

In addition, in accordance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act which requires Federal agencies to provide its customers the option to submit or transact business with agencies electronically, when practical, as a substitute for paper by October 21, 2003, the RRB proposes the addition of a new equivalent Internet version of form BA-4, Report of Creditable Compensation Adjustments, to the information collection.

The completion time for form BA-3a is estimated at between 33.3 hours per response for electronic submissions to 85 hours for manual paper responses. The completion time for form BA-4 is estimated at between 45 and 60 minutes per response.

Additional Information or Comments: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rule 15c2-8, SEC File No. 270-421, OMB Control No. 3235-0481.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

- **Rule 15c2-8 Delivery of Prospectus**

Rule 15c2-8 requires broker-dealers to deliver preliminary or final prospectuses to specified persons in association with securities offerings. This requirement ensures that

information concerning issuers flows to purchasers of the issuers' securities in a timely fashion. There are approximately 8,000 broker-dealers, any of which potentially may participate in an offering subject to rule 15c2-8. The Commission estimates that rule 15c2-8 creates approximately 10,600 burden hours with respect to 120 initial public offerings and 460 other offerings.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: January 17, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27640]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

January 21, 2003.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendment(s) is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Branch of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the

application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by February 14, 2003, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549-0609, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in the case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of facts or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After February 14, 2003, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

Allegheny Energy Inc. (70-10109)

Notice of Proposed Charter Amendment To Eliminate Preemptive Rights of Stockholders and Order Authorizing Solicitation of Proxies In Connection With the Proposed Amendment

Allegheny Energy Inc. ("Allegheny"), 10435 Downsview Pike, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, a registered holding company under the Act, has filed a declaration ("Application") under sections 6(a), 7 and 12(e) of the Act and rules 62 and 65 under the Act.

Allegheny seeks authorization to: (i) Amend its charter ("Charter") to eliminate preemptive rights of stockholders and (ii) solicit proxies in connection with the proposed charter amendment.

Allegheny proposes to amend its Charter to eliminate any preemptive right of stockholders to subscribe for newly issued securities of Allegheny. Under Maryland law, a preemptive right is the preferential right of existing stockholders to purchase any issuance of stock or any issuance of a security convertible into an additional issuance of stock. Preemptive rights do not accrue unless expressly granted in a charter. Under the existing provisions of the Charter, stockholders of Allegheny possess preemptive rights to purchase, on a *pro rata* basis, any new issuance by Allegheny in a non-public offering for money, of common stock or securities convertible into common stock of Allegheny. On December 5, 2002, the Board of Directors of Allegheny unanimously approved resolutions proposing to amend and restate article VII of the Charter to provide that preemptive rights shall not exist with respect to Allegheny's securities. It is proposed that the current article VII, section B of the Charter be deleted and a new article VII, section B be inserted