

been approved by OMB in accordance with the PRA under the regulations governing premarket notification submissions, 21 CFR part 807, subpart E, OMB control number 0910-0120.

IX. Reference

The following reference has been placed on display in the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. This reference may be seen by interested persons between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

1. Transcript of General Hospital and Personal Use Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee Meeting, September 14, 1998.

List of Subjects in 21 CFR Part 880

Medical devices.

Therefore, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and under authority delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, 21 CFR part 880 is amended as follows:

PART 880—GENERAL HOSPITAL AND PERSONAL USE DEVICES

1. The authority citation for 21 CFR part 880 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 351, 360, 360c, 360e, 360j, 371.

2. Section 880.6991 is added to subpart G to read as follows:

§ 880.6991 Medical washer.

(a) *Identification.* A medical washer is a device that is intended for general medical purposes to clean and dry surgical instruments, anesthesia equipment, hollowware, and other medical devices.

(b) *Classification.* Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is the FDA guidance document entitled “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Medical Washers and Medical Washer-Disinfectors.” The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to § 880.9.

3. Section 880.6992 is added to subpart G to read as follows:

§ 880.6992 Medical washer-disinfectors.

(a) *Identification.* A medical washer-disinfectors is a device that is intended for general medical purposes to clean, decontaminate, disinfect, and dry surgical instruments, anesthesia equipment, hollowware, and other medical devices.

(b) *Classification.* Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is the FDA guidance document

entitled “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Medical Washers and Medical Washer-Disinfectors.”

(1) Medical washer-disinfectors that are intended to clean, high level disinfect, and dry surgical instruments, anesthesia equipment, hollowware, and other medical devices.

(2) Medical washer-disinfectors that are intended to clean, low or intermediate level disinfect, and dry surgical instruments, anesthesia equipment, hollowware, and other medical devices are exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to § 880.9.

Dated: October 28, 2002.

Linda S. Kahan,

Deputy Director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

[FR Doc. 02-28942 Filed 11-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044

Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulations on Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans and Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans prescribe interest assumptions for valuing and paying benefits under terminating single-employer plans. This final rule amends the regulations to adopt interest assumptions for plans with valuation dates in December 2002. Interest assumptions are also published on the PBGC's Web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>). **EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 1, 2002.

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, 202-326-4024. (TTY/TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PBGC's regulations prescribe actuarial assumptions—including interest assumptions—for valuing and paying plan benefits of terminating single-

employer plans covered by title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The interest assumptions are intended to reflect current conditions in the financial and annuity markets.

Three sets of interest assumptions are prescribed: (1) A set for the valuation of benefits for allocation purposes under section 4044 (found in Appendix B to part 4044), (2) a set for the PBGC to use to determine whether a benefit is payable as a lump sum and to determine lump-sum amounts to be paid by the PBGC (found in Appendix B to part 4022), and (3) a set for private-sector pension practitioners to refer to if they wish to use lump-sum interest rates determined using the PBGC's historical methodology (found in Appendix C to part 4022).

Accordingly, this amendment (1) adds to Appendix B to Part 4044 the interest assumptions for valuing benefits for allocation purposes in plans with valuation dates during December 2002, (2) adds to Appendix B to part 4022 the interest assumptions for the PBGC to use for its own lump-sum payments in plans with valuation dates during December 2002, and (3) adds to Appendix C to part 4022 the interest assumptions for private-sector pension practitioners to refer to if they wish to use lump-sum interest rates determined using the PBGC's historical methodology for valuation dates during December 2002.

For valuation of benefits for allocation purposes, the interest assumptions that the PBGC will use (set forth in Appendix B to part 4044) will be 5.30 percent for the first 25 years following the valuation date and 4.25 percent thereafter. These interest assumptions represent an increase (from those in effect for November 2002) of 0.30 percent for the first 25 years following the valuation date and are otherwise unchanged.

The interest assumptions that the PBGC will use for its own lump-sum payments (set forth in Appendix B to part 4022) will be 4.00 percent for the period during which a benefit is in pay status and 4.00 percent during any years preceding the benefit's placement in pay status. These interest assumptions represent an increase (from those in effect for November 2002) of 0.25 percent for the period during which a benefit is in pay status and are otherwise unchanged.

For private-sector payments, the interest assumptions (set forth in Appendix C to part 4022) will be the same as those used by the PBGC for determining and paying lump sums (set forth in Appendix B to part 4022).

The PBGC has determined that notice and public comment on this amendment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This finding is based on the need to determine and issue new interest assumptions promptly so that the assumptions can reflect, as accurately as possible, current market conditions.

Because of the need to provide immediate guidance for the valuation and payment of benefits in plans with valuation dates during December 2002, the PBGC finds that good cause exists for making the assumptions set forth in this amendment 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 amendment, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply. See 5 U.S.C. 601(2).

List of Subjects

29 CFR Part 4022

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Pensions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

29 CFR Part 4044

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance, Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR parts 4022 and 4044 are amended as follows:

PART 4022—BENEFITS PAYABLE IN TERMINATED SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

1. The authority citation for part 4022 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1302, 1322, 1322b, 1341(c)(3)(D), and 1344.

2. In appendix B to part 4022, Rate Set 110, as set forth below, is added to the table. (The introductory text of the table is omitted.)

Appendix B to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates for PBGC Payments

* * * * *

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
* 110	* 12-1-02	* 1-1-03	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 7	* 8

3. In appendix C to part 4022, Rate Set 110, as set forth below, is added to the table. (The introductory text of the table is omitted.)

Appendix C to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates for Private-Sector Payments

* * * * *

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
* 110	* 12-1-02	* 1-1-03	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 7	* 8

PART 4044—ALLOCATION OF ASSETS IN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

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

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

5. In appendix B to part 4044, a new entry, as set forth below, is added to the table. (The introductory text of the table is omitted.)

Appendix B to Part 4044—Interest Rates Used To Value Benefits

* * * * *

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of i_t are:					
	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$	i_t	for $t =$
* * *	*	*	*	*	*	*
December 20020530	1–25	.0425	>25	N/A	N/A

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 8th day of November 2002.

Joseph H. Grant,

Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02–29024 Filed 11–14–02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 918

[LA–022–FOR]

Louisiana Regulatory Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule; approval of amendment.

SUMMARY: We, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), are approving an amendment to the Louisiana regulatory program (Louisiana program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act). Louisiana proposed revisions to its regulations concerning revegetation success standards for post-mining land uses of pastureland and wildlife habitat. Louisiana also proposed to add to its program a policy document that describes the criteria and procedures for determining reclamation phase III ground cover and tree and shrub stocking success for areas developed for wildlife habitat. Louisiana revised its program to be consistent with the corresponding Federal regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 15, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael C. Wolf from, Director, Tulsa Field Office. Telephone: (918) 581–6430. Internet: mwolf from@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background on the Louisiana Program
- II. Submission of the Amendment
- III. OSM's Findings
- IV. Summary and Disposition of Comments
- V. OSM's Decision
- VI. Procedural Determinations

I. Background on the Louisiana Program

Section 503(a) of the Act permits a State to assume primacy for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations on non-Federal and non-Indian lands within its borders by demonstrating that its State program includes, among other things, “* * * a State law which provides for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations in accordance with the requirements of this Act * * *; and rules and regulations consistent with regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this Act.” See 30 U.S.C. 1253(a)(1) and (7). On the basis of these criteria, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Louisiana program on October 10, 1980. You can find background information on the Louisiana program, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval in the October 10, 1980, **Federal Register** (45 FR 67340). You can also find later actions concerning the Louisiana program and program amendments at 30 CFR 918.15 and 918.16.

II. Submission of the Amendment

By letter dated October 2, 2001 (Administrative Record No. LA–367), Louisiana sent us an amendment to its program under SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*). Louisiana sent the amendment in response to our letters dated March 24, 1999, and August 16, 2000 (Administrative Record Nos. LA–365 and LA–365.01, respectively), that we sent to Louisiana in accordance with 30 CFR 732.17(c). Louisiana proposed revisions to the Louisiana Surface Mining Regulations found in the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 43, Part XV (LAC) concerning revegetation success standards for post-mining land uses of pastureland and wildlife habitat. Louisiana also proposed to add to its program a policy document that describes the criteria and procedures for determining reclamation phase III ground cover and tree and shrub stocking success for areas developed for wildlife habitat.

We announced receipt of the proposed amendment in the November 2, 2001, **Federal Register** (66 FR 55609).

In the same document, we opened the public comment period and provided an opportunity for a public hearing or meeting on the amendment's adequacy. We did not hold a public hearing or meeting because no one requested one. The public comment period ended on December 3, 2001. We received comments from two Federal agencies. One of these agencies, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), offered several comments on the proposed amendment. We forwarded these comments to Louisiana on January 25, 2002 (Administrative Record No. LA–367.06). By telephone, the State informed us that it would have to study the comments before responding to them (Administrative Record No. LA–367.08). We received Louisiana's response to the FWS comments in a letter dated June 11, 2002 (Administrative Record No. LA–367.05). Louisiana stated that it felt that its proposed revegetation success standards are consistent with SMCRA and no less effective than the Federal surface mining regulations. Therefore, we are proceeding with the final rule **Federal Register** document.

III. OSM's Findings

Following are the findings we made concerning the amendment under SMCRA and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 732.15 and 732.17. We are approving the amendment. Any revisions that we do not discuss below concern nonsubstantive wording or editorial changes or revised cross-references and paragraph notations to reflect organizational changes resulting from this amendment.

A. Section 5423. Revegetation: Standards for Success

Louisiana added new paragraph B.1.e. stating that the criteria and procedures for determining ground cover and production success for pastureland are found at Section 5424. Louisiana also added new paragraph B.8.a. stating that the criteria and procedures for determining ground cover and stocking success for fish and wildlife habitat are found at Section 5425. There are no Federal counterpart regulations stating where to find in the regulations criteria and procedures for determining ground cover and production success for areas