

TABLE II.—LUMP SUM VALUATIONS

[In using this table: (1) For benefits for which the participant or beneficiary is entitled to be in pay status on the valuation date, the immediate annuity rate shall apply; (2) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (where y is an integer and $0 < y \leq n_1$), interest rate i_1 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of y years, and thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply; (3) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (where y is an integer and $n_1 < y \leq n_1 + n_2$), interest rate i_2 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of $y - n_1$ years, interest rate i_1 shall apply for the following n_1 years, and thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply; (4) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (where y is an integer and $y > n_1 + n_2$), interest rate i_3 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of $y - n_1 - n_2$ years, interest rate i_2 shall apply for the following n_2 years, interest rate i_1 shall apply for the following n_1 years, and thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.]

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		i_1	i_2	i_3	n_1	n_2
* 51	* 01-1-98	02-1-98	* 4.25	* 4.00	* 4.00	4.00	* 7	* 8

Issued in Washington, D.C., on this 10th day of December 1997.

David M. Strauss,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Part 4044

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans by substituting new Table I-98 in place of existing Table I-97 in appendix D. Table I-98 applies to any plan being terminated either in a distress termination or involuntarily by the PBGC with a valuation date falling in 1998, and is used to determine expected retirement ages for plan participants. This table is needed in order to compute the value of early retirement benefits and, thus, the total value of benefits under the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026; 202-326-4024 (202-326-4179 for TTY and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044) sets forth (in subpart B) the methods for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans

covered under Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Under ERISA section 4041(c), plans wishing to terminate in a distress termination must value guaranteed benefits and benefit liabilities under the plan in accordance with part 4044, subpart B. In addition, when the PBGC terminates an underfunded plan involuntarily pursuant to ERISA Section 4042(a), it uses the subpart B valuation rules to determine the amount of the plan's underfunding.

Under § 4044.51(b), early retirement benefits are valued based on the annuity starting date, if a retirement date has been selected, or the expected retirement age, if the annuity starting date is not known on the valuation date. Sections 4044.55 through 4044.57 set forth rules for determining the expected retirement ages for plan participants entitled to early retirement benefits. Appendix D of part 4044 contains tables to be used in determining the expected early retirement ages.

Table I in appendix D (Selection of Retirement Rate Category) is used to determine whether a participant has a low, medium, or high probability of retiring early. The determination is based on the year a participant would reach "unreduced retirement age" (i.e., the earlier of the normal retirement age or the age at which an unreduced benefit is first payable) and the participant's monthly benefit at unreduced retirement age. The table applies only to plans with valuation dates in the current year and is updated annually by the PBGC to reflect changes in the cost of living, etc.

(The PBGC's general practice has been to issue annual update amendments on or about December 15 of each year, at the same time it issues interest updates for other regulations. However, the information needed to update the expected retirement age table is typically available earlier than the

information for the interest updates. The PBGC intends in the future to publish annual updates of the expected retirement age table earlier than December 15.)

Tables II-A, II-B, and II-C (Expected Retirement Ages for Individuals in the Low, Medium, and High Categories respectively) are used to determine the expected retirement age after the probability of early retirement has been determined using Table I. These tables establish, by probability category, the expected retirement age based on both the earliest age a participant could retire under the plan and the unreduced retirement age. This expected retirement age is used to compute the value of the early retirement benefit and, thus, the total value of benefits under the plan.

This document amends appendix D to replace Table I-97 with Table I-98 in order to provide an updated correlation, appropriate for calendar year 1998, between the amount of a participant's benefit and the probability that the participant will elect early retirement. Table I-98 will be used to value benefits in plans with valuation dates during calendar year 1998.

The PBGC has determined that notice of and public comment on this rule are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Plan administrators need to be able to estimate accurately the value of plan benefits as early as possible before initiating the termination process. For that purpose, if a plan has a valuation date in 1998, the plan administrator needs the updated table being promulgated in this rule. Accordingly, the public interest is best served by issuing this table expeditiously, without an opportunity for notice and comment, to allow as much time as possible to estimate the value of plan benefits with the proper table for plans with valuation dates in early 1998. Moreover, because of the need to provide immediate guidance for the valuation of benefits

under such plans, and because no adjustment by ongoing plans is required by this amendment, the PBGC finds that good cause exists for making this amendment to the regulation effective less than 30 days after publication.

The PBGC has determined that this action is not a "significant regulatory action" under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Because no general notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this regulation, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply (5 U.S.C. 601(2)).

List of Subjects in 29 CFR Part 4044

Pension insurance, Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR part 4044 is amended as follows:

PART 4044—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 4044 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1301(a), 1302(b)(3), 1341, 1344, 1362.

2. Appendix D to part 4044 is amended by removing Table I-97 and adding in its place Table I-98 to read as follows:

APPENDIX D TO PART 4044—TABLES USED TO DETERMINE EXPECTED RETIREMENT AGE

TABLE I-98.—SELECTION OF RETIREMENT RATE CATEGORY

[For Plans with valuation dates after December 31, 1997, and before January 1, 1999]

Participant reaches URA in year—	Participant's retirement Rate category is—			
	Low ¹ if monthly benefit at URA is less than—	Medium ² if monthly benefit at URA is		High ³ if monthly benefit at URA is greater than—
		From	To	
1999	419	419	1,766	1,766
2000	431	431	1,814	1,814
2001	442	442	1,863	1,863
2002	454	454	1,913	1,913
2003	466	466	1,965	1,965
2004	479	479	2,018	2,018
2005	492	492	2,072	2,072
2006	505	505	2,128	2,128
2007	519	519	2,186	2,186
2008 or later	533	533	2,245	2,245

¹ Table II-A.

² Table II-B.

³ Table II-C.

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David M. Strauss,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[CA 179-0061; FRL-5929-9]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision; Bay Area Air Quality Management District

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is finalizing the approval of revisions to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP) proposed in the **Federal Register** on April 17, 1997. The revisions concern rules from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). This approval

action will incorporate these rules into the federally approved SIP. The intended effect of approving these rules is to regulate emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990 (CAA or the Act). The rules concern the control of NO_x emissions from boilers, steam generators, process heaters, stationary internal combustion engines, stationary gas turbines, and glass melting furnaces in the San Francisco Bay area. Thus, EPA is finalizing the approval of these revisions into the California SIP under provisions of the CAA regarding EPA actions on SIP submittals, and SIPs for national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards. The rules are being approved into the SIP in accordance with the area's ozone maintenance plan for redesignation to attainment.

DATES: This action is effective on January 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the rules and EPA's evaluation report for each rule are available for public inspection at EPA's Region IX office during normal business hours. Copies of the submitted rules are

available for inspection at the following locations:

Rulemaking Office (AIR-4), Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket (6102), 401 "M" Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460.

California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule Evaluation Section, 2020 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Rule Development Section, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas C. Canaday, Rulemaking Office (AIR-4), Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901, Telephone: (415) 744-1202.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Applicability

The BAAQMD rules being approved into the California SIP include: Regulation 9, Rule 7, Nitrogen Oxides and Carbon Monoxide from Industrial, Institutional, and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters;