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CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bill Hill, (301) 415-1661.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-415-1661).

In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: July 11, 1997.

William M. Hill, Jr.,
Secy, Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.
 [FR Doc. 97-18759 Filed 7-11-97; 3:43 pm]
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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Interest Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest on Late Premium Payments; Interest on Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability and Multiemployer Withdrawal Liability; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or are derivable from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC's home page (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: The interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in July 1997. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part

4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in August 1997. The interest rates for late premium payments under part 4007 and for underpayments and overpayments of single-employer plan termination liability under part 4062 and multiemployer withdrawal liability under part 4219 apply to interest accruing during the third quarter (July through September) of 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024 (202-326-4179 for TTY and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The rate is the "applicable percentage" (described in the statute and the regulation) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the "premium payment year"). The yield figure is reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Releases G.13 and H.15.

For plan years beginning before July 1, 1997, the applicable percentage of the 30-year Treasury yield has been 80 percent. The Retirement Protection Act of 1994 (RPA) amended ERISA section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) to provide that the applicable percentage is 85 percent for plan years beginning on or after July 1, 1997, through (at least) plan years beginning before January 1, 2000.

However, under section 774(c) of the RPA, the application of the amendment is deferred for certain regulated public utility (RPU) plans for as long as six months. The applicable percentage for RPU plans will therefore remain 80 percent for plan years beginning before January 1, 1998. (The rules governing the applicable percentages for "partial" RPU plans are described in § 4006.5(g) of the premium rates regulation.)

For plans for which the applicable percentage is 85 percent, the assumed interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in July 1997 is 5.75 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 6.77 percent yield figure for June 1997).

The following table lists the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium

payment years beginning between August 1996 and July 1997. The rate for July 1997 in the table reflects an applicable percentage of 85 percent and thus applies only to non-RPU plans. However, the rates for months before July 1997, which reflect an applicable percentage of 80 percent, apply to RPU (and "partial" RPU) plans as well as to non-RPU plans.

For premium payment years beginning in—	The assumed interest rate is—
August 1996	5.62
September 1996	5.47
October 1996	5.62
November 1996	5.45
December 1996	5.18
January 1997	5.24
February 1997	5.46
March 1997	5.35
April 1997	5.54
May 1997	5.67
June 1997	5.55
July 1997	5.75

For premium payment years beginning in July 1997, the assumed interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for RPU plans (determined using an applicable percentage of 80 percent) is 5.42 percent. For "partial" RPU plans, the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums can be computed by applying the rules in § 4006.5(g) of the premium rates regulation. The PBGC's premium payment instruction booklet also describes these rules and provides a worksheet for computing the assumed rate.

Late Premium Payments; Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability

Section 4007(b) of ERISA and § 4007.7(a) of the PBGC's regulation on Payment of Premiums (29 CFR part 4007) require the payment of interest on late premium payments at the rate established under section 6601 of the Internal Revenue Code. Similarly, § 4062.7 of the PBGC's regulation on Liability for Termination of Single-employer Plans (29 CFR part 4062) requires that interest be charged or credited at the section 6601 rate on underpayments and overpayments of employer liability under section 4062 of ERISA. The section 6601 rate is established periodically (currently quarterly) by the Internal Revenue Service. The rate applicable to the third quarter (July through September) of 1997, as announced by the IRS, is 9 percent.

The following table lists the late payment interest rates for premiums and employer liability for the specified time periods:

From—	Through—	Interest rate (percent)
4/1/91	12/31/91	10
1/1/92	3/31/92	9
4/1/92	9/30/92	8
10/1/92	6/30/94	7
7/1/94	9/30/94	8
10/1/94	3/31/95	9
4/1/95	6/30/95	10
7/1/95	3/31/96	9
4/1/96	6/30/96	8
7/1/96	12/31/96	9
1/1/97	3/31/97	9
4/1/97	6/30/97	9
7/1/97	9/30/97	9

Underpayments and Overpayments of Multiemployer Withdrawal Liability

Section 4219.32(b) of the PBGC's regulation on Notice, Collection, and Redetermination of Withdrawal Liability (29 CFR part 4219) specifies the rate at which a multiemployer plan is to charge or credit interest on underpayments and overpayments of withdrawal liability under section 4219 of ERISA unless an applicable plan provision provides otherwise. For interest accruing during any calendar quarter, the specified rate is the average quoted prime rate on short-term commercial loans for the fifteenth day (or the next business day if the fifteenth day is not a business day) of the month preceding the beginning of the quarter, as reported by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Statistical Release H.15 ("Selected Interest Rates"). The rate for the third quarter (July through September) of 1997 (i.e., the rate reported for June 16, 1997) is 8.50 percent.

The following table lists the withdrawal liability underpayment and overpayment interest rates for the specified time periods:

From—	Through—	Rate (percent)
7/1/91	9/30/91	8.50
10/1/91	12/31/91	8.00
1/1/92	3/31/92	7.50
4/1/92	9/30/92	6.50
10/1/92	6/30/94	6.00
7/1/94	9/30/94	7.25
10/1/94	12/31/94	7.75
1/1/95	3/31/95	8.50
4/1/95	9/30/95	9.00
10/1/95	3/31/96	8.75
4/1/96	12/31/96	8.25
1/1/97	3/31/97	8.25
4/1/97	6/30/97	8.25
7/1/97	9/30/97	8.50

Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

The PBGC's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 4281) prescribes the use of interest assumptions under the PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044). The interest assumptions applicable to valuation dates in August 1997 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. Tables showing the assumptions applicable to prior periods are codified in appendix B to 29 CFR part 4044.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 10th day of July 1997.

John Seal,

Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

Extension:

- Rule 17f-6, SEC File No. 270-392, OMB Control No. 3235-0447
- Rule 2a19-1, SEC File No. 270-294, OMB Control No. 3235-0332
- Rule 17f-2, SEC File No. 270-233, OMB Control No. 3235-0223

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 and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17f-6 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") permits registered investment companies ("funds") to maintain assets (i.e., margin) with futures commission merchants ("FCMs") in connection with commodity transactions effected on both domestic and foreign exchanges.¹

¹ Custody of Investment Company Assets With Futures Commission Merchants and Commodity Clearing Organizations, Investment Company Act Release No. 22389 (Dec. 11, 1996) [61 FR 66207 (Dec. 17, 1996)].

Prior to the adoption of the rule, funds generally were required to maintain such assets in special accounts with a custodian bank.

Rule 17f-6 permits funds to maintain their assets with FCMs that are registered under the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") and that are not affiliated with the fund. The rule requires that the manner in which the FCM maintains a fund's assets be governed by a written contract, which must contain certain provisions. First, the contract must provide that the FCM must comply with the segregation requirements of section 4d(2) of the CEA [7 U.S.C. 6d(2)] and the rules thereunder [17 CFR Chapter I] or, if applicable, the secured amount requirements of rule 30.7 under the CEA [17 CFR 30.7]. Second, the contract must provide that when placing the fund's margin with another entity for clearing purposes, the FCM must obtain an acknowledgment that the fund's assets are held on behalf of the FCM's customers in accordance with provisions under the CEA. Lastly, the contract must require the FCM, upon request, to furnish records on the fund's assets to the Commission or its staff.

The requirement of a written contract that contains certain provisions ensure important safeguards and other benefits relative to the custody of investment company assets by FCMs. For example, requiring FCMs upon request to furnish to the Commission or its staff information concerning the investment company's assets facilitates Commission inspections of investment companies. The contract requirement governing transfers of investment company margin seeks to accommodate the legitimate needs of the participants in the commodity settlement process, consistent with the safekeeping of investment company assets. The contract requirement requiring FCMs to comply with the segregation or secured amount requirements of the CEA and the rules thereunder is designed to safeguard fund assets held by FCMs.

The Commission estimates that approximately 2,000 investment companies could deposit margin with FCMs under rule 17f-6 in connection with their investments in futures contracts and commodity options. It is estimated that each investment company uses and deposits margin with 3 different FCMs in connection with its commodity transactions. Approximately 241 FCMs are eligible to hold