

List of Subjects in 28 CFR Part 0

Authority delegations (government agencies), Government employees, Organization and functions (government agencies), Whistleblowing.

Accordingly, part 0 of chapter I of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 0—ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1. The authority citation for Part 0 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 28 U.S.C. 509, 510, 515–519.

2. In part 0, subpart CC, a new § 0.197 is added to read as follows:

§ 0.197 Agreements, in connection with criminal proceedings or investigations, promising non-deportation or other immigration benefits.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (Service) shall not be bound, in the exercise of its authority under the immigration laws, through plea agreements, cooperation agreements, or other agreements with or for the benefit of alien defendants, witnesses, or informants, or other aliens cooperating with the United States Government, except by the authorization of the Commissioner of the Service or the Commissioner's delegate. Both the agreement itself and the necessary authorization must be in writing to be effective, and the authorization shall be attached to the agreement.

Dated: September 9, 1996.

Janet Reno,

Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 96–23491 Filed 9–12–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–01–M

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Part 4044

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Rate for Valuing Benefits

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans prescribes interest assumptions for valuing benefits under terminating single-employer plans. This final rule amends the regulation to adopt interest assumptions for plans with valuation dates in October 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1996.

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 (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) prescribes actuarial assumptions for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered by title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Among the actuarial assumptions prescribed in part 4044 are interest rates and factors. These interest rates and factors are intended to reflect current conditions in the financial and annuity markets.

Two sets of interest rates and factors are prescribed, one set for the valuation of benefits to be paid as annuities and one set for the valuation of benefits to be paid as lump sums. This amendment adds to appendix B to part 4044 the annuity and lump sum interest rates and factors for valuing benefits in plans with valuation dates during October 1996.

For annuity benefits, the interest rates will be 6.30 percent for the first 20 years following the valuation date and 4.75 percent thereafter. For benefits to be paid as lump sums, the interest assumptions to be used by the PBGC will be 5.25 percent for the period during which benefits are in pay status, 4.50 percent during the seven-year period directly preceding the benefit's placement in pay status, and 4.00 percent during any other years preceding the benefit's placement in pay status. The annuity and lump sum interest assumptions are unchanged from those in effect for September 1996.

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 rates and factors promptly so that the rates and factors can reflect, as accurately as possible, current market conditions.

Because of the need to provide immediate guidance for the valuation of benefits in plans with valuation dates during October 1996, the PBGC finds that good cause exists for making the rates and factors 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 in 29 CFR Part 4044

Pension insurance, Pensions.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR part 4044 is hereby 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. In appendix B, a new entry is added to Table I, and Rate Set 36 is added to Table II, as set forth below. The introductory text of each table is republished for the convenience of the reader and remains unchanged.

Appendix B to Part 4044—Interest Rates Used to Value Annuities and Lump Sums

Table I.—Annuity Valuations

[This table sets forth, for each indicated calendar month, the interest rates (denoted by i_1 , i_2 , * * *, and referred to generally as i) assumed to be in effect between specified anniversaries of a valuation date that occurs within that calendar month; those anniversaries are specified in the columns adjacent to the rates. The last listed rate is assumed to be in effect after the last listed anniversary date.]

| 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 = |
| Oct. 1996 | .0630 | 1–20 | .0475 | >20 | N/A | N/A |

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 $n_1 < y < n_1 + n_2$), 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 |
| 36 | 10-1-96 | 11-1-96 | 5.25 | 4.50 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 7 | 8 |

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 9th day of September 1996.
 Martin Slate,
Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.
 [FR Doc. 96-23474 Filed 9-12-96; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[NM29-1-7272a; FRL-5549-9]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan for New Mexico—Albuquerque/Bernalillo County: General Conformity Rules

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: This action approves the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision that contains regulations for implementing and enforcing the general conformity rules which the EPA promulgated on November 30, 1993 (58 FR 63214). Specifically, the general conformity rules enable the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board to review conformity of all Federal actions (see 40 CFR part 51, subpart W—Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans) with the control strategy SIP's submitted for the nonattainment and maintenance areas within the boundary of Bernalillo County. This approval action is intended to streamline the conformity process and allow direct consultation among agencies at the local levels. The Federal actions by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration (under 23 U.S.C. or the

Federal Transit Act) are covered by the transportation conformity rules under 40 CFR part 51, subpart T—Conformity to State or Federal Implementation Plans of Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects Developed, Funded or Approved Under Title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act. The EPA approved the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County transportation conformity SIP on November 8, 1995 (60 FR 56241).

The EPA is approving this SIP revision under sections 110(k) and 176 of the Clean Air Act (the Act). The rationale for the approval and other information are provided in this document.

DATES: This action is effective on November 12, 1996, unless adverse or critical comments are received by October 15, 1996. If the effective date is delayed, timely notice will be published in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County General Conformity SIP and other relevant information are available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Interested persons wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the visiting day:

Air Planning Section (6PDL),
 Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202, Telephone: (214) 665-7214.

Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Air Pollution Control Division, Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, One Civic Plaza, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, Telephone: (505) 768-2600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. J. Behnam, P. E., Air Planning Section (6PDL), Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202, telephone (214) 665-7247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Conformity provisions first appeared in the Act as amended in 1977 (Pub. L. 95-95). Although these provisions did not define conformity, they provided that no Federal department could engage in, support in any way or provide financial assistance for, license or permit, or approve any activity which did not conform to a SIP that has been approved or promulgated for the nonattainment or maintenance areas.

The 1990 Amendments of the Act expanded the scope and content of the conformity provisions by defining conformity to an implementation plan. Conformity is defined in section 176(c) of the Act as conformity to the SIP's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and achieving expeditious attainment of such standards, and that such activities will not: (1) cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area, (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area, or (3) delay timely attainment of any standard or any required interim emission reductions or other milestones in any area.

The Act requires EPA to promulgate criteria and procedures for determining conformity of all other Federal actions in the nonattainment or maintenance areas (actions other than those under Title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act) to a SIP. The criteria and procedures developed for this purpose