

System of Records designations for these files are: RRB-15, "Research Master Record for Survivor Beneficiaries Under the Railroad Retirement Act," and RRB-26, "Research Master Record for Retired Railroad Employees and Their Dependents." For records that are matched, the RRB will extract the civil service payment information.

#### **Inclusive Dates of the Matching Program**

The matching program will become effective 40 day after a copy of the agreement, as approved by the Data Integrity Board of each agency, is sent to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. This matching program will continue for 18 months after the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months, if the conditions specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D) have been met.

The notice we are giving here is in addition to any individual notice.

A copy of this notice has been or will be furnished to both Houses of Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

Dated: March 20, 1998.

By authority of the Board.

**Beatrice Ezerski,**

*Secretary to the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-7991 Filed 3-26-98; 8:45 am]

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## **RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

### **Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 Notice of RRB and SSA Records Used in Computer Matching**

**AGENCY:** Railroad Retirement Board (RRB).

**ACTION:** Notice of records used in computer matching programs; notification to individuals who are railroad employees, or applicants and beneficiaries under the Railroad Retirement Act or who are applicants or beneficiaries under the Social Security Act.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, RRB is issuing public notice of its use and intent to use, in ongoing computer matching programs, information obtained from the Social Security Administration (SSA) of the amount of wages reported to SSA and the amount of benefits paid by that agency. The RRB is also issuing public notice, on behalf of the Social Security

Administration, of SSA's use and intent to use, in ongoing computer matching programs, information obtained from the RRB of the amount of railroad earnings reported to the RRB.

The purposes of this notice are (1) to advise individuals applying for or receiving benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act of the use made by RRB of this information obtained from SSA by means of a computer match and (2) to advise individuals applying for or receiving benefits under the Social Security Act of the use made by SSA of this information obtained from RRB by means of a computer match.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties may comment on this publication by writing to Ms. Beatrice Ezerski, Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. LeRoy Blommaert, Privacy Act Officer, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092, telephone number (312) 751-4548.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, Pub.L. 100-503, requires a Federal agency participating in a computer matching program to publish a notice regarding the establishment of a matching program. This notice relates to a consolidation of two existing matching programs. Under one of these programs (referenced by RRB for convenience as RRB/SSA 1-2-3), SSA furnishes to RRB information needed by RRB to administer the Railroad Retirement Act. Under the other program (referenced by RRB for convenience as RRB/SSA-4), RRB furnishes to SSA information needed by SSA to administer the Social Security Act. For RRB/SSA 1-2-3, the required notice covering the current and fourth cycle of the program which began July 6, 1997, was published at 62 FR 25679 (May 9, 1997); for RRB/SSA-4, the required notice covering the current and fourth cycle of the program which began August 28, 1997, was published at 62 FR 40563 (July 29, 1997).

#### **Name of Participating Agencies**

Social Security Administration and Railroad Retirement Board.

#### **Purpose of the Match**

The RRB will, on a daily basis, obtain from SSA a record of the wages reported to SSA for persons who have applied for benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act and a record of the amount of benefits paid by that agency to persons who are receiving or have applied for

benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act. The wage information is needed to compute the amount of the tier I annuity component provided by sections 3(a), 4(a) and 4(f) of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. 231b(a), 45 U.S.C. 231c(a) and 45 U.S.C. 231c(f)). The benefit information is needed to adjust the tier I annuity component for the receipt of the Social Security benefit. This information is available from no other source.

In addition, the RRB will receive from SSA the amount of certain social security benefits which the RRB pays on behalf of SSA. Section 7(b)(2) of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. 231f(b)(2)) provides that the RRB shall make the payment of certain social security benefits. The RRB also requires this information in order to adjust the amount of any annuity due to the receipt of a social security benefit. Section 10(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. 231i(a)) permits the RRB to recover any overpayment from the accrual of social security benefits. This information is not available from any other source.

Thirdly, the RRB will receive from SSA once a year a copy of SSA's Master Benefit Record for earmarked RRB annuitants. Section 7(b)(7) of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. (b)(7) requires that SSA provide the requested information. The RRB needs this information to make the necessary cost-of-living computation quickly and accurately for those RRB annuitants who are also SSA beneficiaries.

SSA will receive from RRB weekly RRB earnings information for all railroad employees. SSA will match the identifying information of the records furnished by the RRB against the identifying information contained in its Master Benefit Record and its Master Earnings File. If there is a match, SSA will use the RRB earnings to adjust the amount of Social Security benefits in its Annual Earnings Reappraisal Operation (AERO). This information is available from no other source.

SSA will also receive from RRB on a daily basis RRB earnings information on selected individuals. The transfer of information may be initiated either by RRB or by SSA. SSA needs this information to determine eligibility to Social Security benefits and, if eligibility is met, to determine the benefit amount payable. Section 18 of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. 231(q)(2)) requires that earnings considered as compensation under the Railroad Retirement Act be considered as wages under the Social Security Act for the purposes of determining entitlement under the Social Security

Act if the person has less than 10 years of railroad service or has 10 or more years of service but does not have a current connection with the railroad industry at the time of his/her death.

#### Authority for Conducting the Match

Section 7(b)(7) of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. 231f(h)(7)) provides that the Social Security Administration shall supply information necessary to administer the Railroad Retirement Act.

Sections 202, 205(o) and 215(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402, 405(o) and 415(f)) relate to benefit provisions, inclusion of railroad compensation together with wages for payment of benefits under certain circumstances, and the recomputation of benefits.

#### Categories of Records and Individuals Covered

All applicants for benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act and current beneficiaries will have a record of any social security wages and the amount of any social security benefits furnished to the RRB by SSA. In addition, all persons who ever worked in the railroad industry after 1936 will have a record of their service and compensation furnished to SSA by RRB. The applicable Privacy Act Systems of Records used in the matching program are as follows: RRB-5, Master File of Railroad Employees' Creditable Compensation; RRB-22, Railroad Retirement, Survivor, Pensioner Benefit System; SSA/OSR, 09-60-0090, Master Beneficiary Record (MBR); and SSA/OSR, 09-60-0059, Master Earnings File (MEF).

#### Inclusive Dates of the Matching Program

The consolidated matching program shall become effective no sooner than 40 days after notice of the matching program is sent to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if certain conditions are met.

The notice we are giving here is in addition to any individual notice.

A copy of this notice will be or has been furnished to the Office of Management and Budget and the designated committees of both houses of Congress.

Dated: March 20, 1998.

By authority of the Board.

**Beatrice Ezerski,**

*Secretary of the Board.*

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#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-26846]

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

March 20, 1998.

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 thereunder. 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 amendments thereto is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Office of Public References.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by April 13, 1998, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549, 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 case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing shall identify specifically the issues of fact 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 said date, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

#### Allegheny Energy, Inc., et al. (70-9147)

Allegheny Energy, Inc. (formerly, Allegheny Power System, Inc.) ("Allegheny"), 10435 Downsview Pike, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, a registered holding company, has filed an application-declaration under sections 6(a), 7, 9(a), 10, 12(b) and 13(b) of the Act and rules 45, 54, and 80-92 under the Act, in connection with a proposed combination with DQE, Inc. ("DQE"), a holding company exempt under sections 3(a)(1) by rule 2 from all provisions of the Act except section 9(a)(2).

As described in more detail below, Allegheny proposes: (1) to acquire, by means of the mergers described below all of the issued and outstanding common stock of DQE ("DQE Common Stock"); and, through this acquisition, (i) all of the issued and outstanding common stock of DQE's direct electric utility subsidiary company, Duquesne Light Company ("Duquesne Light"), and all of the issued and outstanding common stock of Duquesne Light's three electric utility subsidiary companies, Allegheny Development Corporation ("ADC"), DH Energy, Inc. and MT Energy, Inc. and (ii) all of the issued and outstanding common stock of DQE's two direct holding company subsidiaries, Duquesne Enterprises ("DE") and DQE Energy Services ("DES"), each of which is currently exempt under section 3(a)(1) by rule 2 from all provisions of the Act except section 9(a)(2); (2) to form and capitalize a special purpose subsidiary and issue Allegheny common stock ("Allegheny Common Stock") to effect the proposed transactions; (3) to add DQE and certain of its subsidiaries to the Allegheny money pool ("Money Pool"); (4) to provide loans and guarantees to DQE's nonutility subsidiaries; and (5) to authorize Allegheny Power Service Corporation ("AP Services") to render services to DQE's utility and nonutility subsidiaries.

Allegheny, through subsidiaries, is engaged principally in the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity throughout a 29,000 square mile service area covering parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Allegheny has three wholly electric operating companies, Monongahela Power Company ("Monongahela"), The Potomac Edison Company ("Potomac Edison") and West Penn Power Company ("West Penn"). The three utility subsidiaries jointly own Allegheny Generating Company ("AGE"), a Virginia corporation. AGE's only asset is a 40% undivided interest in a pumped-storage hydroelectric generating facility located in Bath County, Virginia and its connecting transmission facilities. AGE's 840-megawatt share of the capacity of the station is sold to its three parents.

Monongahela, an Ohio corporation, is engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity to 350,062 retail customers and eight wholesale customers in an area of approximately 11,900 square miles with a population of approximately 710,000 in northern West Virginia and an adjacent portion of