

These revised standards and guidelines replace OMB Statistical Policy Directives Nos. 1 and 2, on Standards for Statistical Surveys, and Standards for Publishing Statistics, respectively. These standards and guidelines were last revised in 1974 when they were issued as OMB Circular No. A-46, Exhibits A and B. The standards were reissued in 1978 as Statistical Policy Directives 1 and 2 when the statistical policy function was temporarily relocated to the Department of Commerce, and their designation as Statistical Policy Directives remained when the statistical policy function was returned to OMB in 1981 under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

### Development and Review

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the quality of information collected by the Federal Government and to update statistical standards and guidance, OMB requested in 2003 that agencies who were members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) nominate representatives to a new subcommittee formed under the aegis of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM). This subcommittee was asked to review Statistical Policy Directives Nos. 1 and 2 and to make recommendations for updating or revising these standards to reflect current best practices in Federal statistical agencies.

The subcommittee reviewed the OMB directives, standards currently used by Federal statistical agencies, and standards and guidelines produced and disseminated by national statistical institutes in a number of other countries. The subcommittee also drew on interagency efforts by statistical agencies to develop a common framework for their activities in response to OMB's issuance of its Information Quality Guidelines (IQG) and the requirement that agencies issue their own IQGs (67 FR 8452-8460).

The revised and updated standards and guidelines developed by the subcommittee reflected the organizational framework that the statistical agencies used for their Information Quality Guidelines. They were the product of a careful and deliberate process to create a set of standards and guidelines that will address all key aspects of planning, conducting, processing, and disseminating Federal statistical surveys. Because OMB standards and guidelines must cover a broad range of applications, agencies are encouraged to develop their own more specific standards for the statistical surveys and studies they conduct or sponsor. The

subcommittee provided initial draft standards and guidelines for review by the FCSM and then by the ICSP in 2004. The subcommittee addressed the comments it received at each stage and provided its recommendations to OMB in 2005.

OMB issued the proposed standards and guidelines for public comment in July 2005 (70 FR 40746-40747). Six public comments were received in response to OMB's request. OMB reviewed the standards and guidelines and made some modifications in response to the public comments. The final standards and guidelines, the public comments, and OMB's summary of and response to the public comments are available on the OMB Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforg/statpolicy.html>.

**Steven D. Aitken,**

*Acting Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.*

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**BILLING CODE 3110-01-P**

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## RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

### Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review

*Summary:* In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

#### Summary of Proposal(s)

- (1) *Collection title:* Employer Reporting.
- (2) *Form(s) submitted:* AA-12, G-88A.1, G-88A.2, BA-6a, BA-6a (Internet), BA-6a (E-mail).
- (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0005.
- (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 12/31/2006.
- (5) *Type of request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.
- (6) *Respondents:* Business or other for-profit, Individuals or Households.
- (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 495.
- (8) *Total annual responses:* 1,958.
- (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 418.
- (10) *Collection description:* Under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, railroad employers are required to report service and compensation for employees needed to determine eligibility to and the amounts of benefits paid.

*Additional Information or Comments:* Copies of the forms and supporting

documents can be obtained from Charles Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363) or [Charles.Mierzwa@rrb.gov](mailto: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 [Ronald.Hodapp@rrb.gov](mailto:Ronald.Hodapp@rrb.gov) and to the OMB Desk Officer for the RRB, at the Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Charles Mierzwa,**

*Clearance Officer.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collections; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

#### Extensions:

Form F-7, OMB Control No. 3235-0383, SEC File No. 270-331. Form F-8, OMB Control No. 3235-0378, SEC File No. 270-332.

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 collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management Budget for approval.

Form F-7 (17 CFR 239.37) may be used to register under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) securities offered for cash upon exercise of rights that are granted to its existing shareholders of the registrant to purchase or subscribe such securities. The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information. Form F-7 takes approximately 4 hours per response to prepare and is filed by 5 respondents. We estimate that 25% of 4 hours per response (one hour) is prepared by the company for a total annual reporting burden of 5 hours (one hour per response × 5 responses). The remaining

75% of the burden hours is attributed to outside cost.

Form F-8 (17 CFR 239.38) may be used to register under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) securities of certain Canadian issuers to be used in exchange offers or business combinations. The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information. Form F-8 takes approximately one hour per response to prepare and is filed by 10 respondents. We estimate that 25% of one hour per response (15 minutes) is prepared by the company for a total annual reporting burden of 3 hours (15 minutes/60 minutes per response × 10 responses = 2.5 hours rounded to 3 hours). The remaining 75% of the burden hours is attributed to outside cost.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether these proposed collections of information are 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 of the collection of information collection 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 R. Corey Booth, 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](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: September 13, 2006.

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and

Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

#### Extension:

Rule 11a-2, SEC File No. 270-267, OMB Control No. 3235-0272.

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") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for an extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

The title for the collection of information is "Rule 11a-2 Under the Investment Company Act of 1940: Offers of Exchange by Certain Registered Separate Accounts or Others the Terms of Which Do Not Require Prior Commission Approval."

Rule 11a-2 (17 CFR 270.11a-2) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) permits certain registered insurance company separate accounts, subject to certain conditions, to make exchange offers without prior approval by the Commission of the terms of those offers. Rule 11a-2 requires disclosure, in certain registration statements filed pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) of any administrative fee or sales load imposed in connection with an exchange offer.

There are currently 736 registrants governed by Rule 11a-2. The Commission includes the estimated burden of complying with the information collection required by Rule 11a-2 in the total number of burden hours estimated for completing the relevant registration statements and reports the burden of Rule 11a-2 in the separate PRA submissions for those registration statements (see the separate PRA submissions for Form N-3 (17 CFR 274.11b), Form N-4 (17 CFR 274.11c) and Form N-6 (17 CFR 274.11d). The Commission is requesting a burden of one hour for Rule 11a-2 for administrative purposes.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules or forms. With regard to Rule 11a-2, the Commission includes the estimate of burden hours in the total number of burden hours estimated for completing the relevant registration statements and reported on the separate PRA submissions for those statements (see the separate PRA submissions for Form N-3, Form N-4 and Form N-6).

The information collection requirements imposed by Rule 11a-2 are mandatory. Responses to the collection of information will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

General comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or e-mail to: [David\\_Rostker@omb.eop.gov](mailto:David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov); and (ii) R. Corey Booth, 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](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov). Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: September 11, 2006.

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Submission for OMB Review

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

#### Extension:

Rule 17a-25, SEC File No. 270-482, OMB Control No. 3235-0540.

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") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 17a-25 (17 CFR 240.17a-25) requires registered broker-dealers to electronically submit securities transaction information, including identifiers for prime brokerage arrangements, average price accounts, and depository institutions, in a standardized format when requested by the Commission staff. In addition, the rule also requires broker-dealers to submit, and keep current, contact person information for electronic blue