

should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

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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 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.

Title and purpose of information collection: Notice of Intent to Offset Federal Income Tax Refund; OMB 3220-0181.

Federal Law (Section 3720A of Title 31, United States Code) authorizes agencies of the U.S. Government to refer legally enforceable debts to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for collection. The debts referred must be at least 90 days past due. Under this authority, the IRS may collect a referred debt by offset against the Federal income tax refund due the debtor. The law provides that any Federal agency that is owed a past due legally enforceable debt is to notify the IRS of amount of the debt. Before notifying the IRS, however, the agency must (1) notify the taxpayer who is responsible for the debt that the agency plans to refer the taxpayer's debt to the IRS for offset against any Federal tax due; (2) determine that the debt is past due and legally enforceable after providing the taxpayer with at least 60 days to present evidence to the contrary; and (3) make reasonable efforts to collect the debt.

RRB procedures pertaining to the Collection of Debts by Federal Tax Refund Offset are prescribed in 20 CFR 366.

The RRB uses the Federal Income Tax Refund Offset Program to collect debts

resulting from benefit overpayments under the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA). Before such debts are referred to the IRS for offset against any tax refund due a beneficiary, the RRB provides the overpaid beneficiary with at least 60 days notice that a debt is past due, and that the RRB intends to refer the debt to the IRS if it is not repaid. The overpaid beneficiary is also advised that any evidence that all or part of the debt is not past due or legally enforceable must be presented to the RRB within 60 days from the date of written notice.

The RRB currently utilizes Forms G-49a and G-49b, as the vehicles by which an overpaid RRA or RUIA beneficiary can either pay in full the amount of the debt owed or indicate reasons for not paying some or all of the debt. One response is requested of each respondent. Completion is voluntary. The RRB proposes to obsolete Form G-49a and modify G-49b to incorporate language required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows:

ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

Form No.	Annual re-sponses	Time (min)	Burde (hrs)
G-49b	350	10	58

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. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Request For Public Comment

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

Extension: Form N-17D-1, SEC File No. 270-231, OMB Control No. 3235-0229, Rule 18f-1, and Form N-18F-1, SEC File No. 270-187, OMB Control No. 3235-0211.

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 publishing for public comment the following summary of previously approved information collection requirements.

Form N-17D-1 is used by small business investment companies and banks affiliated therewith to report any loan or advance of credit to, or acquisition of securities or property of, a small business concern or any agreement to do any of the foregoing. The annual burden of filling out the form is approximately 5 hours per response.

Rule 18f-1 enables a registered open-end management investment company ("fund") that may redeem its securities in kind, by making a one-time election, to commit to make cash redemptions pursuant to certain requirements without violating section 18(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Form N-18F-1 provides the Securities and Exchange Commission notification of this election. A response takes approximately one hour. It is estimated that approximately 150 funds file the form annually.

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.

Written comments are requested on: (a) whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burdens of 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.

Direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20549.