

may caucus separately with the Chair to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of a meeting.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chair on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on these meetings may be obtained by contacting the Committee at U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5526, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415, (202) 606-2838.

Dated: January 12, 2009.

Charles E. Brooks,

Chairman, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. E9-901 Filed 1-15-09; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Data Collection Available for Public Comment and Recommendations

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) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collections are 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.

1. *Title and Purpose of Information Collection:* Employer's Quarterly Report of Contributions Under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act; RRB Form DC-1; OMB 3220-0012

Under section 8 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), as amended by the Railroad Unemployment Improvement Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-647), the amount of each employer's contribution is determined by the RRB, primarily on the basis of RUIA benefit payments made to the employees of that employer. These experienced based contributions, take into account the frequency, volume and duration of RUIA benefits, both unemployment and sickness, attributable to a railroad's employees. Each employer's contribution rate includes a component for administrative expenses and a component to cover costs shared by all employers. The regulations prescribing the manner and conditions for remitting the contributions and for adjusting overpayments or underpayments of contributions are contained in 20 CFR 345.

RRB Form DC-1, Employer's Quarterly Report of Contributions Under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, is currently utilized by the RRB for the reporting and remitting of quarterly contributions by railroad employers. The RRB utilizes a manual version of Form DC-1 and also provides railroad employers with the option of reporting the required information and remitting their quarterly contributions via an Internet equivalent version Form DC-1.

One response is requested quarterly of each respondent and completion is mandatory. The RRB estimates that 2,160 responses are received annually. The estimated completion for the manual and Internet version of Form DC-1 is estimated at 25 minutes. The total burden for the collection is estimated at 900 hours. The RRB proposes no changes to Form DC-1.

2. *Title and Purpose of Information Collection:* Applicant Background Survey; RRB Form EEO-44, OMB 3220-0201

This information collection is needed to comply with Federal laws and regulations. 5 U.S.C. Chapter 72 § 7201 establishes an anti-discrimination policy. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, § 2000e-8 [§ 709], requires agencies to make and keep relevant records to identify unlawful employment practices. 29 CFR 1602 allows agencies to collect data to

determine if there is any adverse impact on employment practices such as recruitment or selection.

The RRB's Equal Employment Office collects data to assess the impact of the agency's recruitment processes on the hiring of minorities, women and people with disabilities. To obtain the information necessary to conduct a proper assessment, the RRB utilizes Form EEO-44, Applicant Background Survey, which collects information about the racial or ethnic identity, gender and disability of applicants for RRB jobs from outside of the Federal government.

Form EEO-44 is only viewed by RRB Human Resources personnel and Equal Employment Opportunity officials. Summarized data from all external applicants for a position is used to identify hiring barriers which limit or tends to limit employment opportunities for members of a particular sex, race, or ethnic background, or based on an individual's disability status.

The EEO-44 contains a "Plain English" assurance that the information will be kept highly confidential and only shared with authorized RRB officials. This assurance specifically states that the information obtained is kept as a running tally which cannot be disaggregated into individual names, that information from the form is *not* entered into the RRB's personnel database, that the information is not provided to selecting officials or any others who can affect the selection, or to the public, and that the forms is destroyed after the position is filled. The information maintained does not include the applicant's name or other identifier.

Completion of one form is requested of each respondent and is voluntary. The RRB estimates that 800 EEO-44's are completed annually at an estimated completion time of 5 minutes. The total burden for the collection is estimated at 67 hours. The RRB proposes no changes to Form EEO-44.

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 or send an e-mail request to Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or send an e-mail to Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV. Written

comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Charles Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-970 Filed 1-15-09; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available

From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension: Rules 17Ad-6 and 17Ad-7; OMB Control No. 3235-0291; SEC File No. 270-151.

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 existing collection of information provided for in Rules 17Ad-6 and 17Ad-7 (17 CFR 240.17Ad-6 and -7) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) ("Exchange Act"). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17Ad-6 under the Exchange Act requires every registered transfer agent to make and keep current records about a variety of information, such as: (1) Specific operational data regarding the time taken to perform transfer agent activities (to ensure compliance with the minimum performance standards in Rule 17Ad-2 (17 CFR 240.17Ad-2); (2) written inquiries and requests by shareholders and broker-dealers and response time thereto; (3) resolutions, contracts or other supporting documents concerning the appointment or termination of the transfer agent; (4) stop orders or notices of adverse claims to the securities; and (5) all canceled registered securities certificates.

Rule 17Ad-7 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78b *et seq.*) requires each registered transfer agent to retain the records specified in Rule 17Ad-6 in an easily accessible place for a period of six months to six years, depending on the type of record or document. Rule 17Ad-7 also specifies the manner in which records may be maintained using electronic, microfilm, and microfiche storage methods.

These recordkeeping requirements are designed to ensure that all registered

transfer agents are maintaining the records necessary for them to monitor and keep control over their own performance and for the Commission to adequately examine registered transfer agents on an historical basis for compliance with applicable rules.

The Commission estimates that approximately 600 registered transfer agents will spend a total of 300,000 hours per year complying with Rules 17Ad-6 and 17Ad-7 (500 hours per year per transfer agent).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission'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.

Comments should be directed to Charles Boucher, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: January 12, 2009.

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-880 Filed 1-15-09; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available

From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Form 12b-25, OMB Control No. 3235-0058, SEC File No. 270-71.

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.

The purpose of Form 12b-25 (17 CFR 240.12b-25) is to provide notice to the Commission and the marketplace that a public company will be unable to timely file a required periodic report or transition report pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*). If all the filing conditions of the form are met, the company is granted an automatic filing extension. Form 12b-25 is filed by publicly held companies. Approximately 7,799 registrants file Form 12b-25 and it takes approximately 2.5 hours per response for a total of 19,498 burden hours.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information 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 Charles Boucher, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312; or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: January 12, 2009.

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

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