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Dated: June 9, 2004.

**Dave Gamberoni,**

*Office of the Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 04-13521 Filed 6-10-04; 9:35 am]

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## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

### Required Interest Rate Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; 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 can be derived 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 Web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

**DATES:** The required interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in June 2004. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in July 2004.

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

#### 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 (the "required interest rate") in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. Pursuant to the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004, for premium payment years beginning in 2004 or 2005, the required interest rate is the "applicable percentage" (currently 85 percent) of the annual rate of interest determined by the Secretary of the Treasury on amounts invested conservatively in long-term investment grade corporate bonds for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid. Thus, the required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in June 2004 is 5.26 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 6.19 percent composite corporate bond rate for May 2004 as determined by the Treasury).

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

For premium payment years beginning in:	The required interest rate is:
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
May 2004**	4.98
June 2004**	5.26

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

### 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 July 2004 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 9th day of June, 2004.

**Joseph H. Grant,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-13486 Filed 6-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

## POSTAL SERVICE

### Change to the Retirement Plan for Manually Set Postage Meters

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed change to plan with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service proposes to revise the Retirement Plan for Manually Set Postage Meters, published in the **Federal Register** on December 13, 2000, for meters with lease expiration dates on or after October 1, 2004. The proposed retirement date for these manually set electronic meters will be May 31, 2005. The Postal Service will set no electronic manually set meters after February 28, 2005.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before July 15, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or deliver written comments on this proposal to the Manager, Postage Technology Management, 1735 N Lynn Street, Room 5011, Arlington, VA 22209-6370. Copies of all written comments will be available at the address in this section for public inspection and photocopying between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wayne A. Wilkerson, manager of Postage Technology Management, at 703-292-3691 or by fax at 703-292-4073.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Proposed Changes**

The Retirement Plan for Manually Set Postage Meters, published in the **Federal Register** on December 13, 2000 (65 FR 77934), specified that a manually set electronic meter could be used until the end of the calendar quarter following the quarter in which the lease expires, at which time the meter must be retired and withdrawn from service. However, the Postal Service is upgrading the systems used to process point of sale transactions in local Post Offices™. Given the limited number of active manually set meters that will be in service after January 1, 2005 (fewer than 200), the Postal Service cannot justify the cost of including the associated transactions in the development of the new system. Therefore, the Postal Service proposes to retire all manually set electronic meters from service, effective May 31, 2005. The proposed change will affect fewer than 200 meters.

**The Proposed Revised Plan**

The Postal Service retirement date for manually set electronic meters with lease expiration dates on or after October 1, 2004, will be May 31, 2005. The Postal Service will set no electronic manually set meters after February 28, 2005. Anyone in possession of a manually set meter must return it to the meter provider on or before May 31, 2005. The meter provider will withdraw the meter from service.

Effective August 1, 2004, no manually set meter in service may be replaced by another manually set meter, even when the meter malfunctions, and no manually set meter may be relocated to a different licensing Post Office.

Any manually set electronic postage meter that is capable of remote meter setting must be either converted to remote meter setting or retired from service and returned to the meter

provider. The function that allows manual setting must be disabled.

The manager of Postage Technology Management, Postal Service Headquarters, will send official notification to those affected users with an explanation of this plan. No other correspondence is official. The manager of Postage Technology Management reserves the right to review manufacturer correspondence to these meter users prior to its distribution.

A final plan will be published after the Postal Service has received and reviewed all interested parties' comments.

**Neva R. Watson,**

*Attorney, Legislative.*

[FR Doc. 04-13348 Filed 6-14-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7710-12-P**

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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:* Application and Claim for Unemployment Benefits and Employment Service, OMB 3220-0022. Section 2 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), provides unemployment benefits for qualified railroad employees. These benefits are generally payable for each day of unemployment in excess of four during a registration period (normally a period of 14 days).

Section 12 of the RUIA provides that the RRB establish, maintain and operate free employment facilities directed toward the reemployment of railroad employees. The procedures for applying for the unemployment benefits and

employment service and for registering and claiming the benefits are prescribed in 20 CFR 325.

The RRB utilizes the following forms to collect the information necessary to pay unemployment benefits: Form UI-1 (or its Internet equivalent, Form UI-1 (Internet)), Application for Unemployment Benefits and Employment Service, is completed by a claimant for unemployment benefits once in a benefit year, at the time of first registration. Completion of Form UI-1 or UI-1 (Internet) also registers an unemployment claimant for the RRB's employment service. The RRB proposes no changes to Form UI-1 or UI-1 (Internet).

The RRB also utilizes Form UI-3, Claim for Unemployment Benefits, for use in claiming unemployment benefits for days of unemployment in a particular registration period, normally a period of 14 days. The RRB proposes minor editorial changes to UI-3.

The RRB is proposing the implementation of an Internet equivalent of Form UI-3, Claim for Unemployment Benefits, as an addition to the information collection. The information collected on proposed Form UI-3 (Internet), Claim for Unemployment Benefits, will essentially mirror what is requested on Form UI-3. However, the UI-3 (Internet) will take advantage of opportunities to electronically edit and skip unnecessary items as well as give respondents the opportunity to change/modify their Direct Deposit Information.

Completion of Forms UI-1, UI-1 (Internet), UI-3 and the proposed UI-3 (Internet) is required to obtain or retain benefits. The number of responses required of each claimant varies, depending on their period of unemployment. The RRB estimates that approximately 11,200 Form UI-1's (9700 paper and 1,500 Internet) will be filed annually. Completion time for Form UI-1 and UI-1 (Internet) is estimated at 10 minutes. The RRB estimates that approximately 116,000 Form UI-3's (92,800 manual and 23,200 Internet) will be filed annually. Completion time for Form UI-3 and the proposed UI-3 (Internet) is estimated at 6 minutes.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:**

To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363 or send an e-mail request to [Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV](mailto:Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J.