

equity capital of 12.7%; and a capital structure mix comprised of 42.8% debt and 57.2% common equity. The cost-of-capital finding made in this proceeding will be used in a variety of Board proceedings.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This action is effective June 28, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leonard J. Blistein, (202) 565-1529. (Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1 (800) 877-8339).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The cost-of-capital finding in this decision may be used for a variety of regulatory purposes. The Board's decision is posted on the Board's Web site, www.stb.dot.gov. In addition, copies of the decision may be purchased from ASAP Document Solutions by calling 301-577-2600 or by e-mailing asapdoc@verizon.net.

Environmental and Energy Considerations

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), we conclude that our action in this proceeding will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The purpose and effect of this action are to update the annual railroad industry cost-of-capital finding by the Board. No new reporting or other regulatory requirements are imposed, directly or indirectly, on small entities.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 10704(a).

Decided: June 22, 2004.

By the Board, Chairman Nober, Vice Chairman Mulvey, and Commissioner Buttrey.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-14590 Filed 6-25-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed new collection and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to identify and properly protect certain VA benefit records.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before August 27, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Annual Certification of Veteran Status and Veteran-Relatives, VA Form 20-0344.

OMB Control Number: 2900-NEW.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: VBA employees, non-VBA employees in VBA space and Veteran Service Organization employees who

have access to VA's benefit records complete VA Form 20-0344. These individuals are required to provide personal identifying information for themselves and any veteran relatives, in order for VA to identify and protect those benefit records. VA uses the information to determine which benefit records require special handling to guard against fraud, conflict of interest, improper influence etc. by VA and non-VA employees.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 5,834 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 25 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 14,000.

Dated: June 21, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Loise Russell,

Director, Records Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Office of Research and Development

Government Owned Invention Available for Licensing

AGENCY: Office of Research and Development, Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of Government Owned Invention Available for Licensing.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is owned by the U.S. Government as represented by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and is available for licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 and/or CRADA Collaboration under 15 U.S.C. 3710a to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development. Foreign patents are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for U.S. companies and may also be available for licensing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical and licensing information on the invention may be obtained by writing to: Robert W. Potts, Department of Veterans Affairs, Director Technology Transfer Program, Office of Research and Development, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420; fax: 202-254-0473; e-mail at bob.potts@hq.med.va.gov. Any request for information should include the Number and Title for the relevant invention as indicated below. Issued patents may be obtained from the