spouse annuity the RRB uses Form AA–3, Application for Spouse/Divorced Spouse Annuity, and electronic Form AA–3cert, Application Summary and Certification.

The AA–3 application process gathers information from an applicant about their marital history, work history, benefits from other government agencies, railroad pensions and Medicare entitlement for a spouse annuity. An RRB representative interviews the applicant either at a field office (preferred), an itinerant point, or by telephone. During the interview, the RRB representative enters the information obtained into an on-line information system. Upon completion of the interview, the system generates, for the applicant’s review and traditional pen and ink “wet” signature, Form AA–3cert, Application Summary and Certification, which is a summary of the information that the applicant provided or verified. When the RRB representative is unable to contact the applicant in person or by telephone, for example, the applicant lives in another country, a manual version of Form AA–3 is used.

Consistent with 20 CFR 217.17, upon completion of the AA–3 interview process, the RRB proposes to provide, in addition to the current Form AA–3cert pen and ink “wet” signature, an alternate signing method called “Attestation,” which will be documented by new Form AA–3sum. Attestation refers to an action taken by the RRB representative to confirm and annotate in the RRB records (1) the applicant’s intent to file an application; (2) the applicant’s affirmation under penalty of perjury that the information provided is correct; and (3) the applicant’s agreement to sign the application by proxy. The information collected as part of the AA–3 interview process will be the same irrespective of whether the application is signed by a pen and ink “wet” signature or by attestation. The only difference will be the method of signature.

In addition, consistent with Department of Treasury guidelines, the RRB proposes revisions to Forms AA–3 and AA–3cert, to provide claimants a Direct Express® MasterCard® Debit Card payment option. Other non-burden-impacting editorial and formatting changes are proposed. One response is requested of each respondent. Completion of the forms is required to obtain a benefit.

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**ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN**

(The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form No.</th>
<th>Annual responses</th>
<th>Time (minutes)</th>
<th>Burden (hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA–3 (without assistance)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA–3cert (with assistance)</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA–3sum (with assistance)</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,050</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94–409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold an Open Meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 10 a.m., in the Auditorium, Room L–002.

The subject matter of the Open Meeting will be:

The Commission will consider whether to approve the 2012 budget of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and will consider the related annual accounting support fee for the Board under Section 109 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Commissioner Paredes, as duty officer, determined that no earlier notice thereof was possible.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items.

For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact:

The Office of the Secretary at (202) 551–5400.

Dated: January 5, 2012.

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

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