

**RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**



**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**



**Agencywide Plan**

Prepared by Office of Programs  
May 2009

## RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

### Agency-Wide Recovery Plan

#### **BROAD RECOVERY GOALS:**

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Act), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has two major benefit programs to administer. These are:

- Economic Recovery Payments. This program, authorized by Section 2201 of the Recovery Act, provides for one-time payments of \$250 to eligible adult beneficiaries under the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA). Most of these payments are scheduled to be issued to RRB beneficiaries in late May 2009.
- Extended Unemployment Benefits. This program, authorized by Section 2006 of the Recovery Act, provides for up to 13 weeks of additional extended unemployment benefits to rail employees who have already exhausted their unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA).

#### **FUNDING:**

Economic Recovery Payments. Under the Recovery Act, sufficient funds are to be provided to cover all \$250 payments to eligible individuals as defined under the law. The RRB has estimated that 540,000 beneficiaries will receive these benefits, thus requiring funding of \$135 million. TAFS 60-0115 was established for this purpose and \$135 million has been apportioned. Most of these funds are expected to be paid in late May 2009, but the law also provides for ongoing payment operations intended to include any beneficiaries who subsequently meet the entitlement criteria. Payments must be made no later than December 31, 2010.

The Recovery Act also provided for \$1.4 million in administrative funding related to the Economic Recovery Payments. This amount, contained in TAFS 60-8262, will cover the costs of printing and mailing notices to beneficiaries, check issue costs, and staff costs for analysis, programming, procedure writing, customer contacts, and related activities.

Extended Unemployment Benefits. The Recovery Act provided \$20 million to fund the additional extended unemployment benefits to railroad workers, who exhausted their rights to either normal or extended unemployment benefits. The additional extended benefits will be paid over a period of months. The latest date

an extended benefit period under these special provisions may begin is December 31, 2009. Payment of these special extended benefits will cease when the \$20 million has been expended, if that comes first. TAFS 60-0114X contains the \$20 million.

In addition, the Recovery Act also provided for \$80,000 to help with administrative costs related to implementing these extended benefit provisions. These funds are contained in TAFS 60-8262X.

## **COMPETITION ON CONTRACTS**

Not Applicable. The RRB is using only one small contract of less than \$50,000, which is being handled through the Government Printing Office, for printing of beneficiary notices.

## **CONTRACT TYPE**

Not Applicable.

## **DESCRIPTION OF AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS**

Both programs for which the RRB is responsible under the Recovery Act are based on, or similar to, the RRB's ongoing program responsibilities under the RRA and the RUIA. Agency executives and senior managers have adequate language in their performance plans to hold them accountable for program integrity, program performance, information technology, leadership and management and other related topics. Performance results under the Recovery Act will be assessed using those same performance plans and standards.

In addition, the RRB's Senior Accountable Official for the Recovery Act is also the agency's Performance Improvement Officer, as well as the Director of Programs. As such, this senior executive serves on the agency's Executive Committee along with the Senior Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the General Counsel, the Chief Information Officer, and the Chief Actuary. She coordinates with those officials as needed and also advises the head of the agency (the three-member Board) on matters related to performance and the Recovery Act.