

that compliance cannot be secured voluntarily. IMLS will engage in voluntary compliance efforts and will provide technical assistance to recipients at all stages of its investigation. During these efforts to secure voluntary compliance, IMLS will propose reasonable timetables for achieving compliance and will consult with and assist recipients in exploring cost effective ways of coming into compliance.

In determining a recipient's compliance with Title VI, the IMLS's primary concern is to ensure that the recipient's policies and procedures overcome barriers resulting from language differences that would deny LEP persons a meaningful opportunity to participate in and access programs, services, and benefits. A recipient's appropriate use of the methods and options discussed in this policy guidance will be reviewed by the IMLS as evidence of a recipient's willingness to comply voluntarily with its Title VI obligations. If implementation of one or more of these options would be so financially burdensome as to defeat the legitimate objectives of a recipient/covered entity's program, or if there are equally effective alternatives for ensuring that LEP persons have meaningful access to programs and services (such as timely effective oral interpretation of vital documents), IMLS will not find the recipient/covered entity in noncompliance.

If you have any questions related to this policy, please contact the IMLS Office of the General Counsel.

Nancy E. Weiss,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03-8803 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7036-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Notice of Public Meeting; Sunshine Act

Notice is hereby given that the Railroad Retirement Board will hold a meeting on April 16, 2003, 9 a.m., at the Board's meeting room on the 8th floor of its headquarters building, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. The agenda for this meeting follows:

- (1) Employer Status Determination—Rail Temps, Inc.
- (2) Employer Status Determination—Southern Gulf Railway Company.
- (3) Occupational Disability Task Force Report.
- (4) Management Information Report—Strategic Initiatives Related to the President's Management Agenda.

The entire meeting will be open to the public. The person to contact for more

information is Beatrice Ezerski, Secretary to the Board, Phone No. 312-751-4920.

Dated: April 7, 2003.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 03-8890 Filed 4-8-03; 9:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available

From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Form S-11; OMB Control No. 3235-0067; SEC File No. 270-064.

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 collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Form S-11 is the registration statement form used to register securities issued in real estate investment trusts by issuers whose business is primarily that of acquiring and holding investment interest in real estate under the Securities Act of 1933. The information filed with the Commission permits verifications of compliance with securities law requirements and assures public availability. Approximately 150 issuers file Form S-11 annually and it takes approximately 473 hours per response for a total burden of 283,800 hours. It is estimated that 25% of the total burden hours (70,950 reporting burden hours) is prepared by the company.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information collection information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or

other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: April 3, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-8809 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27665]

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

April 4, 2003.

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 under the Act. 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 amendment(s) is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Branch of 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 April 28, 2003 to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549-0609, 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 the case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of facts 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 April 29, 2003, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

National Grid Group plc, et al. (70-9849)

National Grid Group plc ("National Grid"), National Grid Holdings One plc

("Holdings One"), National Grid (US) Investments ("US Investments"), all at 15 Marylebone Road, London, NW15JD, United Kingdom, National Grid (Ireland) 1 Limited ("Ireland 1"), and National Grid (Ireland) 2 Limited ("Ireland 2" and collectively, "Applicants"), both at 6 Avenue Pasteur L 2310, Luxembourg, all registered holding companies, have filed a post-effective amendment under section 5(d) of the Act to a previously filed application.

By order dated March 15, 2000, the Commission authorized Holdings One (formerly known as National Grid) to acquire all of the issued and outstanding common stock of the New England Electric System ("NEES"), a registered holding company. See *National Grid Group plc, et al*, Holding Co. Act Release No. 27154 (March 15, 2000) ("NEES Order"). Holdings One acquired NEES through several intermediate registered holding companies, including: U.S. Investments, Ireland 1, and Ireland 2. This corporate structure was designed to hold the National Grid's United States assets in a tax-efficient manner. To maintain tax efficiency, the Commission also authorized Holdings One to make non-material changes to its corporate structure.¹ See NEES Order.

By order dated January 16, 2002, the Commission authorized Holdings One and National Grid (formerly known as New National Grid Group plc) to acquire Niagara Mohawk Holdings, Inc. ("NiMo"). See *National Grid Group plc, et al*, Holding Co. Act Release No. 27490 (January 16, 2002) ("NiMo Order"). In the NiMo Order, the Commission also authorized Holdings One to become a direct subsidiary of National Grid and the direct parent of National Grid Holdings, Ltd., a foreign utility company ("FUCO") within the meaning of section 33 of the Act. In the application underlying the NiMo Order, it was represented that Holdings One would deregister, as proposed by the application, and claim FUCO status.

Prior to the acquisition of NiMo, under the authority granted by the NEES Order, Holdings One restructured its intermediate registered holding company subsidiaries. Specifically, U.S. Investments, Ireland 1, and Ireland 2 (collectively, "Former Intermediate Holding Companies") were removed as

intermediate holding companies.² They are now direct or indirect subsidiaries of National Grid Holdings Limited.³

Applicants state that, as a result of the transactions described above, Holdings One and the Former Intermediate Holding Companies no longer, directly or indirectly, own, control, or hold the power to vote ten percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of any public-utility company or holding company. Correspondingly, Applicants request that the Commission declare that Holdings One and the Former Intermediate Holding Companies are no longer public-utility holding companies.

For the Commission by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-8810 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC -25991; File No. 812-12880]

The Prudential Insurance Company of America, et al.; Notice of Application

April 4, 2003.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice of Application for an order pursuant to section 11(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") approving the terms of certain offers of exchange, and for an order under section 6(c) of the Act granting exemptions from the provisions of sections 2(a)(32), 22(c) and 27(i)(2)(A) of the Act and rule 22c-1 thereunder to permit the recapture of certain bonus credits.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants seek an order approving the terms of a proposed offer of exchange of the "Discovery Plus", "Variable Investment Plan" and "Qualified Variable Investment Plan" individual variable annuity contracts (the "Old Contracts") for a version of the Strategic Partners Annuity One individual variable annuity (the "New Contracts") to be offered by Pruco Life Insurance

Company and Pruco Life Insurance Company of New Jersey. Applicants also seek an order approving the terms of a proposed exchange program under their Strategic Partners FlexElite variable annuity contract. In addition, Applicants seek an order to permit the recapture of any bonus credits granted with respect to purchase payments under the New Contracts (a) if the New Contract is cancelled during the applicable free-look period or (b) for credits granted within one year prior to death where the death benefit is equal to contract value.

Applicants: The Prudential Insurance Company of America ("Prudential Life"), the Prudential Individual Variable Contract Account and the Prudential Qualified Individual Variable Contract Account (each such Account, the "Old Prudential Account"); Pruco Life Insurance Company ("Pruco Life"); Pruco Life Flexible Premium Variable Annuity Account (the "New Pruco Life Account"); Pruco Life Insurance Company of New Jersey ("PLNJ," and collectively with Pruco Life and Prudential Life, the "Insurance Companies"); Pruco Life of New Jersey Flexible Premium Variable Annuity Account (the "New PLNJ Account," and collectively with the Old Pruco Life Accounts and the New Pruco Life Account, the "Accounts"); and Prudential Investment Management Services LLC ("PIMS," and collectively with the Insurance Companies and the Accounts, "Applicants").

Filing Date: The application was filed on September 9, 2002, and amended and restated on April 3, 2003.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving Applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on April 29, 2003, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the requester's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request notification of a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicants: The Prudential Insurance Company of America, 213 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

¹ In the application underlying the NEES Order, it is stated that to maintain an efficient post-acquisition structure would require their quick response to changes in such areas as tax law and accounting rules and that it might be necessary to revise various organizational details of the intermediate registered holding companies.

² National Grid (US) Investments 4, National Grid U.S. Partner 1 Limited, National Grid U.S. Partner 2 Limited, and National Grid Holdings Inc. were added as new intermediate holding companies. National Grid (US) Holdings Limited and National Grid General Partnership were not changed in the restructuring, and remain intermediate registered holding companies.

³ Specifically, U.S. Investments and Ireland 1 are direct subsidiaries of National Grid Holdings Limited; Ireland 2 is a direct subsidiary of Ireland 1.