PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Proposed Submission of Information Collections for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reportable Events; Notice of Failure To Make Required Contributions

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of intention to request extension of OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) intends to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) extend approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of collections of information under PBGC’s regulation on Reportable Events and Certain Other Notification Requirements (OMB control numbers 1212–0013 and 1212–0041, expiring November 30, 2018) with modifications. This notice solicits public comment.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by September 24, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Email: paperwork.comments@pbgc.gov.

All submissions received must include the agency’s name (Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or PBGC) and refer to the OMB control number(s) they relate to. All comments received will be posted without change to PBGC’s website, http://www.pbgc.gov, including any personal information provided.

Copies of the collections of information and comments may be obtained without charge by writing to Disclosure Division, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005–4026; faxing a request to 202–326–4042; or calling 202–326–4040 during normal business hours. (TTY users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1–800–877–8339 and ask to be connected to 202–326–4040.) The reportable events regulation, forms, and instructions are available at http://www.pbgc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Cibinic, Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs (cibinic.stephanie@pbgc.gov; 202–326–4400 ext. 3839), or Deborah C. Murphy, Assistant General Counsel (murphy.deborah@pbgc.gov; 202–326–4400 ext. 3451 (leave voice message)), Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005–4026. (TTY users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1–800–877–8339 and ask to be connected to 202–326–4400 and either of the above extensions.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4043 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) requires plan administrators and plan sponsors to report certain plan and employer events to PBGC. The reporting requirements give PBGC notice of events that indicate plan or employer financial problems. PBGC uses the information provided in determining what, if any, action it needs to take. For example, PBGC might need to institute proceedings to terminate a plan (placing it in trusteeship) under section 4042 of ERISA to ensure the continued payment of benefits to plan participants and their beneficiaries or to prevent unreasonable increases in PBGC’s losses.

The provisions of section 4043 of ERISA have been implemented in PBGC’s regulation on Reportable Events and Certain Other Notification Requirements (29 CFR part 4043). Subparts B and C of the regulation deal with reportable events.

PBGC has issued Forms 10 and 10-Advance and related instructions under subparts B and C (approved under OMB control number 1212–0013). OMB approval of this collection of information expires November 30, 2018. PBGC intends to request that OMB extend its approval for three years, with modifications. 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 OMB control number.

PBGC estimates that it will receive 590 reportable event notices per year under subparts B and C of the reportable events regulation using Forms 10 and 10-Advance and that the average annual burden of this collection of information is 1,770 hours and $439,500.

Section 303(k) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 430(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Code) impose a lien in favor of an underfunded single-employer plan that is covered by PBGC’s termination insurance program if (1) any person fails to make a required payment when due, and (2) the unpaid balance of that payment (including interest), when added to the aggregate unpaid balance of all preceding payments for which payment was not made when due (including interest), exceeds $1 million. (For this purpose, a plan is underfunded if its funding target attainment percentage is less than 100 percent.) The lien is upon all property and rights to property belonging to the person or persons that are liable for required contributions (i.e., a contributing sponsor and each member of the controlled group of which that contributing sponsor is a member).

PBGC Form 200, Notice of Failure to Make Required Contributions, and related instructions implement the statutory notification requirement. Submission of Form 200 is required by 29 CFR 4043.81 (Subpart D of PBGC’s regulation on Reportable Events and Other Notification Requirements, 29 CFR part 4043).

OMB has approved this collection of information under OMB control number 1212–0041, which expires November 30, 2018. PBGC intends to request that OMB extend its approval for three years, with modifications. 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 OMB control number. PBGC estimates that it will receive 100 Form 200 filings per year and that the average annual burden of this collection of information is 100 hours and $72,500.

PBGC is soliciting public comments to:

- evaluate whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
• evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collections of information, including the validity of the methodologies and assumptions used;
• enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
• minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Stephanie Cibinic,
Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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 collection is 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: Employee’s Certification; OMB 3220–0140.

Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), provides for the payment of an annuity to the spouse or divorced spouse of a retired railroad employee. For the spouse or divorced spouse to qualify for an annuity, the RRB must determine if any of the employee’s current marriage to the applicant is valid. The requirements for obtaining documentary evidence to determine valid marital relationships are prescribed in 20 CFR 219.30 through 219.35. Section 2(e) of the RRA requires that an employee must relinquish all rights to any railroad employer service before a spouse annuity can be paid.

The RRB uses Form G–346, Employee Certification, to obtain the information needed to determine whether the employee’s current marriage is valid. Form G–346 is completed by the retired employee who is the husband or wife of the applicant for a spouse annuity. Completion is required to obtain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent. The RRB proposes no changes to Form G–346.

Form G–346sum, Employee Certification Summary, which mirrors the information collected on Form G–346, is used when an employee, after being interviewed by an RRB field office representative, “signs” the form using an alternative signature method known as “attestation.” Attestation refers to the action taken by the RRB field office representative to confirm and annotate the RRB’s records of the applicant’s affirmation under penalty of perjury that the information provided is correct and the applicant’s agreement to sign the form by proxy. The RRB proposes no changes to Form G–346sum.

### ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

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2. Title and purpose of information collection: Railroad Separation Allowance or Severance Pay Report; OMB 3220–0173.

Section 6 of the Railroad Retirement Act provides for a lump-sum payment to an employee or the employee’s survivors equal to the Tier II taxes paid by the employee on a separation allowance or severance payment for which the employee did not receive credits toward retirement. The lump-sum is not payable until retirement begins to accrue or the employee dies. Also, Section 4(a–1) (iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act provides that a railroad employee who is paid a separation allowance is disqualified for unemployment and sickness benefits for the period of time the employee would have to work to earn the amount of the allowance. The reporting requirements are specified in 20 CFR 209.14.

In order to calculate and provide payments, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) must collect and maintain records of separation allowances and severance payments which were subject to Tier II taxation from railroad employers. The RRB uses Form BA–9, Report of Separation Allowance or Severance Pay, to obtain information from railroad employers concerning the separation allowances and severance payments made to railroad employees and/or the survivors of railroad employees. Employers currently have the option of submitting their reports on paper Form BA–9, (or in like format) on a CD–ROM, or by File Transfer Protocol (FTP), or Secure Email. Completion is mandatory. One response is requested of each respondent. The RRB proposes no changes to Form BA–9.

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