawyer Building

555 East Washington Avenue, Room V4406

Las Vegas, NV 89101

Note: This hearing will also be broadcast on the Internet at www.leg.state.nv.us.

The following information is provided, pursuant to NRS 233B.0603:

1. Statement of need and purpose

The regulation is required to establish the schedule of unemployment insurance tax rates for those employers eligible for experience rating for calendar year 2004. The Administrator of the Employment Security Division is required to establish this schedule pursuant to NRS 612.550.

2. <u>Substance of the proposed regulation</u>

The tax rate schedule currently in effect for calendar year 2003 provides for an average tax rate of 1.29% of taxable wages. The proposed regulation will continue with the same schedule through calendar year 2004.

3. Estimated economic effect

The balance in the unemployment insurance trust fund on September 30, 2003 was \$434.2 million, which was \$60.3 million more than the state solvency requirement of \$373.9 million, as provided in NRS 612.550. It is projected that the proposed tax rate schedule will produce an ending balance of \$424.2 million on September 30, 2004, which will be approximately \$36.3 million more than the projected state solvency requirement of \$387.9 million.

(A) Effect on business

The immediate effect will be no tax rate increase for employers. The long-term effect will be to reduce the balance in the unemployment insurance trust fund over the next year by an estimated \$10 million. The fund, however, is expected to exceed the state solvency test by an estimated \$36.3 million.

(B) Effect on the public

There are no immediate adverse or beneficial effects on the public, as the tax rate schedule would have no effect on unemployment benefit payments. The long-term effect is to ensure continued solvency of the unemployment insurance trust fund for payment of benefits.

4. Estimated cost

There are no additional costs involved in enforcing the proposed regulation, since funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Labor to administer the Unemployment Insurance Program.

5. Overlap or duplication

The proposed regulation does not overlap or duplicate any regulations of other state or local government agencies.

6. Federal regulations

The proposed regulation is not required pursuant to federal law, nor is there a federal regulation that regulates the same activity.

7. Copies of proposed regulation

Copies of the proposed regulation may be inspected and copied during normal working hours at the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, Employment Security Division, 500 East Third Street, Carson City, Nevada 89713, or at any location listed at the bottom of this notice. Copies of this notice and the proposed regulation will also be mailed to members of the public upon request, telephone (775) 684-3909.

8. New or increased fee

The regulation does not establish a new fee or increase an existing fee.

9. NRS 233B.064, Subsection 2

"Upon adoption of any regulation, the agency, if requested to do so by an interested person, either before adoption or within 30 days thereafter, shall issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against its adoption, and incorporate therein its reason for overruling the consideration urged against its adoption."

10. Comments

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed action of the Employment Security Division may appear at the above scheduled public hearing or may address comments, data, views or arguments in written form to the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, Employment Security Division, 500 East Third Street, Carson City, Nevada 89713. Written submissions must be received on or before November 21, 2003. If no person who is directly affected by the proposed action appears to request time to make an oral presentation, the Employment Security Division may proceed to immediately act upon any written submissions.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the hearing. If special arrangements for the hearing are necessary, please notify the Employment Security Division, 500 East Third Street, Carson City, Nevada 89713, or call Joyce Golden at (775) 684-3909.

This notice and a copy of the proposed regulation has been posted at the following locations:

Nevada State Library, 100 Stewart Street, Carson City, NV

Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV

Grant Sawyer State Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV

Legislative Counsel Bureau Web Site

Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation Web Site

All County Libraries in Nevada

Employment Security Division, State Administrative Office, 500 East Third Street, Carson City, NV 89710

Employment Security Division Southern Administrative Office, 101 Convention Center Dr. Suite 925, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Unemployment Insurance Contributions, 1320 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89710

Reno Field Audit Office, 1325 Corporate Blvd, Suite 102, Reno, NV 89502

Las Vegas Field Audit Office, 3405 S. Maryland Parkway., Las Vegas, NV 89109

Reno Appeals Office, 1325 Corporate Blvd, Suite 102, Reno, NV 89502

Las Vegas Appeals Office, 1820 E Sahara, Suite 301, Las Vegas, NV

Reno Casual Labor Office, 420 Galletti Way, Sparks, NV 89431

Las Vegas Casual Labor Office, 1001 North A Street, Las Vegas, NV 89106

Nevada JobConnect Carson City, 1929 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Nevada JobConnect- Elko, 172 Sixth Street, Elko, NV 89801

Nevada JobConnect-Ely, 480 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301

Nevada JobConnect -Fallon, 121 Industrial Way, Fallon, NV 89406

Nevada JobConnect-Henderson, 119 Water Street, Henderson, NV 89015

Nevada JobConnect -Las Vegas, 3405 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Nevada JobConnect-North Las Vegas, 2827 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, NV 89030

Nevada JobConnect Reno Town Mall, 4001 South Virginia Street, Suite H-1, Reno NV 89502

Nevada JobConnect-Sparks, 2010 Oddie Boulevard, Sparks, NV 89431

Nevada JobConnect Winnemucca, 475 Haskell St., Suite 1, Winnemucca, NV 89445

LCB File No. R155-03

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND REHABILITATION

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

This meeting of the Employment Security Council is the workshop to solicit public comment on the proposed regulation pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 233B.061.

Name of Organization: Nevada Employment Security Council; NRS 612.305

Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, October 17, 2003; 10:00 a.m.

Place of Meeting: <u>Live Meeting:</u> <u>Video Conference To:</u>

Legislative Building Grant Sawyer Building

401 S. Carson Street, Room 2134 555 E. Washington Ave, Room 4401

Carson City, Nevada 89701 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Note: This meeting will also be broadcast on the Internet at www.leg.state.nv.us

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Welcome Paul Hayas, Chair
- II. Introduction of Council Members Paul Havas, Chair
- III. *Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2002, Employment Security Council Meeting Paul Havas, Chair
- IV. Federal and State Legislative Update Birgit Baker, Administrator
- V. Nevada JobConnect System Expansion Ross Whitacre, Deputy Administrator
- VI. National Business Partnership Initiative Bill Overly, Employment Services Manager
- VII. Workforce Informer; Labor Market Information On-line Joe Reel, Economist
- VIII. Overview of Nevada's Unemployment Claim Filing Systems Nancy Sims, Chief of Benefits
- IX. Internet Business Registration and Tax/Wage Reporting Project Nancy Samon, Chief of Contributions
- X. *Workshop to Consider Adoption of Regulation to Establish the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tax Rate Schedule for Calendar Year 2004 (NAC 612.270):
 - A Economic Projections and Overview Bob Murdock
 - B. Review of Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Gary Lungstrum
 - C. Tax Schedule Explanation Nancy Samon
 - D. Council Discussion Paul Havas, Chair
- XI. Public Comment
- XII. *Council Recommendation for Calendar Year 2004 UI Tax Rates Paul Havas, Chair
- XIII. Adjournment
- * Denotes items on which the Council may take action.

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify the Employment Security Division in writing at 500 East Third Street, Carson City, Nevada 89713, or call Joyce Golden at (775) 684-3909, as soon as possible.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING and WORKSHOP

To Consider Adoption of a Regulation to Establish the Unemployment Tax Rate Schedule for Calendar Year 2004 (NAC 612.270)

The Employment Security Council of the Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (775) 684-3909, will hold a public meeting and workshop to consider and recommend a proposed regulation to establish the unemployment tax rate schedule for Nevada employers for calendar year 2004. This notice is provided in compliance with NRS 241.020 and NRS 233B.061. A copy of the agenda is attached.

Date: Friday, October 17, 2003

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Live Meeting: Legislative Building

401 S. Carson Street, Room 2134

Carson City, NV 89701

Video Conference: Grant Sawyer Building

555 East Washington Avenue, Room 4401

Las Vegas, NV 89101

Note: The meeting will also be broadcast on the Internet at www.leg.state.nv.us

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Las Vegas, NV 89109

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Nevada JobConnect Winnemucca, 475 Haskell St., Suite 1, Winnemucca, NV 89445

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PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND REHABILITATION

NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 612.270 (REVISED) ASSIGNMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT CONTRIBUTION RATES

Effective January 1, 2004

EXPLANATION - matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ommited material] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§ 1 and 2, NRS 612.220 and 612.550

Section 1. NAC 612.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.270

The administrator establishes the following schedule of contribution rates for eligible employers for calendar year [2003] 2004:

- Class 1: A rate of 0.25 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is [6.4] 6.2 percent or more;
- Class 2: A rate of 0.55 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [5.0] 4.8 percent but less than [6.4] 6.2 percent;
- Class 3: A rate of 0.85 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [3.6] 3.4 percent but less than [5.0] 4.8 percent;
- Class 4: A rate of 1.15 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [2.2] 2.0 percent but less than [3.6] 3.4 percent;
- Class 5: A rate of 1.45 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [0.8] 0.6 percent but less than [2.2] 2.0 percent;
- Class 6: A rate of 1.75 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [-0.6] -0.8 percent but less than [-0.8] 0.6 percent;
- Class 7: A rate of 2.05 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least $\frac{2.0}{-2.2}$ percent but less than $\frac{0.6}{-0.8}$ percent;
- Class 8: A rate of 2.35 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least $\begin{bmatrix} -3.4 \end{bmatrix}$ -3.6 percent but less than $\begin{bmatrix} -2.0 \end{bmatrix}$ -2.2 percent;

- Class 9: A rate of 2.65 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [-4.8] -5.0 percent but less than [-3.4] -3.6 percent;
- Class 10: A rate of 2.95 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [-6.2] -6.4 percent but less than [-4.8] -5.0 percent;
- Class 11: A rate of 3.25 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [-7.6] -7.8 percent but less than [-6.2] -6.4 percent;
- Class 12: A rate of 3.55 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [9.0] -9.2 percent but less than [-7.6] -7.8 percent;
- Class 13: A rate of 3.85 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least $\frac{-10.4}{-10.6}$ percent but less than $\frac{-9.0}{-9.2}$ percent;
- Class 14: A rate of 4.15 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [-11.8] -12.0 percent but less than [-10.4] -10.6 percent;
- Class 15: A rate of 4.45 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [-13.2] -13.4 percent but less than [-11.8] -12.0 percent;
- Class 16: A rate of 4.75 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [-14.6] -14.8 percent but less than [-13.2] -13.4 percent;
- Class 17: A rate of 5.05 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is at least [16.0] -16.2 percent but less than [14.6] -14.8 percent;
- Class 18: A rate of 5.4 percent is assigned to each employer whose reserve ratio is less than [-16.0] 16.2 percent.
- Sec. 2. This regulation becomes effective on January 1, [2003] 2004.