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Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 28th day of October 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Darl S. Hood,**

*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate I-1, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-29490 Filed 11-6-97; 8:45 am]

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## **PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION**

### **Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Termination of Single Employer Plans; Missing Participants; PBGC Forms 500-501, 600-602**

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for extension of OMB approval.

**SUMMARY:** The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") extend its approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of a collection of information in its regulations on Termination of Single Employer Plans and Missing Participants (29 CFR Parts 4041 and 4050) and implementing forms and instructions (PBGC Forms 500-501 and 600-602). This notice informs the public of the PBGC's request and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted by December 8, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Washington, DC 20503. The request for extension will be available for public inspection at the Communications and Public Affairs Department of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, suite 240, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20005-4026, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on business days.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, or Catherine B. Klion, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, 202-326-4024. (For TTY and TDD, call 800-877-8339 and request connection to 202-326-4024).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The PBGC administers the pension plan termination insurance programs under Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). Under section 4041 of ERISA, a single-employer pension plan may terminate voluntarily only if it satisfies the requirements for either a standard or a distress termination. Pursuant to ERISA section 4041(b), for standard terminations, and section 4041(c), for distress terminations, and the PBGC's termination regulation (29 CFR part 4041), a plan administrator wishing to terminate a plan is required to submit specified information to the PBGC in support of the proposed termination and to provide specified information regarding the proposed termination to third parties (participants, beneficiaries, alternate payees, and employee organizations). In the case of a plan with participants or beneficiaries who cannot be located when their benefits are to be distributed, the plan administrator is subject to the requirements of ERISA section 4050 and the PBGC's missing participants regulation (29 CFR part 4050).

Elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**, the PBGC published a final rule that extends standard termination deadlines and otherwise simplifies the standard termination process, requires that plan administrators provide participants with information on state guaranty association coverage of annuities, and makes conforming changes to the distress termination process. The final rule also makes conforming and simplifying changes to the missing participants regulation. In addition, the PBGC made clarifying and other changes (related to the final rule) to its implementing forms and instructions under the termination and missing participants regulations.

Terminations initiated before the effective date of the final rule generally will be subject to the existing collection of information requirements. (The PBGC specified in the final rule certain portions of the final rule that plan administrators may apply to terminations in process at the time the final rule becomes effective.) Thus, even after the effective date of the final rule, there will be a period of time during which the existing collection of information requirements will apply for some terminations.

The PBGC is asking OMB to (1) approve for three years the revised collection of information requirements contained in the new final termination and missing participants regulations and implementing forms and

instructions; and (2) extend its approval for three years of the collection of information requirements in the existing termination and missing participants regulations and implementing forms and instructions. To facilitate OMB's consideration of these requests, the PBGC is combining the final rule and rollover submissions.

Much of the work associated with terminating a plan is performed for purposes other than meeting the collection of information requirements in the PBGC's termination and missing participants regulations. The PBGC estimates that 3,750 plan administrators will be subject to the collection of information requirements each year, and that the total annual burden of complying with these requirements is 5,231 hours and \$2,761,672.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of November, 1997.

**David M. Strauss,**

*Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 97-29499 Filed 11-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

## **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 for Employee Annuity Under the Railroad Retirement Act; OMB 3220-0002.

Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), provides for payment of age and service, disability and supplemental annuities to qualified employees. The basic requirements for a regular employee annuity retirement annuity under the RRA is 120 months (10 years)

of creditable railroad service. Benefits then become payable after the employee meets certain other requirements, which depend, in turn, on the type of annuity payable.

The requirements relating to the annuities are prescribed in 20 CFR 216, and 220.

The forms used by the RRB to collect information needed for determining entitlement to and the amount of an employee retirement annuity follow: Form AA-1, Application for Employee Annuity Under the Railroad Retirement Act is completed by an applicant for either an age and service or disability annuity. It obtains information about the applicants marital history, work history, military service, benefits from other governmental agencies and railroad pensions. Form AA-1d, Application for Determination of Employee Disability, is completed by an employee who is filing for a disability annuity under the RRA, or a disability freeze under the Social Security Act for early Medicare based on a disability. Form G-204, Verification of Workers Compensation/Public Disability Benefit Information, is used to obtain and verify information concerning worker's compensation or public disability benefits that are or will be paid by a public agency to a disabled railroad employee. Completion of the forms is required to obtain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent.

The RRB proposes to revise Form AA-1 to add items that secure information pertaining to the direct deposit of benefits and Medicare processing and delete items no longer required. Forms AA-1, AA-1d and G-204 will be revised to add language required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Minor non-burden impacting cosmetic and editorial changes will also be made to all three forms. The RRB estimates that 13,400 Form AA-1's, 5,650 AA-1d's and 175 G-204's are completed annually. The completion time for Form AA-1 is estimated to 37 to 62 minutes per response. The completion time for AA-1d is estimated at 35 to 60 minutes per response. The completion time for Form G-204 is estimated at 5 minutes per response.

**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 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments

should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Chuck Mierzwa,**  
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-29476 Filed 11-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-26769]

### Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

October 31, 1997.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated thereunder. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendments thereto is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Office or Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by November 24, 1997, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing shall identify specifically the issues of fact or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After said date, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

#### **The Southern Company, et al. (70-9137); Notice of Proposal To Amend Articles of Incorporation and Authorize Registered Holding Company To Acquire Preferred Stock of Utility Subsidiaries; Order Authorizing Solicitation of Proxies**

The Southern Company ("Southern"), 270 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, a registered holding company, and certain of its public-utility subsidiaries, Alabama Power Company ("Alabama"), 600 North 18th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35291,

Georgia Power Company ("Georgia"), 333 Piedmont Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30308, Gulf Power Company ("Gulf"), 500 Bayfront Parkway, Pensacola, Florida 32501, and Mississippi Power Company ("Mississippi"), 2992 West Beach, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501 (Alabama, Georgia, Gulf and Mississippi collectively, "Subsidiaries"), have filed an application-declaration under sections 6(a), 7, 9(a), 10, 12(c), 12(d) and 12(e) of the Act, and rules 43, 44, 51, 54, 62 and 65 thereunder.

#### **Alabama**

Alabama has outstanding 5,608,955 shares of common stock, par value \$40 per share ("Alabama Common Stock"), all of which are held by Southern. Alabama's outstanding preferred stock consists of: (1) 5.52 million shares of Class A cumulative preferred stock, stated capital \$25 per share, issued in three series,<sup>1</sup> which are traded on the New York Stock Exchange ("Alabama NYSE Preferred Stock"); (2) 704,000 shares of cumulative preferred stock, par value \$100 per share, issued in six series,<sup>2</sup> which are traded over-the-counter ("Alabama \$100 Preferred Stock"); (3) 200 shares of Class A cumulative preferred stock, stated capital \$100,000 per share, which are traded over-the-counter ("Alabama 1993 Auction Preferred Stock"); and (4) 500,000 shares of Class A cumulative preferred stock, stated capital \$100, which are traded over-the-counter ("Alabama 1988 Auction Preferred Stock" and, together with the Alabama NYSE Preferred Stock, Alabama \$100 Preferred Stock and Alabama 1993 Auction Preferred Stock, "Alabama Preferred Stock"). Alabama has outstanding no other class of equity securities.

Paragraph A.2.f.(2) of Article IX of Alabama's Charter ("Alabama Charter") currently provides that, so long as any shares of Alabama's Preferred Stock are outstanding, without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority

<sup>1</sup> The three series of Alabama NYSE Preferred Stock consist of a 6.80% series, of which 1.52 million shares are outstanding ("6.80% Series"); a 6.40% series, of which two million shares are outstanding ("6.40% Series"); and an adjustable rate series, of which two million shares are outstanding ("AR Series").

<sup>2</sup> The six series of Alabama \$100 Preferred Stock consist of a 4.20% series, of which 364,000 shares are outstanding ("4.20% Series"); a 4.52% series, of which 50,000 shares are outstanding ("4.52% Series"); a 4.60% series, of which 100,000 shares are outstanding ("4.60% Series"); a 4.64% series, of which 60,000 shares are outstanding ("4.64% Series"); a 4.72% series, of which 50,000 shares are outstanding ("4.72% Series"); and a 4.92% series, of which 80,000 shares are outstanding ("4.92% Series").