

3. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than November 23, 2015.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

**Stacy L. Ruble,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-29621 Filed 11-19-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P**

## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meetings; Amended Notice

This is an amendment to the Sunshine Act meeting notice of the Postal Regulatory Commission published in the **Federal Register** of May 15, 2015 (80 FR 28015). The amendment is being made to update the agenda and contact person for the December 3, 2015, meeting.

**TIMES AND DATES:** December 3, 2015, at 11 a.m.

#### Portions Open to the Public

1. Report from the Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations.
2. Report from the Office of the General Counsel.
3. Report from the Office of Accountability and Compliance.
4. Commissioners Vote to designate new Vice-Chairman of the Commission pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 502(e).

#### CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

David A. Trissell, General Counsel, Postal Regulatory Commission, 901 New York Avenue NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20268-0001, at 202-789-6820 (for agenda-related inquiries) and Stacy L. Ruble, Secretary of the Commission, at 202-789-6800 or [stacy.ruble@prc.gov](mailto:stacy.ruble@prc.gov) (for inquiries related to meeting location, changes in date or time of the meeting, access for handicapped or disabled persons, the audiocast, or similar matters). The Commission's Web site may also provide information on changes in the date or time of the meeting.

By direction of the Commission.

**Stacy L. Ruble,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-29777 Filed 11-18-15; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P**

## RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

### 2016 Railroad Experience Rating Proclamations, Monthly Compensation Base and Other Determinations

**AGENCY:** Railroad Retirement Board.

#### ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 8(c)(2) and section 12(r)(3) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2) and 45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3), respectively), the Board gives notice of the following:

1. The balance to the credit of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance (RUI) Account, as of June 30, 2015, is \$120,082,848.11;
  2. The September 30, 2015, balance of any new loans to the RUI Account, including accrued interest, is zero;
  3. The system compensation base is \$4,226,071,387.68 as of June 30, 2015;
  4. The cumulative system unallocated charge balance is (\$393,458,771.03) as of June 30, 2015;
  5. The pooled credit ratio for calendar year 2016 is zero;
  6. The pooled charged ratio for calendar year 2016 is zero;
  7. The surcharge rate for calendar year 2016 is 1.5 percent;
  8. The monthly compensation base under section 1(i) of the Act is \$1,455 for months in calendar year 2016;
  9. The amount described in sections 1(k) and 3 of the Act as "2.5 times the monthly compensation base" is \$3,637.50 for base year (calendar year) 2016;
  10. The amount described in section 4(a-2)(i)(A) of the Act as "2.5 times the monthly compensation base" is \$3,637.50 with respect to disqualifications ending in calendar year 2016;
  11. The amount described in section 2(c) of the Act as "an amount that bears the same ratio to \$775 as the monthly compensation base for that year as computed under section 1(i) of this Act bears to \$600" is \$1,879 for months in calendar year 2016;
  12. The maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act is \$72 with respect to days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2016.
- DATES:** The balance in notice (1) and the determinations made in notices (3) through (7) are based on data as of June 30, 2015. The balance in notice (2) is based on data as of September 30, 2015. The determinations made in notices (5) through (7) apply to the calculation, under section 8(a)(1)(C) of the Act, of employer contribution rates for 2016. The determinations made in notices (8) through (11) are effective January 1, 2016. The determination made in notice (12) is effective for registration periods beginning after June 30, 2016.
- ADDRESSES:** Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marla L. Huddleston, Bureau of the Actuary, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092, telephone (312) 751-4779.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The RRB is required by section 8(c)(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(1)) as amended by Public Law 100-647, to proclaim by October 15 of each year certain system-wide factors used in calculating experience-based employer contribution rates for the following year. The RRB is further required by section 8(c)(2) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2)) to publish the amounts so determined and proclaimed. The RRB is required by section 12(r)(3) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3)) to publish by December 11, 2015, the computation of the calendar year 2016 monthly compensation base (section 1(i) of the Act) and amounts described in sections 1(k), 2(c), 3 and 4(a-2)(i)(A) of the Act which are related to changes in the monthly compensation base. Also, the RRB is required to publish, by June 11, 2016, the maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act for days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2016.

#### Surcharge Rate

A surcharge is added in the calculation of each employer's contribution rate, subject to the applicable maximum rate, for a calendar year whenever the balance to the credit of the RUI Account on the preceding June 30 is less than the greater of \$100 million or the amount that bears the same ratio to \$100 million as the system compensation base for that June 30 bears to the system compensation base as of June 30, 1991. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$100 million (as indexed), but at least \$50 million (as indexed), the surcharge will be 1.5 percent. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$50 million (as indexed), but greater than zero, the surcharge will be 2.5 percent. The maximum surcharge of 3.5 percent applies if the RUI Account balance is less than zero.

The ratio of the June 30, 2015 system compensation base of \$4,226,071,387.68 to the June 30, 1991 system compensation base of \$2,763,287,237.04 is 1.52936377. Multiplying 1.52936377 by \$100 million yields \$152,936,377.00. Multiplying \$50 million by 1.52936377 produces \$76,468,188.50. The Account balance on June 30, 2015, was \$120,082,848.11. Accordingly, the surcharge rate for calendar year 2016 is 1.5 percent.

### Monthly Compensation Base

For years after 1988, section 1(i) of the Act contains a formula for determining the monthly compensation base. Under the prescribed formula, the monthly compensation base increases by approximately two-thirds of the cumulative growth in average national wages since 1984. The monthly compensation base for months in calendar year 2016 shall be equal to the greater of (a) \$600 or (b)  $\$600 [1 + \{(A - 37,800)/56,700\}]$ , where A equals the amount of the applicable base with respect to tier 1 taxes for 2016 under section 3231(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Section 1(i) further provides that if the amount so determined is not a multiple of \$5, it shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$5.

Using the calendar year 2016 tier 1 tax base of \$118,500 for A above produces the amount of \$1,453.97, which must then be rounded to \$1,455. Accordingly, the monthly compensation base is determined to be \$1,455 for months in calendar year 2016.

### Amounts Related to Changes in Monthly Compensation Base

For years after 1988, sections 1(k), 3, 4(a-2)(i)(A) and 2(c) of the Act contain formulas for determining amounts related to the monthly compensation base.

Under section 1(k), remuneration earned from employment covered under the Act cannot be considered subsidiary remuneration if the employee's base year compensation is less than 2.5 times the monthly compensation base for months in such base year. Under section 3, an employee shall be a "qualified employee" if his/her base year compensation is not less than 2.5 times the monthly compensation base for months in such base year. Under section 4(a-2)(i)(A), an employee who leaves work voluntarily without good cause is disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits until he has been paid compensation of not less than 2.5 times the monthly compensation base for months in the calendar year in which the disqualification ends.

Multiplying 2.5 by the calendar year 2016 monthly compensation base of \$1,455 produces \$3,637.50. Accordingly, the amount determined under sections 1(k), 3 and 4(a-2)(i)(A) is \$3,637.50 for calendar year 2016.

Under section 2(c), the maximum amount of normal benefits paid for days of unemployment within a benefit year and the maximum amount of normal benefits paid for days of sickness within a benefit year shall not exceed an

employee's compensation in the base year. In determining an employee's base year compensation, any money remuneration in a month not in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to \$775 as the monthly compensation base for that year bears to \$600 shall be taken into account.

The calendar year 2016 monthly compensation base is \$1,455. The ratio of \$1,455 to \$600 is 2.42500000. Multiplying 2.42500000 by \$775 produces \$1,879. Accordingly, the amount determined under section 2(c) is \$1,879 for months in calendar year 2016.

### Maximum Daily Benefit Rate

Section 2(a)(3) contains a formula for determining the maximum daily benefit rate for registration periods beginning after June 30, 1989, and after each June 30 thereafter. Legislation enacted on October 9, 1996, revised the formula for indexing maximum daily benefit rates. Under the prescribed formula, the maximum daily benefit rate increases by approximately two-thirds of the cumulative growth in average national wages since 1984. The maximum daily benefit rate for registration periods beginning after June 30, 2016, shall be equal to 5 percent of the monthly compensation base for the base year immediately preceding the beginning of the benefit year. Section 2(a)(3) further provides that if the amount so computed is not a multiple of \$1, it shall be rounded down to the nearest multiple of \$1.

The calendar year 2015 monthly compensation base is \$1,455. Multiplying \$1,455 by 0.05 yields \$72.75. Accordingly, the maximum daily benefit rate for days of unemployment and days of sickness beginning in registration periods after June 30, 2016, is determined to be \$72.

Dated: November 17, 2015.

By Authority of the Board.

**Martha P. Rico,**

*Secretary to the Board.*

[FR Doc. 2015-29656 Filed 11-19-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7905-01-P**

### OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

#### Notice of Public Meeting of the U.S.-EU Communities of Research on Environmental, Health, and Safety Issues Related to Nanomaterials

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO), on behalf

of the Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology Subcommittee of the Committee on Technology, National Science and Technology Council and in collaboration with the European Commission, will host meetings for the U.S.-EU Communities of Research (CORs) on the topic of environmental, health, and safety issues related to nanomaterials (nanoEHS) between the publication date of this Notice and September 30, 2016. The CORs are a platform for scientists to develop a shared repertoire of protocols and methods to overcome research gaps and barriers. The co-chairs for each COR will convene meetings and set meeting agendas with administrative support from the European Commission and the NNCO.

**DATES:** The CORs will hold multiple webinars and/or conference calls between the publication date of this Notice and September 30, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Teleconferences and web meetings for the CORs will take place periodically between the publication date of this Notice and September 30, 2016. Meeting dates, call-in information, and other COR updates will be posted on the Community of Research page at <http://us-eu.org/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding this Notice, please contact Stacey Standridge at National Nanotechnology Coordination Office, by telephone (703-292-8103) or email ([sstandridge@nnco.nano.gov](mailto:sstandridge@nnco.nano.gov)). Additional information about the CORs and their upcoming meetings is posted at <http://us-eu.org/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** There are seven Communities of Research addressing complementary themes:

- Characterization
- Databases and Computational Modeling for NanoEHS
- Exposure through Product Life
- Ecotoxicity
- Human Toxicity
- Risk Assessment
- Risk Management and Control

The CORs directly address Objectives 4.1.4 ("Participate in international efforts, particularly those aimed at generating [nanoEHS] best practices") and 4.2.3 ("Participate in coordinated international efforts focused on sharing data, guidance, and best practices for environmental and human risk assessment and management") of the 2014 National Nanotechnology Initiative Strategic Plan (see <http://www.nano.gov/2014StrategicPlan>). However, the CORs are not envisioned to provide any government agency with advice or recommendations.