

this year in response to this request. Copies of the recommendations were distributed to interested parties earlier in this process, and are available from the Council on request (Council document 2000-10).

The Council will accept written public comment on the proposed amendments (Council document 2000-14) until September 22, 2000, and will hold public hearings to take written and oral comments in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington on the following schedule:

August 30

Portland OR—5 p.m., Council central offices, 851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, OR

September 5

Vancouver, WA—6 p.m., Water Resources Education Center, Bruce E. Hagensen Room, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98668

September 6

Astoria, OR—5 p.m., Duncan Law Seafood Consumer Center (503-338-6523 (Eric)), 2021 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103

September 12

Idaho Falls, ID—6 p.m., West Coast—Idaho Falls (formerly Cavanaugh's), 475 River Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID

September 13

Boise, ID—6 p.m., Joe R. Williams Bldg., (Hall of Mirrors), 700 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83702

September 18

Lewiston, ID—6 p.m., Red Lion, 621 21st, Lewiston, ID 83501

September 18

Kalispell, MT—7 p.m., West Coast Hotels (formerly Cavanaugh's), McDonald/Swift Current Rooms, Kalispell Center, 20 N. Main Street, Kalispell, MT

September 19

Spokane, WA—5 p.m., Ridpath Hotel, 515 West Sprague, Spokane, WA

September 21

Hermiston, OR—5 p.m., Convention/Community Center, Rotary/Altrusa Room, Hermiston, OR

The Council expects to make final decisions on proposed amendments, beginning on October 11, 2000. At the end of the process, the Council will make findings required by the Northwest Power Act regarding any recommendations the Council rejects. The Council wishes to emphasize that it may adopt or reject any of these proposed amendments after it has received public comments, and comment may be directed to any of them.

Request for Comments

You are invited to comment on proposed amendments by 5 p.m. on

September 22, 2000. Please label comments "2000 Fish and Wildlife Program 2000-14" and submit them to Mark Walker, Director of Public Affairs at 851 S.W. 6th Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204 or submit them to the Council via e-mail at programcomments@nwppc.org. The Council may schedule additional public consultations if necessary on the proposed amendments between September 22, 2000, and October 2, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a full copy of the proposed amendments (request Council document 2000-14) or for further information, please contact the Council's Public Affairs Division, 851 S.W. 6th Avenue; Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204 or (503) 222-5161, toll free 1-800-452-5161, or our web site of www.nwppc.org. Copies of amendment recommendations previously submitted to the Council (Council document 2000-10) are also available on request.

Stephen L. Crow,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 00-22459 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Reclearance of a Revised Information Collection: SF 3104 and SF 3104B

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for reclearance of a revised information collection. SF 3104, Application for Death Benefits/Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS), is used by persons applying for death benefits which may be payable under FERS because of the death of an employee, former employee, or retiree who was covered by FERS at the time of his/her death or separation from Federal Service. SF 3104B, Documentation and Elections in Support of Application for Death Benefits when Deceased was an Employee at the Time of Death, is used by applicants for death benefits under FERS if the deceased was a Federal employee at the time of death.

It is estimated that approximately 4,873 SF 3104s will be processed annually. This form requires approximately 60 minutes to complete.

An annual burden of 4,873 hours is estimated. Approximately 3,188 SF 3104Bs are expected to be processed annually. It is estimated that the form requires approximately 60 minutes to complete. An annual burden of 3,188 hours is estimated. The total annual burden is 8,061.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358, or E-mail to mbtoomey@opm.gov

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before October 2, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—

John C. Crawford, Chief, FERS Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3313, Washington, DC 20415

and
Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management & Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503

*For Information Regarding
Administrative Coordination Contact:*
Donna G. Lease, Team Leader, Forms Analysis and Design, (202) 606-0623.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

[FR Doc. 00-22492 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

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) publishes 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

respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and Purpose of Information Collection

RUIA Applications; OMB 3220-0339

Under Section 2 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), sickness benefits are payable to qualified railroad employees who are unable to work because of illness or injury. In addition, sickness benefits are payable to qualified female employees if they are unable to work, or if working would be injurious, because of pregnancy, miscarriage or childbirth. Under Section 1(k) of the RUIA, a statement of sickness with respect to days of sickness of an employee is to be filed with the RRB within a 10-day period from the first day claimed as a day of sickness. The RRB's authority for requesting supplemental medical information is Section 12(I) and 12(n) of the RUIA. The procedures for claiming sickness benefits and for the RRB to

obtain supplemental medical information needed to determine a claimant's eligibility for such benefits is prescribed in 20 CFR part 335.

The forms currently used by the RRB to obtain information needed to determine eligibility for and the amount of sickness benefits due a claimant follows: Form SI-1a, Application for Sickness Benefits; Form SI-1b, Statement of Sickness; Form SI-3, Claim for Sickness Benefits; Form SI-7, Supplemental Doctor's Statement; Form SI-8, Verification of Medical Information; Form ID-7h, Non-Entitlement to Sickness Benefits and Information on Unemployment Benefits; and Form ID-11a, Requesting Reason for Late Filing of Sickness Benefits.

The RRB proposes to revise Form SI-1a to add an item to identify claimants receiving military reserve pay. In order to streamline the payment process, another proposed item will request an explanation from claimants who took more than 30 days to submit their initial application. Non-burden impacting editorial and formatting changes are also

proposed to Form SI-1a. Revisions to Form SI-3 are being proposed to add an item to identify claimants receiving military reserve pay and to make minor non-burden impacting editorial and formatting changes. In addition, the RRB proposes the insertion of new Form ID-11b, Notice of Insufficient Medical and Late Filing, into the collection. This form would be sent to a claimant whose sickness application does not contain sufficient medical information to make a filing determination *and* is received after the 10-day time limit as prescribed under the RUIA. Minor non-burden impacting editorial and formatting changes are being proposed to Form(s) SI-1b, SI-7, SI-8, ID-7h, and ID-11a. Completion of all of the forms is required to obtain or retain a benefit. The number of responses required of each respondent varies depending on the period of sickness.

Estimate of Annual Respondent Burden

The estimated respondent burden is as follows:

Form numbers	Annual responses	Time (min)	Burden (hrs)
SI-1a/1b (claimant)	27,700	10	4,617
SI-1a/1b (Dr.)	27,700	8	3,693
SI-3	181,000	5	15,083
SI-7	33,600	8	4,480
SI-8	50	5	4
ID-7h	50	5	4
ID-11a	800	3	40
ID-11b	1,000	3	50
Total	271,900		27,971

The renewal of this information collection will continue the RRB's initiative to consolidate information collections by major functional areas. The purpose of the initiative is to bring related *collection instruments* together in one collection, better manage the instruments, and prepare for the

electronic collection of this information. (A *collection instrument* can be an individual form, electronic collection, interview, or any other method that collects specific information from the public.)

As part of the OMB renewal process, the RRB also proposes that this

collection (OMB 3220-0039), *Application and Claim for Sickness Benefits*, be renamed *RUIA Applications*. Upon approval by OMB, the RRB intends to merge the following OMB approved-related collections into this collection by the expected expiration date(s).

OMB collection number	Title	RRB forms	Expected expiration date
3220-0022	Application and Claim for Unemployment Benefits and Employment Service	UI-1, UI-3	6/30/2003
3220-0034	Statement of Authority to Act for Employees	SI-10	11/30/2002
3220-0036	Supplemental Information on Accident	SI-1, SI-1c, SI-5, ID-3s, ID-3s-1, ID-3u, ID-30k, ID-30k-1.	1/31/2002
3220-0055	Application and Claim for RUIA Benefits Due at Death	UI-63	2/28/2003

Revisions to existing *collection instruments* and, occasionally, a new instrument related to this program function may be required during the

three-year cycle of this information collection.

The RRB currently estimates the completion time for Form UI-1, Application for Unemployment Benefits

and Employment Service at 10 minutes, Form UI-3, Claim for Unemployment Benefits at 6 minutes, Form SI-10, Statement of Authority to Act for Employee at 6 minutes, Form SI-1c,

Supplemental Information on Accident and Insurance at 5 minutes, Form SI-5, Report of Payments to Employee Claiming Sick Leave Benefits Under the RUIA at 5 minutes, Form ID-3s, Request for Lien Information at 3 minutes, Form ID-3s-1, Request for Lien Information, Report of Settlement of Third Party Liability Cases, at 3 minutes, Form ID-3u, Request for 2(f) Information at 3 minutes, Form ID-30k, Supplemental Information on Injury or Illness at 5 minutes, Form ID-30k-1, Request for Supplemental Information on Injury or Illness, at 5 minutes and UI-63, Application for Benefits Due But Unpaid at Death, at 7 minutes. After the last information collection is merged and other necessary adjustments are made, the resultant information collection is expected to total approximately 38,500 annual burden hours.

A justification for each action described above (merge collection, revised collection instrument, new collection instrument) will be provided to OMB with a correction Change Worksheet (OMB Form 83-C) at the time the action occurs. With the next renewal of this collection, the RRB will update the information collection package to account for the consolidation and other interim adjustments.

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 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-22462 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988; Notice of RRB Records Used in Computer Matching Programs

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board (RRB).

ACTION: Notice of Records Used in Computer Matching Programs. Notification to individuals who are receiving or have received benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act.

SUMMARY: As required by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, the RRB is issuing a public notice of its use and intent to use, in ongoing computer matching programs, certain information obtained from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

The purpose of this notice is to advise individuals applying for or receiving benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act of the use made by the RRB of this information obtained from HCFA by means of a computer match.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before October 2, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Beatrice Ezerski, Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Verplaetse, Office of Programs, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago Illinois 60611-2092, telephone number (312) 751-3381.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under certain circumstances, 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 in the **Federal Register** regarding the establishment of that matching program. Such a notice must include information in the following first five categories:

Name of Participating Agencies: The Railroad Retirement Board and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

Purpose of the Match: To identify RRB annuitants who are 66 or over and who have not had any Medicare utilization during the past calendar year. The general purposes of the match are (1) to verify that these RRB annuitants are still alive and if alive, to determine whether the RRB should appoint a representative payee for them; (2) to identify instances when payments are being made to persons who because they are deceased are no longer entitled to receive them; (3) to recover any payments erroneously made; and (4) to identify instances of fraud, and where established and warranted, to initiate prosecution.

Authority for Conducting the Match: 45 U.S.C. 231f(b)(7). This section requires that the Secretary of Health and Human Services provide information pertinent to the administration of the Railroad Retirement Act. The death of an annuitant under that Act is a terminating event.

Categories of Records and Individuals Covered: All annuitants under the Railroad Retirement Act who are age 66

or over and who have had no Medicare utilization during the previous calendar year. The RRB records used in this matching program are covered under Privacy Act system of records, RRB-22, Railroad Retirement, Survivor, and Pensioner Benefit System. The HCFA records used in this matching program are covered under Privacy Act system of records HHS/HCFA/BPO 09-70-0526, Common Working File.

Inclusive Dates of the Matching

Program: The life of this agreement is 18 months; the match will be conducted no more than three times during this period.

Procedure: HCFA will furnish the RRB with a computer tape of annuitants under the Railroad Retirement Act who, according to HCFA records, are age 66 or older and have had no Medicare utilization during the previous calendar year. After excluding certain categories of individuals for whom no follow-up action will be taken, the RRB will contact the remaining identified individuals to determine whether they are still alive and if so to determine whether the RRB needs to appoint a representative payee to ensure that the benefits to which they are entitled are properly expended on their behalf. If the RRB establishes that an individual so identified in the match is deceased it will terminate the annuity, and if there are any benefits that were improperly paid, it will take action to recover them. In addition, if there is any indication of fraud, the RRB will evaluate whether prosecution should be initiated against the person or persons who acted fraudulently. No action will be taken with respect to the individuals excluded from the monitoring program.

The public information collection represented by the follow-up action for the individuals identified by the matching program was previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB 3220-0178).

Other information: 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: August 24, 2000.

By Authority of the Board,

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-22461 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M