These revised standards and guidelines replace OMB Statistical Policy Directives Nos. 1 and 2, on Standards for Statistical Surveys, and Standards for Publishing Statistics, respectively. These standards and guidelines were last revised in 1974 when they were issued as OMB Circular No. A–46, Exhibits A and B. The standards were reissued in 1978 as Statistical Policy Directives 1 and 2 when the statistical policy function was temporarily relocated to the Department of Commerce, and their designation as Statistical Policy Directives remained when the statistical policy function was returned to OMB in 1981 under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

**Development and Review**

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the quality of information collected by the Federal Government and to update statistical standards and guidance, OMB requested in 2003 that agencies who were members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) nominate representatives to a new subcommittee formed under the aegis of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM). This subcommittee was asked to review Statistical Policy Directives Nos. 1 and 2 and to make recommendations for updating or revising these standards to reflect current best practices in Federal statistical agencies.

The subcommittee reviewed the OMB directives, standards currently used by Federal statistical agencies, and standards and guidelines produced and disseminated by national statistical institutes in a number of other countries. The subcommittee also drew on interagency efforts by statistical agencies to develop a common framework for their activities in response to OMB's issuance of its Information Quality Guidelines (IQG) and the requirement that agencies issue their own IQGs (67 FR 8452–8460).

The revised and updated standards and guidelines developed by the subcommittee reflected the organizational framework that the statistical agencies used for their Information Quality Guidelines. They were the product of a careful and deliberate process to create a set of standards and guidelines that will address all key aspects of planning, conducting, processing, and disseminating Federal statistical surveys. Because OMB standards and guidelines must cover a broad range of applications, agencies are encouraged to develop their own more specific standards for the statistical surveys and studies they conduct or sponsor. The subcommittee provided initial draft standards and guidelines for review by the FCSM and then by the ICSP in 2004. The subcommittee addressed the comments it received at each stage and provided its recommendations to OMB in 2005.

OMB issued the proposed standards and guidelines for public comment in July 2005 (70 FR 40746–40747). Six public comments were received in response to OMB's request. OMB reviewed the standards and guidelines and made some modifications in response to the public comments. The final standards and guidelines, the public comments, and OMB's summary of and response to the public comments are available on the OMB Web site at *http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/statpolicy.html.*

**Steven D. Aitken,**

*Acting Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 06–8044 Filed 9–21–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110–01–P

## RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

### Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review

*Summary:* In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

**Summary of Proposal(s)**

(1) *Collection title:* Employer Reporting.

(2) *Form(s) submitted:* AA–12, G–88A.1, G–88A.2, BA–6a, BA–6a (Internet), BA–6a (E-mail).

(3) *OMB Number:* 3220–0005.

(4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 12/31/2006.

(5) *Type of request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

(6) *Respondents:* Business or other for-profit, Individuals or Households.

(7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 495.

(8) *Total annual responses:* 1,958.

(9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 418.

(10) *Collection description:* Under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, railroad employers are required to report service and compensation for employees needed to determine eligibility to and the amounts of benefits paid.

*Additional Information or Comments:* Copies of the forms and supporting documents can be obtained from Charles Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312–751–3363) or *Charles.Mierzwa@rrb.gov.*

Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611–2092 or *Ronald.Hodapp@rrb.gov* and to the OMB Desk Officer for the RRB, at the Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Charles Mierzwa,**

*Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 06–8049 Filed 9–21–06; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collections; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

*Extensions:*

Form F–7, OMB Control No. 3235–0383, SEC File No. 270–331. Form F–8, OMB Control No. 3235–0378, SEC File No. 270–332.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management Budget for approval.

Form F–7 (17 CFR 239.37) may be used to register under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) securities offered for cash upon exercise of rights that are granted to its existing shareholders of the registrant to purchase or subscribe such securities. The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information. Form F–7 takes approximately 4 hours per response to prepare and is filed by 5 respondents. We estimate that 25% of 4 hours per response (one hour) is prepared by the company for a total annual reporting burden of 5 hours (one hour per response × 5 responses). The remaining