

Therefore, no regulatory analysis is required. There are no information collections associated with this rule.

#### List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 220.186

Disability benefits, Railroad employees; Railroad retirement.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Railroad Retirement Board proposes to amend part 220 of title 20, chapter II, of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

#### PART 220—DETERMINING DISABILITY

1. The authority citation for part 220 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 45 U.S.C. 231a; 45 U.S.C. 231f.

#### § 220.186 When and how often the Board will conduct a continuing disability review.

2. In § 220.186, paragraph (b)(2), remove the phrase "(medical improvement possible or medical improvement not expected)", and in paragraph (d), remove the fourth sentence which reads: "If the annuitant's disability is considered permanent, the Board will review the annuitant's continuing eligibility for benefits no less frequently than once every 7 years but no more frequently than once every 5 years.", and add in its place "If no medical improvement is expected in the annuitant's impairment(s), the Board will not routinely review the annuitant's continuing eligibility."

Dated: November 10, 1999.

By Authority of the Board.

**Beatrice Ezerski,**

*Secretary to the Board.*

[FR Doc. 99-30161 Filed 11-17-99; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

##### Employment Standards Administration

#### 20 CFR Parts 718, 722, 725, 726 and 727

RIN 1215-AA99

#### Regulations Implementing the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1996, as Amended; Extension of Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Employment Standards Administration, Labor.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document extends the period for filing comments regarding the proposed rule to amend and revise the regulations implementing the Black Lung Benefits Act. This action is taken

to permit additional comment from interested persons.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before January 6, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on the proposed rule to James L. DeMarce, Director, Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, Room C-3520, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
James L. DeMarce, (202) 219-6692.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the **Federal Register** of the October 8, 1999, (64 FR 54965-55072), the Department of Labor published a proposed rule intended to amend and revise the regulations implementing the Black Lung Benefits Act, subchapter IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended. Interested persons were requested to submit comments on or before December 7, 1999.

The Department has received requests for an extension of the comment period. In order to afford interested parties an appropriate period in which to submit comments, the Department believes that it is desirable to extend the comment period for 30 days. Therefore, the comment period for the proposed rule, amending and revising 20 CFR parts 718, 722, 725, 726 and 727, is extended for all interested parties through January 6, 2000. On November 5, 1999, the Department completed its mailing of the proposal to coal mine operators. This extension will allow each potentially affected coal mine operator an appropriate period to consider and respond to the proposed rule.

The Department has also received requests that it hold additional hearings on the black lung regulations. In 1997, following the first proposed revision of the regulations, in addition to extending the comment period for 150 days, the Department held hearings in Washington, DC, and Charleston, WV. The Department does not believe that additional hearings are necessary.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 15th day of November, 1999.

**Bernard E. Anderson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards.*

[FR Doc. 99-30174 Filed 11-17-99; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

##### Internal Revenue Service

#### 26 CFR Part 26

[REG-103841-99]

RIN 1545-AX08

##### GST Issues

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains proposed regulations relating to the application of the effective date rules of the generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax imposed under chapter 13 of the Internal Revenue Code. The proposed regulations provide guidance with respect to the type of trust modifications that will not affect the exempt status of a trust. In addition, the proposed regulations clarify the application of the effective date rules in the case of property transferred pursuant to the exercise of a general power of appointment. The proposed regulations are necessary to provide guidance to taxpayers so that they may properly determine if chapter 13 of the Code is applicable to a particular trust.

**DATES:** Written and electronic comments must be received by February 16, 2000. Outlines of topics to be discussed at the public hearing scheduled for March 15, 2000 at 10:00, must be received by February 23, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send submissions to: CC:DOM:CORP:R (REG-103841-99), room 5226, Internal Revenue Service, POB 7604, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044. Submissions may also be hand delivered Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to: CC:DOM:CORP:R (REG-103841-99), Courier's Desk, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. Alternatively, taxpayers may submit comments electronically via the internet by selecting the "Tax Regs" option on the IRS Home Page, or by submitting comments directly to the IRS internet site at [http://www.irs.gov/tax\\_regs/reglist.html](http://www.irs.gov/tax_regs/reglist.html). The public hearing will be held in room 2615, Internal Revenue Service Building, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

##### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Concerning the proposed regulations, James F. Hogan, (202) 622-3090; concerning submissions of comments, the hearing, and/or to be placed on the building access list to attend the