

responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 13132, it is determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Summary Impact Statement.

Executive Order 12988

This regulation meets the applicable standards set forth in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996

This rule is not a major rule as defined by section 251 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. 5 U.S.C. 804. This rule will not result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more; a major increase in costs or prices; or significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based companies to compete with foreign-based companies in domestic and export markets.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule will not result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100,000,000 or more in any one year, and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions were deemed necessary under the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Plain Language Instructions

We try to write clearly. If you can suggest how to improve the clarity of these regulations, call or write: Stephen Altman, Assistant Director, Commercial Litigation Branch, Civil Division, Department of Justice, Room 6540, 601 D Street, NW., Washington, DC 20004; (202) 307-0188.

Congressional Review Act

This action pertains to agency management, personnel, and organization and does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties and, accordingly, is not a "rule" as that term is used by the Congressional Review Act (Subtitle E of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996). Therefore, the reporting requirement of 5 U.S.C. 801 does not apply.

List of Subjects in 28 CFR Part 0

Authority delegations (government agencies), Government employees,

Organization and functions (government agencies), Whistleblowing.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the preamble, Chapter I of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 0—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 0 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 28 U.S.C. 509, 510, 515-519.

2. Revise § 0.169 to read as follows:

§ 0.169 Definition of "gross amount of the original claim".

(a) The phrase *gross amount of the original claim* as used in this subpart Y and as applied to any civil fraud claim described in § 0.45(d), shall mean the amount of single damages involved.

(b) The phrase *gross amount of the original claim* as used in this subpart Y and as applied to any civil claim brought under section 592 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (see § 0.45(c)), shall mean the actual amount of lost customs duties involved. In nonrevenue loss cases brought under section 592 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, the phrase *gross amount of the original claim* shall mean the amount demanded in the Customs Service's mitigation decision issued pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1618 or, if no mitigation decision has been issued, the *gross amount of the original claim* shall mean twenty percent of the dutiable value of the merchandise.

Dated: December 6, 2000.

Janet Reno,

Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 00-31765 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-12-M

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044

Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulations on Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans and Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans prescribe interest assumptions for valuing and paying benefits under terminating single-

employer plans. This final rule amends the regulations to adopt interest assumptions for plans with valuation dates in January 2001. Interest assumptions are also published on the PBGC's web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>). **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2001.

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. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PBGC's regulations prescribe actuarial assumptions—including interest assumptions—for valuing and paying plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered by title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The interest assumptions are intended to reflect current conditions in the financial and annuity markets.

Three sets of interest assumptions are prescribed: (1) a set for the valuation of benefits for allocation purposes under section 4044 (found in Appendix B to Part 4044), (2) a set for the PBGC to use to determine whether a benefit is payable as a lump sum and to determine lump-sum amounts to be paid by the PBGC (found in Appendix B to Part 4022), and (3) a set for private-sector pension practitioners to refer to if they wish to use lump-sum interest rates determined using the PBGC's historical methodology (found in Appendix C to Part 4022). (See the PBGC's two final rules published March 17, 2000, in the **Federal Register** (at 65 FR 14752 and 14753). Effective May 1, 2000, these rules changed how the interest assumptions are used and where they are set forth in the PBGC's regulations.)

Accordingly, this amendment (1) adds to Appendix B to Part 4044 the interest assumptions for valuing benefits for allocation purposes in plans with valuation dates during January 2001, (2) adds to Appendix B to Part 4022 the interest assumptions for the PBGC to use for its own lump-sum payments in plans with valuation dates during January 2001, and (3) adds to Appendix C to Part 4022 the interest assumptions for private-sector pension practitioners to refer to if they wish to use lump-sum interest rates determined using the PBGC's historical methodology for valuation dates during January 2001.

For valuation of benefits for allocation purposes, the interest assumptions that the PBGC will use (set forth in Appendix B to part 4044) will be 6.70

percent for the first 20 years following the valuation date and 6.25 percent thereafter. These interest assumptions (in comparison with those in effect for December 2000) reflect a 5-year decrease in the period during which the initial rate applies (from a period of 25 years following the valuation date to a period of 20 years following the valuation date). The initial rate, in effect during the 20-year period, represents a decrease (from the initial rate in effect for December 2000) of 0.30 percent. The ultimate rate, in effect thereafter, is unchanged.

The interest assumptions that the PBGC will use for its own lump-sum payments (set forth in Appendix B to part 4022) will be 5.00 percent for the period during which a benefit is in pay status, 4.25 percent during the seven-year period directly preceding the benefit's placement in pay status, and 4.00 percent during any other years preceding the benefit's placement in pay status. These interest assumptions represent a decrease (from those in effect for December 2000) of 0.25 percent for the period during which a benefit is in pay status and the seven-year period directly preceding the

benefit's placement in pay status, and are otherwise unchanged.

For private-sector payments, the interest assumptions (set forth in Appendix C to part 4022) will be the same as those used by the PBGC for determining and paying lump sums (set forth in Appendix B to part 4022).

The PBGC has determined that notice and public comment on this amendment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This finding is based on the need to determine and issue new interest assumptions promptly so that the assumptions can reflect, as accurately as possible, current market conditions.

Because of the need to provide immediate guidance for the valuation and payment of benefits in plans with valuation dates during January 2001, the PBGC finds that good cause exists for making the assumptions set forth in this amendment effective less than 30 days after publication.

The PBGC has determined that this action is not a "significant regulatory action" under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Because no general notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this amendment, the Regulatory Flexibility

Act of 1980 does not apply. See 5 U.S.C. 601(2).

List of Subjects

29 CFR Part 4022

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Pensions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

29 CFR Part 4044

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR parts 4022 and 4044 are amended as follows:

PART 4022—BENEFITS PAYABLE IN TERMINATED SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

1. The authority citation for part 4022 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302, 1322, 1322b, 1341(c)(3)(D), and 1344.

2. In appendix B to part 4022, Rate Set 87, as set forth below, is added to the table. (The introductory text of the table is omitted.)

Appendix B to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates For PBGC Payments

* * * * *

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		i ₁	i ₂	i ₃	n ₁	n ₂
87	1-1-01	2-1-01	5.00	4.25	4.00	4.00	7	8

3. In appendix C to part 4022, Rate Set 87, as set forth below, is added to the table. (The introductory text of the table is omitted.)

Appendix C to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates For Private-Sector Payments

* * * * *

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		i ₁	i ₂	i ₃	n ₁	n ₂
87	1-1-01	2-1-01	5.00	4.25	4.00	4.00	7	8

PART 4044—ALLOCATION OF ASSETS IN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

4. The authority citation for part 4044 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1301(a), 1302(b)(3), 1341, 1344, 1362.

5. In appendix B to part 4044, a new entry, as set forth below, is added to the table. (The introductory text of the table is omitted.)

Appendix B to Part 4044—Interest Rates Used to Value Benefits

* * * * *

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of i_t are:					
	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$
January 20010670	1–20	.0625	>20	N/A	N/A

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 12th day of December 2000.

David M. Strauss,
Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00–31990 Filed 12–14–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 920

[MD–047–FOR]

Maryland Regulatory Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the final rule [MD–047–FOR], which was published Wednesday, November 8, 2000 (65 FR 66929). The final rule describes Maryland’s procedures for financing abandoned mine land reclamation projects that involve the incidental extraction of coal.

DATES: Effective December 15, 2000.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Rieger, Program Manager, OSM, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, 3 Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Telephone: (412) 937–2153. E-mail: grieger@osmre.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final rule amended § 920.15 to add a new entry to the table describing the date the original amendment was submitted, the date of final publication, and the citation/description. As originally published in 65 FR 66929, the instructions were correct but the section heading erroneously read “§ 920.25 Approval of Maryland regulatory amendments.” It should have read “§ 920.15 Approval of Maryland regulatory amendments.”

Correction of Publication

Accordingly, the publication on November 8, 2000 of the final regulations (MD–047–FOR), which were the subject of FR Doc. 00–28618, is corrected to read as follows:

1. On page 66931, in the third column, the section heading is corrected to read as follows:

§ 920.15 Approval of Maryland regulatory program amendments.

* * * * *

Dated: November 20, 2000.

Allen D. Klein,
Regional Director, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center.

[FR Doc. 00–32039 Filed 12–14–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–05–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[MD 096–3061; FRL–6916–8]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Nitrogen Oxides Budget Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is approving a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Maryland. The revision consists of amendments to Maryland’s Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Budget Program. The revisions implement the Ozone Transport Commission’s (OTC) September 27, 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Maryland. In accordance with the MOU, the revisions implement the Maryland portion of a regional NO_x cap and trade program that significantly reduces NO_x emissions generated within the Ozone Transport Region (OTR). EPA is approving these revisions in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule is effective on January 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103; the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460; and the Maryland Department of the Environment, 2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore, Maryland 21224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cristina Fernandez, (215) 814–2178, or by e-mail at fernandez.cristina@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On August 28, 1998, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) submitted a revision to its SIP. The revision to the SIP includes the adoption of new sections .01–.14 under a new chapter, COMAR 26.11.27—Post RACT Requirements for NO_x Sources (Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Budget Program) and new sections .01–.13 under a new chapter, COMAR 26.11.28—Policies and Procedures Relating to Maryland’s NO_x Budget Program. The revisions implement the Ozone Transport Commission’s (OTC) September 27, 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Maryland. In accordance with the MOU, the revisions implement the Maryland portion of a regional NO_x cap and trade program that significantly reduces NO_x emissions generated within the Ozone Transport Region (OTR).

On November 16, 1999, MDE submitted amendments to its August 28, 1998 SIP revision request. The purpose of these amendments was to change the compliance date of the Maryland NO_x Budget Program from May 1, 1999 to May 1, 2000. The revisions to the August 28, 1998 submittal include amendments to Regulations (.04) General Requirements, (.07) Allowance Banking, and (.11) End-of-Season Reconciliation under COMAR 26.11.27 and the repeal of Regulation (.08) Early Reduction Allowances under COMAR 26.11.28. On March 20, 2000, MDE submitted amendments to its August 28, 1998 SIP revision request consisting of two enforceable consent agreements between MDE and the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company and the Potomac Electric Power Company. These consent agreements impose special conditions and time lines for both companies regarding the implementation of Maryland’s NO_x Budget Trading Program requirements.

On October 19, 2000 (65 FR 62671), EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for the State of Maryland proposing to approve the August 28, 1998 SIP revision request as amended by the November 16, 1999 and March 20, 2000 submittals. That NPR