

Dated: February 2, 1998.
William M. Hill, Jr.,
Secy, Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.
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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: Placement Service; OMB 3220-0057. Section 12(i) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA),

authorizes the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) to establish, maintain, and operate free employment offices to provide claimants for unemployment benefits with job placement opportunities. Section 704(d) of the Regional Railroad Reorganization Act of 1973, as amended, and as extended by the consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, required the RRB to maintain and distribute a list of railroad job vacancies, by class and craft, based on information furnished by rail carriers to the RRB. Although this requirement under the law expired effective August 13, 1987, the RRB has continued to obtain this information in keeping with its employment service responsibilities under Section 12(k) of the RUIA. Application procedures for the job placement program are prescribed in 20 CFR 325. The procedures pertaining to the RRB's obtaining and distributing job vacancy reports furnished by rail carriers are described in 20 CFR 346.1.

The RRB utilizes six forms to obtain information needed to carry out its job placement responsibilities. Form ES-2, Supplemental Information for Central Register, is used by the RRB to obtain information needed to update a computerized central register of separated and furloughed railroad employees available for employment in the railroad industry. Form ES-20a, Notice of Employment Referral and Form ES-20b, Notice of Employment

Referral (Employer), are used by the RRB to refer unemployed railroad employees to local employers (railroad and nonrailroad). Form ES-21, Referral to State Employment Service, and ES-21c, Report of State Employment Service Office are used by the RRB to provide placement assistance for unemployed railroad employees through arrangements with State Employment Service offices. Form UI-35, Field Office Record of Claimant Interview, is used primarily by RRB Field Office staff to conduct in-person interviews of claimants for unemployment benefits. Completion of these forms are required to obtain or maintain a benefit. The RRB proposes to revise all of the forms to incorporate language required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Minor editorial and formatting changes are also being proposed.

In addition, the RRB also collects job vacancy information received voluntarily from railroad employers (currently OMB 3220-0122, Railroad Job Vacancies). The RRB proposes to merge the Railroad Job Vacancies information collection into the Placement Service information collection. Minor nonburden impacting changes are being proposed to the Railroad Job Vacancies portion of the information collection.

Estimate of Annual Respondent Burden

The estimated annual respondent burden for this collection is as follows:

Form number(s)	Annual responses	Completion time (minutes)	Burden (hours)
ES-2	7,500	0.25	31
ES-20a	2,000	0.75	25
ES-20b	2,000	0.50	17
ES-21	3,500	0.68	40
ES-21c	1,250	1.50	31
UI-35 (in-person)	9,000	7.00	1,050
UI-35 (by mail)	1,000	10.50	175
Railroad Job Vacancies Report	750	10.00	125
Total	27,000	1,494

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. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments

should be received within 60 days of this notice.
Chuck Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.
 [FR Doc. 98-3222 Filed 2-9-98; 8:45 am]
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-39617; File No. SR-BSE-97-6]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by Boston Stock Exchange, Inc., Relating to its BEACON Liability Rule

February 3, 1998.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934