

(16 U.S.C. 839 et seq.) (the Act), in April 1983 the Council adopted a regional power plan, the Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan (the plan). The plan was completely amended in 1986. Although the Act requires the Council to review the plan at least every five years, the Council has taken up certain parts of the plan more often, to respond to ongoing changes in the regional energy picture and to incorporate the most recent technology and analysis. The Council amended the plan in 1989 by publishing the 1989 Supplement to the 1986 Power Plan, updating certain technical data. In April 1991, the Council adopted another complete amendment of the plan. In March 1996, the Council released for public comment the Draft Fourth Power Plan.

The Council deferred adoption of the power plan pending completion of the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System, and systematic examination of the region's electrical energy system conducted at the behest of the four Northwest Governors. On August 22, 1997, once the Comprehensive Review had adopted its recommendations, the Council issued an Addendum to the draft plan on and took public comment through October 31, 1997. Hearings on the draft plan and the Addendum were conducted throughout the four Northwest states, as required by statute.

The Fourth Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan and the Addendum, taken together, constitute the complete Power Plan. Changes that resulted from the intervening Comprehensive Review and public comment were not incorporated in the draft power plan document itself, but were set out in the Addendum. In those cases, then, in which Addendum updates the data and analyses of the Fourth Plan document, the Addendum governs.

Along with the plan and Addendum, the Council adopted a Response to Comments. This document summarizes all the major comments submitted during the course of public consideration of the plan and Addendum and shows how the Council responded to those issues.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The electricity industry nationwide continues to work through a radical restructuring. To give the four Northwest states a voice in how this restructuring affect the region, the governors' "Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System" studied the power system and made recommendations about its future.

In light of this restructuring, the Fourth Power Plan has taken a different

approach from that of earlier plans. The 1991 Power Plan, for example, has a its theme: "a time for action." In contrast, this plan focuses on "Northwest Power in Transition: Issues and Opportunities." This Power Plan has fewer policy determination or recommended actions. Instead, it is designed to serve as a guidebook for the region's transition to a restructured industry. It has background on the industry and analysis of the major issues that must be addressed as the Northwest moves into a new energy future. Its goal reflects that of the governors in convening the regional review: to develop, through a public process, recommendations for changes in the institutional structure of the region's electric utility industry. The resulting system, the governors said, should "protect the region's natural resources and distribute equitably the costs and benefits of a more competitive marketplace" while still ensuring the region of "an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power system," in the words of the Northwest Power Act.

This Power Plan has the components required by the Northwest Power Act. It includes, among other elements: energy conservation program, a recommendation for research and development; a methodology for determining quantifiable environmental costs and benefits; a twenty year demand forecast; a forecast of power resources that the Bonneville Power Administration will need to meet its obligations; an analysis of reserve and reserve reliability requirements; and a surcharge methodology. The plan also includes the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, developed pursuant to other procedural requirements under the Act.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you would like copies of any of these documents, please contact the Council's central office. The Fourth Power Plan is publication 98-22, the technical appendices are publication 98-22A, the Addendum is publication 98-23, and the Response to Comments is publication 98-24. You may order all or any part of this series you wish. The technical appendices may be ordered by individual sections. Please call 1-503-222-5161 or 1-800-222-3355. You may FAX your request to 1-503-795-3370. If you wish to make a request by e-mail, please e-mail to [comments@nwppc.org](mailto:comments@nwppc.org). All of these documents are also available on the Council's web-site: <http://www.nwppc/downdocs.htm>.

Please contact the Council's public affairs division for further information.

**Stephen L. Crow,**

*Executive Director.*

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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:* Appeal Under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Act.

(2) *Form(s) submitted:* HA-1.

(3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0007.

(4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 10/31/1998.

(5) *Type of request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

(6) *Respondents:* Individuals or households.

(7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 1,350.

(8) *Total annual responses:* 1,350.

(9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 449.

(10) *Collection description:* Under section 7(b)(3) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 5(c) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, a person aggrieved by a decision on his or her application for an annuity or other benefit has the right to appeal to the RRB. The collection provides the method for the appeal action.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Copies of the form and supporting documents can be obtained from Chuck Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 and the OMB reviewer, Laura Oliven (202-395-7316), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Chuck Mierzwa,**

*Clearance Officer.*

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