

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 1653

Alimony, Child support, Government employees, Pensions, Retirement.

Ravindra Deo,

Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the FRTIB proposes to amend 5 CFR chapter VI as follows:

PART 1653—COURT ORDERS AND LEGAL PROCESSES AFFECTING THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNTS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1653 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8432d, 8435, 8436(b), 8437(e), 8439(a)(3), 8467, 8474(b)(5) and 8474(c)(1).

■ 2. In § 1653.1, amend paragraph (b) by adding the definition of "Entitlement date" in alphabetical order, and revising the definition of "Payment date" to read as follows:

§ 1653.1 Definitions.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Entitlement date means the date determined in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of section 1653.4.

Payment date refers to the date on which a temporary account is established for the payee in the TSP.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. Amend § 1653.3 by revising paragraph (f)(4)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 1653.3 Processing retirement benefits court orders.

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) \* \* \*

(4) \* \* \*

(ii) The anticipated payment date;

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 4. Amend § 1653.4 by revising paragraphs (a), (c), (d)(2), and (f) to read as follows:

§ 1653.4 Calculating entitlements.

(a) For purposes of computing the amount of a payee's entitlement under this section, a participant's TSP account balance will include any loan balance outstanding as of the entitlement date unless the court order provides otherwise.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) If the court order awards a percentage of an account but does not contain a specific date as of which to apply that percentage, the TSP record keeper will use the effective date of the court order.

(d) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(2) The vested account balance on the payment date.

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) The payee's entitlement will be credited with TSP investment earnings as described:

(1) The entitlement calculated under this section will not be credited with TSP investment earnings unless the court order specifically provides otherwise. The court order may not specify a rate for earnings.

(2) If earnings are awarded, the TSP record keeper will calculate earnings by:

(i) Identifying the beginning balance, ending balance, and the cash flows between the two balances over the period of time between the entitlement date and the payment date;

(ii) Calculating the rate of return that increases (or reduces in the case of a loss) the balance at the beginning of the period, accounting for all cash flows, to equal the balance at the end of the period; and

(iii) Multiplying the payee's award amount by the resulting rate of return.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 5. Amend § 1653.5 by revising paragraphs (d) and (h) to read as follows:

§ 1653.5 Payment.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) Payment will be made pro rata from the participant's traditional and Roth balances. The distribution from the traditional balance will be further pro rated between the tax-deferred balance and tax-exempt balance. The payment from the Roth balance will be further pro rated between contributions in the Roth balance and earnings in the Roth balance. In addition, all payments will be distributed pro rata from all TSP core funds in which the participant's account is invested. All pro rated amounts will be based on the balances in each fund or source of contributions on the payment date. The TSP record keeper will not honor provisions of a court order that require payment to be made from a specific TSP core fund, source of contributions, or balance.

\* \* \* \* \*

(h) If the payee dies before a payment is disbursed from the TSP, payment will be made to the estate of the payee, unless otherwise specified by the court order. A distribution to the estate of a deceased court order payee will be reported as income to the decedent's estate. If the participant dies before the payment date, the order will be honored so long as it is submitted to the TSP record keeper before the TSP account has been closed.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 6. Revise § 1653.14 to read as follows:

§ 1653.14 Calculating entitlements.

A qualifying legal process can only require the payment of a specified dollar amount from the TSP. Payment pursuant to a qualifying legal process will be calculated in accordance with § 1653.4(a), (d), (f) and (g), except that the term "payment date" shall mean to the date the payment is disbursed from the TSP.

■ 7. Revise § 1653.15 to read as follows:

§ 1653.15 Payment.

Payment pursuant to a qualifying legal process will be made in accordance with § 1653.5, except the term "payment date" shall mean to the date the payment is disbursed from the TSP.

■ 8. Amend § 1653.34 by revising paragraph (d)(4)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 1653.34 Processing Federal tax levies and criminal restitution orders.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) \* \* \*

(4) \* \* \*

(ii) The anticipated date of disbursement.

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Part 112

[Notice 2024-25]

Contributions Through Untraceable Electronic Payment Methods

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Notification of availability of petition for rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Commission announces its receipt of a Petition for Rulemaking submitted by Ken Paxton, Attorney General of Texas. The Petition asks the Commission to amend its regulations concerning the use of credit cards to make contributions, to address the potential use of prepaid cards to circumvent contribution amount limitations and source prohibitions.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 27, 2025.

ADDRESSES: All comments must be in writing. Commenters may submit comments electronically via the Commission's website at https://sers.fec.gov/fosers/, reference REG 2024-08.

Each commenter must provide, at a minimum, his or her first name, last name, city and state. All properly submitted comments, including

attachments, will become part of the public record, and the Commission will make comments available for public viewing on the Commission's website and in the Commission's Public Records Office. Accordingly, commenters should not provide in their comments any information that they do not wish to make public, such as a home street address, personal email address, date of birth, phone number, social security number, or driver's license number, or any information that is restricted from disclosure, such as trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert M. Knop, Assistant General Counsel, or Joanna S. Waldstreicher, Attorney, 1050 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20463, (202) 694-1650 or (800) 424-9530.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 22, 2024, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking ("Petition") from Ken Paxton, Attorney General of Texas. The Petition asks the Commission to adopt two amendments to its regulations concerning the use of credit cards to make contributions, to address the potential use of prepaid cards to circumvent contribution amount limitations and source prohibitions.

The Federal Election Campaign Act (the "Act") limits the total amount a contributor may contribute to any given political committee.<sup>1</sup> The Act and Commission regulations also prohibit certain persons from making contributions at all.<sup>2</sup> The Act and Commission regulations further prohibit any person from making a contribution in the name of another person.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the Act and Commission regulations require political committees to disclose identifying information from each contributor, including name, address, and—in some cases—the contributor's occupation and employer.<sup>4</sup>

The Petition asserts that "there has been substantial public reporting regarding potentially fraudulent transactions on political committee online platforms. Certain platforms appear to facilitate straw donor transactions, where a contributor disguises his identity by attributing his contribution to another, unaware person."<sup>5</sup> The Petition further states that "prepaid cards are a favorite tool of

fraudsters,"<sup>6</sup> and that "specific security measures can mitigate this problem," such as comparing the identifying information supplied by contributors to the name, address, and other billing information on file with the issuer of the credit card used to make the contribution.<sup>7</sup>

Accordingly, the Petition states that "new regulations governing electronic payment acceptance and related problems are critical to ensuring the integrity of campaign finance laws."<sup>8</sup> The Petition asks the Commission to adopt two amendments to 11 CFR 104.14:

- Amend 104.14(b)(5) to provide that records for contributions made by credit, debit, prepaid, or gift card must include documentation confirming that a cross-check occurred between the contributor's self-reported identifying information with the card issuing institution's own information on the name and billing address of the cardholder.

- Amend 104.14(e) to provide that contributions cannot be accepted from prepaid or gift cards unless the information from those prepaid or gift cards can be cross-checked with the card issuing institution to confirm the name and billing address required under paragraph (b)(5) of this rule.<sup>9</sup>

The Commission seeks comment on the Petition. The public may inspect the Petition on the Commission's website at <http://www.fec.gov/fosers/> (reference REG 2024-08).

The Commission will not consider the Petition's merits until after the comment period closes. If the Commission decides that the Petition has merit, it may begin a rulemaking proceeding. The Commission will announce any action that it takes in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: November 19, 2024.

On behalf of the Commission,

**Sean J. Cooksey,**

*Chairman, Federal Election Commission.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. FAA-2024-2539; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00971-E]

**RIN 2120-AA64**

**Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Engines**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. (P&WC) Model PW535E and PW535E1 engines. This proposed AD was prompted by a manufacturer design review that indicated certain flange bolts securing the gas generator case and turbine support case are susceptible to cracking at their current low-cycle fatigue (LCF) life. This proposed AD would require repetitive borescope inspections (BSI) of the gas generator case to turbine support case retaining bolts for evidence of bolt cracks, bolt fracture, missing bolts, or loose bolts and replacement, if necessary, as specified in a Transport Canada AD, which is incorporated by reference. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** The FAA must receive comments on this NPRM by January 10, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*AD Docket:* You may examine the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2024-2539; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

<sup>1</sup> 52 U.S.C. 30116(a); see also 11 CFR 110.1, 110.2.

<sup>2</sup> 52 U.S.C. 30118, 30119, 30121; see also 11 CFR 110.4, 110.9(a), 110.14(c)(2), 114.2, 115.2, 300.10.

<sup>3</sup> 52 U.S.C. 30122; see also 11 CFR 110.4(b).

<sup>4</sup> 52 U.S.C. 30104; 11 CFR 104.3, 104.8.

<sup>5</sup> Petition at 1.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Petition at 3.

<sup>8</sup> Petition at 1.

<sup>9</sup> Petition at 7.