

**DATES:** 1. November 20, 2003 (9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.)—accounting and reporting changes.

2. December 3, 2003 (10 a.m.–12)—carrier cost study.

**ADDRESSES:** Postal Rate Commission (hearing room), 1333 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20268–0001, Suite 300.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 202–789–6818.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States Postal Service will present a public briefing on its new general ledger accounting system on November 20, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. in the Postal Rate Commission’s hearing room. The Service began using this new system on October 1, 2003, and its introduction coincides with adoption of a postal fiscal year that is identical to the U.S. government’s fiscal year. Accounting period reports will be replaced with calendar month financial reporting. The data from the general ledger system is the primary input into many of the Postal Service’s annual reports, such as the Cost and Revenue Analysis report and the annual financial statements found in the Postmaster General’s annual report. This system is also one of the primary sources for the development of the revenue requirement during rate filings.

The Service will present a second public briefing on December 3, 2003 at 10 a.m., also in the Commission’s hearing room, on the new methodology the Service used to develop the segment 7 city carrier street time costs that were filed with the Commission on May 20, 2003 as part of the FY 2002 Cost Segments and Components report. The new methodology replaces the cost treatment that has been used by the Service since the 1980s. It is based on

data collected in May and June 2002 and involves new cost components.

**Steven W. Williams,**  
*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:* 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(i) 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 are 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; Form ID–11a, Requesting Reason for Late Filing of Sickness Benefit and ID–11b, Notice of Insufficient Medical and Late Filing. Completion is required to obtain or retain benefits. One response is requested of each respondent.

The RRB proposes no changes to Forms(s) SI–1a, SI–1b, SI–8, ID–7h, ID–11a and ID–11b. Non burden impacting editorial and formatting changes are proposed to Form(s) SI–3 and SI–7.

*Estimated of Annual Respondent Burden:* The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows:

Form #(s)	Annual responses	Time (min)	Burden (hrs)
SI–1a .....	22,200	10	3,700
SI–1b(Doctor) .....	22,200	8	2,960
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
ID–11B .....	1000	3	50
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>260,900</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>26,321</b>

*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.*

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