

requested information is needed to enable the PBGC to determine benefit entitlements and to make appropriate payments. The collection also includes pages on the PBGC's Web site at www.pbtc.gov, that, for certain large plans, provide respondents with specific information about their pension plan and enable them to obtain a rough estimate of their benefit, either by using an online benefit estimate calculator or by completing an online form and submitting it to the PBGC to compute an estimate.

As part of the PBGC's ongoing implementation of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), the PBGC is creating an application, My PBA, on its Web site at www.pbtc.gov, through which plan participants will be able to conduct electronic transactions with the PBGC. My PBA will feature a variety of transactions, including applying for pension benefits, designating a beneficiary, granting a power of attorney, electing monthly payments, electing to withhold income tax from periodic payments, changing contact information, and applying for electronic direct deposit. Initially, My PBA will be available for a limited number of trustee plans. As the PBGC gains experience, it intends to make My PBA available for all trustee plans.

The existing collection of information under the regulation was approved under control number 1212-0055 (expires April 30, 2006). The PBGC intends to request that OMB extend its approval (with modifications) for three years from the date of 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 134,950 benefit application or information forms will be filed annually by individuals entitled to benefits from the PBGC and that the associated burden is 76,200 hours (an average of about one-half hour per response) and \$49,931.50 (an average of \$.37 per response). The PBGC further estimates that 5,500 individuals annually will provide the PBGC with identifying information as part of an initial contact and that the associated burden is 1,500 hours (an average of about one-quarter hour per response) and \$1,100 (an average of \$.20 per response). Thus, the total estimated annual burden associated with this collection of information is 77,700 hours and \$51,041.50. (These estimates include paper and electronic filings.)

The PBGC is soliciting public comments to—

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Issued at Washington, DC, this 15th day of July, 2003.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available
From: Securities and Exchange
Commission, Office of Filings and
Information Services Washington, DC
20549.

Extension:

Rule 11a-3 [17 CFR 270.11a-3]—SEC File
No. 270-321, OMB Control No. 3235-
0358.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 [44 U.S.C. 3501-3520], the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 11a-3 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 [17 CFR 270.11a-3] is an exemptive rule that permits open-end investment companies ("funds"), other than insurance company separate accounts, and funds' principal underwriters, to make certain exchange offers to fund shareholders and shareholders of other funds in the same group of investment companies. The rule requires a fund, among other things, (i) to disclose in its prospectus and advertising literature the amount of

any administrative or redemption fee imposed on an exchange transaction, (ii) if the fund imposes an administrative fee on exchange transactions, other than a nominal one, to maintain and preserve records with respect to the actual costs incurred in connection with exchanges for at least six years, and (iii) give the fund's shareholders a sixty day notice of a termination of an exchange offer or any material amendment to the terms of an exchange offer (unless the only material effect of an amendment is to reduce or eliminate an administrative fee, sales load or redemption fee payable at the time of an exchange).

The rule's requirements are designed to protect investors against abuses associated with exchange offers, provide fund shareholders with information necessary to evaluate exchange offers and certain material changes in the terms of exchange offers, and enable the Commission staff to monitor funds' use of administrative fees charged in connection with exchange transactions.

There are approximately 3,075 funds registered with the Commission as of December 31, 2002. The staff estimates that one-quarter of these funds imposes a non-nominal administrative fee on exchange transactions, and that the recordkeeping requirement of the rule requires approximately one hour annually of clerical time (at an estimated \$16 per hour) per fund, for a total of 768.75 hours for all funds (at a total annual cost of \$12,300). The staff estimates that one-quarter of the 3,075 funds terminates an exchange offer or makes a material change to its terms once each year, and that the notice requirement of the rule requires approximately one hour of professional time (at an estimated \$60 per hour) and two hours of clerical time (at an estimated \$16 per hour) per fund, for a total of approximately 2306.25 hours for all funds (at a total annual cost of \$70,725). The burdens associated with the disclosure requirement of the rule are accounted for in the burdens associated with the Form N-1A registration statement for funds.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms.

The rule provides that if a fund imposes an administrative fee in connection with exchanges that is reasonably intended to cover the costs incurred in processing the exchanges, the fund must maintain and preserve records of any determination of the costs incurred in connection with exchanges for a period of not less than