

in January 2004 is 4.94 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 5.81 percent composite corporate bond rate announced in IRS Notice 2004-34 for December 2003).

The required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in February 2004 is 4.83 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 5.68 percent composite corporate bond rate announced in IRS Notice 2004-34 for January 2004).

The required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in March 2004 is 4.79 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 5.63 percent composite corporate bond rate announced in IRS Notice 2004-34 for February 2004).

The required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in April 2004 is 4.62 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 5.44 percent composite corporate bond rate announced in IRS Notice 2004-34 for March 2004).

The following table lists the required interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between May 2003 and April 2004. Note that the required interest rate for premium payment years beginning in May through December 2003 were determined under the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002, and that the required interest rate for premium payment years beginning in January through April 2004 were determined under the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004.

For premium payment years beginning in:	The required interest rate is:
May 2003* .....	4.90
June 2003* .....	4.53
July 2003* .....	4.37
August 2003* .....	4.93
September 2003* .....	5.31
October 2003* .....	5.14
November 2003* .....	5.16
December 2003* .....	5.12
January 2004** .....	4.94
February 2004** .....	4.83
March 2004** .....	4.79
April 2004** .....	4.62

\*The required interest rates for premium payment years beginning in May through December 2003 were determined under the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002.

\*\*The required interest rates for premium payment years beginning in January through April 2004 were determined under the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 13th day of April, 2004.

**Joseph H. Grant,**

*Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*

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**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for a New Information Collection: General Population Rental Equivalency Survey**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, May 22, 1995), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for a review of a new information collection. OPM plans to conduct a General Population Rental Equivalency Survey (GPRES) on a one-time basis to collect information on actual and estimated rents and rental characteristics from homeowners and renters in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Washington, DC, area.

OPM will use this information to determine whether (1) differences between homeowner rent estimates and rental rates for comparable housing vary among the nonforeign cost-of-living allowance (COLA) areas and the Washington, DC, area; (2) rents vary among areas based on how long renters live in their rental units; and (3) rental data collected in GPRES differ on average from rental data that OPM collects in the COLA surveys. OPM regulations, adopted pursuant to the stipulation of settlement in *Caraballo v. United States*, No. 1997-0027 (D.V.I.), August 17, 2000, require the survey of rents and rental equivalence (homeowner estimates of the rental value of their homes).

OPM will collect information from approximately 5,000 to 8,000 respondents and estimates the total time per respondent will be 8 minutes, for a total burden of 670 to 1070 hours.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358, fax: (202) 418-3251, or e-mail: [MaryBeth.Smith-Toomey@opm.gov](mailto:MaryBeth.Smith-Toomey@opm.gov). Please include a mailing address with your request.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 17, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Send or deliver comments to:

- Donald J. Winstead, Deputy Associate Director for Pay and Performance Policy, Office of Personnel Management, Room 7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415-8200; fax: (202) 606-4264; or e-mail: [cola@opm.gov](mailto:cola@opm.gov); and

- Joseph F. Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donald L. Paquin, (202) 606-2838.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

**Kay Coles James,**

*Director.*

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**RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**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:* Public Service Pension Questionnaires; OMB 3220-0136. Public Law 95-216 amended the Social Security Act of 1977 by providing, in part, that spouse or survivor benefits may be reduced when the beneficiary is in receipt of a pension based on employment with a Federal, State, or local governmental unit. Initially, the reduction was equal to the full amount of the government pension.

Public Law 98-21 changed the reduction to two-thirds of the amount of the government pension.

Public Law 108-203, the Social Security Protection Act of 2004, was