

4:15 Future Agenda Topics  
5:00 Conclude (approximate time)

The meeting is open to the public. It is suggested that persons planning to attend the meeting as observers contact Margaret Johnson, Federal Economic Research Advisory Committee, on Area Code (202) 691-5600. Persons needing special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other special accommodation in order to attend the meeting are asked to contact Ms. Johnson at least two days prior to the meeting date.

Signed at Washington, D.C. the 19th day of May 2000.

**Katharine G. Abraham,**

*Commissioner of Labor Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 00-13248 Filed 5-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-P

## DEPARTMENT OF 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) publishes 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

Lag Service Reports; OMB 3220-0005. Under Section 9 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) and Section 6 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), railroad employers are required to submit reports of employee service and compensation to the RRB as needed for administering the RRA and RUIA. To pay benefits due on a deceased employee's earnings records or determine entitlement to, and amount of annuity applied for, it is necessary at time to obtain from railroad employers current (lag) service and compensation net yet reported to the RRB through the annual reporting process.

The reporting requirements are specified in 20 CFR 209.4 and 209.5. The RRB currently utilizes Form G-88, Employer's Supplemental Report of Service and Compensation, and Form AA-22, Notice of Death and Compensation, to obtain the required lag service and related information from railroad employers. The RRB proposes to obsolete Form G-88a. Form G-88a will be replaced by two forms, Form G-88a.1, Notice of Retirement of Verification of Date Last Worked, and Form G-88a.2, Notice of Retirement and Request for Service Needed for Eligibility. Form G-88a.1 will be sent by the RRB to railroad employers and used for the specific purpose of verifying information previously provided to the RRB regarding the date last worked by the employee. If the information is correct, the employer need not reply. If the information is incorrect, the employer is asked to provide corrected

information. Form G-88a.2 will be used by the RRB to secure lag service and compensation information when it is needed to determine benefit eligibility. Both proposed forms will direct the railroad employers to fax the information directly to the RRB. It is expected that the proposed new forms will be easier for railroad employers to complete and will encourage a speedier reply, allowing the RRB to pay applicants in a more timely and accurate manner. A minor editorial change is proposed to Form AA-12.

The completion time for proposed forms G-88a.1 and G-88a.2 is estimated at 5 minutes per response. The estimated completion time for Form AA-22 remains at 6½ minutes per response. Completion is mandatory. The RRB estimates that approximately 800 Form AA-12's, 2,300 Form G-88a.1's, and 1,200 G-88a.2's will be completed annually.

The renewal of this information collection will continue the RRB's initiative to consolidate information collections by major functional areas. The purpose of the initiative is to bring related collection instruments together in one collection, better manage the instruments, and prepare for the electronic collection of this information (A collection instrument can be an individual form, electronic collection, interview, or any other method that collects specific information from the public.)

As part of the OMB renewal process, the RRB proposes that this collection (OMB 3220-0005), Lag Service Reports, will be renamed Employer Reporting. Upon approval by OMB, and RRB intends to merge the following OMB approved collections into the collection by the Expected Expiration Date.

| OMB collection No. | Collection title   | RRB forms              | Expected expiration date |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3220-0008 .....    | Railroad Service and Compensation Reports .....                  | BA 3a, BA-4 ....       | 9/30/2001                |
| 3220-0012 .....    | Employers Quarterly Report of Contributions Under the RUIA ..... | DC-1 .....             | 2/28/2003                |
| 3220-0014 .....    | Employer Representatives' Status and Compensation Reports .....  | DC-2, DC-2a ...        | 6/30/2003                |
| 3220-0070 .....    | Employer Service and Compensation Reports .....                  | UI-41, UI-41a ..       | 9/30/2001                |
| 3220-0089 .....    | Pension Plan Reports .....                                       | G-88p, G-88r, G-88r.1. | 11/30/2002               |
| 3220-0097 .....    | Pay Rate Report .....  | UI-1e .....            | 9/30/2001                |
| 3220-0132 .....    | Gross Earnings Report .....                                      | BA-11 .....            | 1/31/2003                |
| 3220-0156 .....    | Employers Deemed Service Month Questionnaire .....               | GL-99 .....            | 6/30/2003                |
| 3220-0173 .....    | Railroad Separation Allowance or Severance Pay Report .....      | BA-9 .....             | 4/30/2002                |
| 3220-0175 .....    | Sick Pay and Miscellaneous Payments Report .....                 | BA-10 .....            | 9/30/2001                |
| 3220-0194 .....    | Employee Home Address Report .....                               | BA-6a .....            | 3/31/2001                |

Revisions to existing collection instruments and, occasionally, a new instrument related to this program

function may be required during the three-year cycle of this information collection.

The RRB currently estimates the completion time for manual Form BA-3a, Annual Report of Creditable

Compensation at 85 hours, the electronic version of Form BA-3a at 33.3 hours, Form BA-4, Report of Creditable Compensation Adjustments at 1 hour, Form DC-1, Employer's Quarterly Report of Contributions Under the RUIA at 25 minutes, Form DC-2a, Employee Representative's Report of Compensation at 15 minutes, Form UI-41, Supplemental Report of Service and Compensation at 8 minutes, Form UI-41a, Supplemental Report of Compensation at 8 minutes, Form G-88p, Employer's Supplemental Pension Report, at 8 minutes, G-88r, Request for Information About New or Revised Employer Pension Plan at 10 minutes, G-88r.1, Request for Additional Information About Employer Pension Plan in Case of Change of Employer Status or Termination of Plan at 10 minutes, Form UI-1E, Pay Report Information at 5 minutes, Manual Form BA-11, Report of Gross Earnings at 15 to 30 minutes, the electronic version of Form BA-11 at 5 hours, Form GL-99, Employer's Deemed Service Months Questionnaire at 2 minutes, Form BA-9, Report of Separation Allowance or Severance Pay at 75 minutes, Form BA-10, Report of Miscellaneous Compensation and Sick Pay at 55 minutes, and Form BA-6a, Employer Home Address Report at 30 minutes. Completion of each of the above forms is mandatory.

After the last information collection is merged and other necessary adjustments are made, the resultant information collection is expected to total approximately 55,400 annual burden hours. A justification for each action described above (merge collection, revised collection instrument, new collection instrument) will be provided to OMB with a correction Change Worksheet (OMB Form 83-C) at the time the action occurs. With the next renewal of this collection, the RRB will update the information collection package to account for the consolidation and other interim adjustments.

#### 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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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27178]

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

May 19, 2000.

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 June 13, 2000, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549-0609, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant 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 June 13, 2000 the application(s) and/or declaration(s) as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

#### Southern Co. et al. (70-8733)

The Southern Company, a registered public utility holding company, located at 270 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, Southern Energy, Inc. ("SEI"), a nonutility subsidiary company, and Southern Energy Resources, Inc., a nonutility subsidiary company of SEI, both located at 900 Ashwood Parkway, Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30338, have filed a post-effective amendment under section 12(c) of the Act and rules 46 and 54 under the Act.

By supplemental orders dated July 17, 1996 and July 2, 1997 (HCAR Nos. 26543 and 26738, respectively), the Commission authorized SEI and its current and future subsidiaries to pay dividends to their parent companies with respect to the securities of such companies through June 30, 2000, out of capital or unearned surplus (including revaluation reserve). In both orders the Commission reserved jurisdiction over payment of dividends out of capital or unearned surplus by any current or future subsidiary company of SEI that derived any material part of its revenues from the sale of goods, services, electricity or natural gas to any of Southern's five domestic electric utility subsidiaries or to Southern Company Services, Inc.

SEI and its current and future subsidiaries now propose to extend the time during which they may declare and pay dividends to their parent companies with respect to the securities of such companies, from time to time through June 30, 2002, out of capital or unearned surplus. The Commission will continue to reserve jurisdiction over the payment of dividends out of capital or unearned surplus by any current or future subsidiary company of SEI that derived any material part of its revenues from the sale of goods, services, electricity or natural gas to any of Southern's five domestic electric utility subsidiaries or to Southern Company Services, Inc. The application cites the need to efficiently manage the unrestricted cash of SEI and its intermediate and special purpose subsidiaries as the main reason for extending the time to declare and issue dividends.

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

**Jonathan G. Katz,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-13233 Filed 5-25-00; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42803; File No. SR-Amex-00-04]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC Adopting a Peer Review Requirement for Auditors of Listed Companies

May 22, 2000.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934