

response). Thus, the total estimated annual burden associated with this collection of information is 77,700 hours and \$51,041.50.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of January, 2003.

Stuart A. Sirkin,

*Director, Corporate Policy and Research
Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty
Corporation.*

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reportable Events

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of request for extension of OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) extend approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of the collection of information under part 4043 of its regulations relating to Reportable Events (OMB control number 1212-0013; expires February 28, 2003). This notice informs the public of the PBGC's request and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by February 26, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Washington, DC 20503.

Copies of the request for extension may be obtained without charge by writing to the PBGC's Communications and Public Affairs Department at the above address or by visiting that office or calling 202-326-4040 during normal business hours. (TTY and TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4040.) The reportable events regulations, forms, and instructions may be accessed on the PBGC's Web site at <http://www.pbgc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, or James L. Beller, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, 202-326-4024. (For TTY and

TDD, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and request connection to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4043 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) requires plan administrators and plan sponsors to report certain plan and corporate events to the PBGC. The reporting requirements give the PBGC timely notice of events that indicate plan or employer financial problems. The PBGC uses the information provided in determining what, if any, action it needs to take. For example, the PBGC might need to institute proceedings to terminate the plan (placing it in trusteeship) under section 4042 of ERISA to ensure the continued payment of benefits to plan participants and their beneficiaries or to prevent unreasonable increases in its losses.

The collection of information under the regulation has been approved through February 28, 2003, by OMB under control number 1212-0013. The PBGC is requesting that OMB extend its approval. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The PBGC estimates that it will receive 537 reportable events notices per year under this collection of information. The PBGC further estimates that the average annual burden of this collection of information is 2,260 hours and \$452,000.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of January, 2003.

Stuart Sirkin,

*Director, Corporate Policy and Research
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Corporation.*

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's

estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on responders, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and purpose of information collection: Railroad Service and Compensation Reports; OMB 3220-0008.

Under section 6 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) and section 9 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) maintains for each railroad employee a record of compensation paid to that employee by all railroad employees for whom the employee worked after 1936. This record, which is used by the RRB to determine eligibility for, and amount of, benefits due under the laws it administers, is conclusive as to the amount of compensation paid to an employee during such period(s) covered by the report(s) of the compensation by the employee's railroad employer(s), except in cases when an employee files a protest pertaining to his or her reported compensation within the statute of limitations cited in section 6 of the RRA and section 9 of the RRA.

To enable the RRB to establish and maintain the record of compensation, employers are required to file with the RRB, in such manner and form and at such times as the RRB prescribes, reports of compensation of employees. The information reporting requirements are prescribed in 20 CFR 209.6. The RRB utilizes form BA-3a, Annual Report of Compensation and form BA-4, Report of Creditable Compensation Adjustments, to secure the required information from railroad employers. Form BA-3a provides the RRB with information regarding annual creditable service and compensation for each individual who worked in the railroad industry in a given year. Form BA-4 provides for the adjustment of any previously submitted reports and also the opportunity to provide any service and compensation that had been previously omitted.

Employers currently have the option of submitting the reports on the aforementioned forms, or, in like format, on magnetic tape, tape cartridges, PC diskettes, or CD-ROM as outlined in the RRB's Reporting Instructions to Employers. Submission of the reports is mandatory. One response is required of each respondent. Minor editorial changes are proposed to form BA-3a and BA-4.