

**Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:** OPM estimates that the average price survey interview will take approximately 7 minutes, for a total burden of 650 hours. The average background survey interview will take approximately 10 minutes, for a total burden of 50 hours.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Janice R. Lachance,**  
Director.

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**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
MANAGEMENT**

**Proposed Collection, Comment  
Request Optional Form 306**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and 5 CFR 1320.5 (a) (I) (iv), this notice announces that OPM intends to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for reclearance of an information collection. Optional Form 306 (Declaration for Federal Employment) is used by OPM and other agencies to collect information to determine an individual's acceptability for Federal employment and enrollment status in the Government's Life Insurance program.

"Comments are particularly invited on: whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of function of the Office of Personnel Management, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of collection of information on those who respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology."

It is estimated that 474,000 individuals will respond annually for a

total burden of 118,500 hours. To obtain copies of this proposal please contact James M. Farron at (202) 414-3208 or by E-mail to jmfarron@opm.gov.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposal should be received on or before February 10, 1998. Submit comments on this proposal to Richard A. Ferris, Office of Personnel Management, Room 5416, 1900 E. Street N. W., Washington, D.C. 20415.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Janice R. Lachance,**  
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:* Application and Claim for Sickness Insurance Benefits; OMB 3220-0039.

Under Section 2 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), sickness benefits are payable to qualified railroad employees who are unable to work because of illness or injury. In addition, sickness benefits are payable to qualified female employees if

they are unable to work, or if working would be injurious, because of pregnancy, miscarriage or childbirth. Under Section 1(k) of the RUIA, a statement of sickness with respect to days of sickness of an employee is to be filed with the RRB within a 10-day period from the first day claimed as a day of sickness. The RRB's authority for requesting supplemental medical information is Section 12(l) and 12(n) of the RUIA. The procedures for claiming sickness benefits and for the RRB to obtain supplemental medical information needed to determine a claimant's eligibility for such benefits is prescribed in 20 CFR part 335.

The forms used by the RRB to obtain information needed to determine eligibility for and the amount of sickness benefits due a claimant follows: Form SI-1a, Application for Sickness Benefits; Form SI-1b, Statement of Sickness; Form SI-3, Claim for Sickness Benefits; Form SI-7, Supplemental Doctor's Statement; Form SI-8, Verification of Medical Information; Form ID-7h, Non-Entitlement to Sickness Benefits and Information on Unemployment Benefits; and Form ID-11a, Requesting Reason for Late Filing of Sickness Benefit. Completion is required to obtain or retain benefits. One response is requested of each respondent.

The RRB proposes to revise Form SI-1a to add new items that obtain information from a sickness claimant who is filing a delayed claim for benefits and also to reformat and clarify an existing item that requests wage information. Form SI-3 is being revised to clarify an existing item that requests wage information and also to modify the certification statement. Form SI-8 is being revised primarily to emphasize that a response is needed only if the information provided is erroneous. Minor editorial changes which include the addition of language required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 are also proposed to Forms SI-1b, SI-7, SI-8 and ID-11A.

**Estimate of Annual Respondent Burden**

The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows:

Form Nos.	Annual responses	Time (minutes)	Burden (hours)
SI-1a/1b(ee) .....	27,700	10	4,617
SI-1a/1b(Dr.) .....	27,000	8	3,693
SI-3 .....	181,000	5	15,083
SI-7 .....	33,600	8	4,480
SI-8 .....	50	5	4
ID-7H .....	50	5	4
ID-11A .....	800	3	40