

McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties in the State of South Carolina constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by a severe ice storm occurring on January 26, 2004, and continuing through January 30, 2004. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on April 13, 2004, at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rates are:

For Physical Damage:

Non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere: 2.900%.

Non-profit organizations with credit available elsewhere: 4.875%.

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is P02011.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59008)

Dated: February 18, 2004.

S. George Camp,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. E4-376 Filed 2-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Pub. L. 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. The information collection packages that may be included in this notice are for new information collections, approval of existing information collections, revisions to OMB-approved information collections, and extensions (no change) of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance

Officer. The information can be mailed and/or faxed to the individuals at the addresses and fax numbers listed below:

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Building, Room 10235, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503, Fax: 202-395-6974.

(SSA), Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1338 Annex Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-965-6400.

I. The information collections listed below are pending at SSA and will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, your comments should be submitted to SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain copies of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454 or by writing to the address listed above.

1. Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement—20 CFR 404.810—0960-0466. Form SSA-7004 is used by members of the public to request information about their Social Security earnings records and to get an estimate of their potential benefits. SSA provides information, in response to the request, from the individual's personal Social Security record. The respondents are Social Security numberholders who have covered earnings on record.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 800,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Average Burden: 66,667 hours.

2. Subpoena—Disability Hearing—20 CFR 404.916(b)(1) and 416.1416(b)(1)—0960-0428. The information on Form SSA-1272-U4 is used by SSA to subpoena evidence or testimony needed at disability hearings. The respondents are comprised of officers from Federal and State DDSs.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 36.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Average Burden: 18 hours.

3. Employer Verification of Earnings After Death—20 CFR 404.821 and 404.822—0960-0472. The information collected on Form SSA-L4112 is used by SSA to determine whether wages reported by an employer are correct, when SSA records indicate that the wage earner is deceased. The

respondents are employers who report wages for a deceased employee.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,333 hours.

4. Information about Joint Checking/Savings Account—0960-0461—20 CFR 416.1201 and .1208—Form SSA-2574 is used to collect information from the claimant and the other account holder(s) when a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applicant/recipient objects to the assumption that he/she owns all or part of the funds in a joint account bearing his or her name. These statements of ownership are required to determine whether the account is a resource of the SSI claimant. The respondents are applicants for and recipients of SSI payments and individuals who are joint owners of financial accounts with SSI applicants.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 200,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 7 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 23,333 hours.

5. Beneficiary Contact Report—20 CFR 404.703 and 404.705—0960-0502. SSA uses the information collected by form SSA-1588-OCR-SM to ensure that eligibility for benefits continues after entitlement. SSA asks parents information about their marital status and children in-care to detect overpayments and to avoid continuing payment to those who are no longer entitled. The respondents are recipients of survivor mother/father Title II (OASDI) benefits.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 133,400.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 11,117 hours.

6. Earnings Record Information—20 CFR 404.801-.803 and 404.821-.822—0960-0505. The information collected by form SSA-L3231-C1 is used to ensure that the proper person is credited for working when earnings are reported for a minor under age seven years. The respondents are businesses reporting earnings for children under age seven.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3,333 hours.

7. Internet Direct Deposit Application—31 CFR 210—0960—0634. SSA uses Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) enrollment information received from beneficiaries to facilitate DD/EFT of their Social Security benefits with a financial institution. Respondents are Social Security beneficiaries who use the Internet to enroll in DD/EFT.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 9,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,500 hours.

8. Farm Self-Employment Questionnaire—20 CFR 404.1095—0960—0061. Section 211(a) of the Social Security Act requires the existence of a trade or business as a prerequisite for determining whether an individual or partnership may have “net earnings from self-employment.” Form SSA—7156 elicits the information necessary to determine the existence of an agricultural trade or business and subsequent covered earnings for Social Security entitlement purposes. The respondents are applicants for Social Security benefits, whose entitlement depends on whether the worker has covered earnings from self-employment as a farmer.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 47,500.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Average Burden: 7,917 hours.

9. Response to Notice of Revised Determination—20 CFR 404.913—,914 and 992(b), 416.1413—,1414 and 1492—0960—0347. Form SSA—765 is used by claimants to request a disability hearing and/or to submit additional evidence before a revised reconsideration determination is issued. The respondents are claimants who file for a disability hearing in response to a notice of revised determination for disability insurance and/or SSI under titles II (Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) and XVI (SSI).

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 1,925.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 963 hours.

10. Authorization to Disclose Information to the Social Security Administration—20 CFR Subpart O, 404.1512 and Subpart I, 416.912—0960—0623. SSA must obtain sufficient medical evidence to make eligibility determinations for the Social Security disability benefits and SSI payments. For SSA to obtain medical evidence, an applicant must authorize his or her medical source(s) to release the information to SSA. The applicant may use one of the forms SSA—827, SSA—827 OP1 or SSA—827 OP2 to provide consent for the release of information. Generally, the State DDS completes the form(s) based on information provided by the applicant, and sends the form(s) to the designated medical source(s). The respondents are applicants for Social Security disability benefits and SSI payments.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 3,853,928.

Frequency of Response: 4.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 2,569,285 hours.

II. The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance. Your comments on the information collections would be most useful if received by OMB and SSA within 30 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410—965—0454, or by writing to the addresses listed above.

1. Site Review Questionnaire for Volume Payees, SSA—637; Site Review Questionnaire for Fee-for-Service Payees; SSA—638; Site Review-Beneficiary Interview Form, SSA—639—20 CFR 404.2035, 404.2065, 416.665, 416.701 and 416.708—0960—0633. In situations where a Social Security beneficiary is incompetent or physically unable to take care of his or her own affairs, SSA may make payment of Social Security and Supplemental Income (SSI) benefits to a relative, another person, or an organization when the best interest of the beneficiary will be served. In certain situations SSA conducts site reviews in order to ensure that payees are carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with representative payment policies and procedures. These reviews enable SSA to identify poor payee performance, uncover misuse and initiate corrective action. Triennial site reviews are conducted for fee-for-service payees and all volume payees (*i.e.*, organizations serving 100 or more beneficiaries and individuals serving 20 or more

beneficiaries). The reviews include a face-to-face meeting with the payee (and appropriate staff), examination/verification of a sample of beneficiary records and supporting documentation, and usually include beneficiary (if competent adult) or custodian (if different from payee) interviews. Forms SSA—637, SSA—638, and SSA—639 are used to record the information collected during these interviews. The respondents are certain representative payees and also competent Social Security beneficiaries.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 680 Volume and Fee-for-Service Payees, 2,040 Beneficiaries, Total: 2,720.

Average Burden Per Response: 1 hour—Payees, 10 minutes—Beneficiaries.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 680 Payees, 340 Beneficiaries, Total 1,020.

2. Beneficiary Interview and Auditor's Observations Form—0960—0630—The information collected through the Beneficiary Interview and Auditor's Observation Form, SSA—322, will be used by SSA's Office of the Inspector General to interview beneficiaries and/or their payees to determine whether they are complying with their duties and responsibilities. Respondents to this collection will be randomly selected SSI recipients and Social Security beneficiaries that have representative payees.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 2,550.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 638.

3. Request to Resolve Questionable Quarters of Coverage (QC); Request for QC History Based on Relationship—0960—0575. Form SSA—512 is used by the States to request clarification from SSA on questionable QC information. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act states that aliens admitted for lawful residence who have worked and earned 40 qualifying QCs for Social Security purposes can generally receive State benefits. Form SSA—513 is used by States to request QC information for an alien's spouse or child in cases where the alien does not sign a consent form giving permission to access his/her Social Security records. QCs can also be allocated to a spouse and/or to a child under age 18, if needed, to obtain 40 qualifying QCs for the claimant. The respondents are State agencies that

require QC information in order to determine eligibility for benefits.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

	SSA-512	SSA-513
<i>Number of Respondents</i>	200,000	350,000
<i>Frequency of Response</i>	1	1
<i>Average Burden Per Response (minutes)</i>	2	2
<i>Estimated Annual Burden (hours)</i>	6,667	11,667

4. Questionnaire About Employment or Self-Employment Outside the United States—20 CFR 404.401(b) (1), 20 CFR 404.415, 20 CFR 404.417—0960–0050. This information is used by SSA to determine whether work performed by beneficiaries outside the United States (U.S.) is cause for deductions from their monthly benefits; to determine which of two work tests (foreign or regular) is applicable; and to determine the months, if any, for which deductions should be imposed. The respondents are beneficiaries living and working outside the U.S.

Type of Collection: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 12 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 4,000 hours.

5. Certification of Prison Records by Prison Officials—20 CFR 422.107—0960–NEW. When a valid agreement is in place, prison officials can use this suggested language format to attest to the identity of certain incarcerated U.S. citizens who need replacement Social Security cards. Information the prison officials provide will be taken from the official prison files and will be transcribed on their letterhead. This information will be used to establish the applicant's identity in the Social Security card process. The respondents are prison officials that certify identity of prisoners applying for Social Security cards.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Number of Respondents: 2,000,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 3 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 100,000 hours.

Dated: February 19, 2004.

Elizabeth A. Davidson,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 04–4030 Filed 2–24–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. OST–2003–14694]

Agency Information Collection; Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, (OST), DOT.

ACTION: 60-day notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, the Office of the Secretary invites the general public, industry and other governmental parties to comment on the need for and usefulness of the Department's collecting three new quarterly reports from intra-Alaska air carriers required by the Rural Service Improvement Act of 2002 (RSIA) consisting of: Passenger, freight, and charter revenue by market by direction; a more detailed system income statement; and system excise taxes paid on passengers and freight. The reports would be required of all intra-Alaska carriers intending to qualify for the carriage of bush mail from the Postal Service.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by April 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., PL-401, Washington, DC 20590–0001, fax no. (202) 493–2251 or e-mail: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Comments: Comments should refer to the “RSIA Quarterly Financial Reports.” Persons wishing the Department to acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: RSIA Quarterly Financial Reports. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Adams, Office of Aviation Analysis, X–53, Room 6401, Office of the Secretary, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001, (202) 366–1047.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

RSIA Quarterly Financial Reports

Title:

1. Quarterly Revenue Report by Community for Intra-Alaska Bush Carriers (net of excise tax);
2. Quarterly System Income Statement for Intra-Alaska Bush Mail Carriers;
3. Quarterly System Excise Tax.
This information was discussed in Order 2003–10–10, Issue 3.

Type of Review: New Reports required by the Rural Service Improvement Act of 2002, Section 3002 of Pub. L. 107–206.

Respondents: Intra-Alaska bush air carriers.

Number of Respondents: 33.

Number of Responses per year: 33 carriers × 4 quarters × 3 reports = 396.

Estimated Time per Response: 8 hours total per carrier per quarter.

Total Annual Burden: 33 carriers × 4 quarters × 8 hours = 1,056 hrs.

Needs and Uses: The Department will use this form to fulfill its obligation under the Rural Service Improvement Act of 2002 (RSIA). The Act states that to prevent carriers from overstating the amount of passengers and freight they carry in order to qualify for the carriage of Intra-Alaska bush mail, they must submit monthly reports depicting the excise taxes they paid for every market they served. We have fully discussed this issue in Department of Transportation Order 2003–10–10, <http://www.dms.dot.gov>, Docket 14694, Issue 3 of that Order. We have attached that discussion herein as Appendix C. This information collection would allow the Department to monitor and disclose the amount of revenue each carrier generates in each market where it intends to qualify for the tender of mail by the Postal Service. All Intra-Alaska certificated carriers interested in being tendered bush mail are required to submit this information. The data would be submitted beginning with the quarter ended September 30, 2002, the first quarter when the Rural Service Improvement Act was implemented.

In order to encourage carriers to compete with each other as intended under the provisions of RSIA to qualify to carry mail at individual markets, and so that carriers in the market can review the accuracy of their competitors'