

concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman. Written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff engineer named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, Fauske and Associates, Inc., and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, the scheduling of sessions open to the public, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, and the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor, can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Paul A. Boehnert (telephone 301-415-8065) between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: November 8, 2001.

Sher Bahadur,

Associate Director for Technical Support.

[FR Doc. 01-28660 Filed 11-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Required Interest Rate Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit

Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or are derivable from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC's web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: The required interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in November 2001. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in December 2001.

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:

Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate (the "required interest rate") in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The required interest rate is the "applicable percentage" (currently 85 percent) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the "premium payment year"). The yield figure is reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Releases G.13 and H.15.

The required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in November 2001 is 4.52 percent (i.e., 85 percent of the 5.32 percent yield figure for October 2001).

The following table lists the required interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between December 2000 and November 2001.

For premium payment years beginning in	The required interest rate is
December 2000	4.91
January 2001	4.67
February 2001	4.71
March 2001	4.63
April 2001	4.54
May 2001	4.80
June 2001	4.91
July 2001	4.82

For premium payment years beginning in	The required interest rate is
August 2001	4.77
September 2001	4.66
October 2001	4.66
November 2001	4.52

Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

The PBGC's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 4281) prescribes the use of interest assumptions under the PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044). The interest assumptions applicable to valuation dates in December 2001 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. Tables showing the assumptions applicable to prior periods are codified in appendix B to 29 CFR part 4044.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 7th day of November 2001.

John Seal,

Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 01-28622 Filed 11-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

POSTAL SERVICE

Plan for Secure Postage Meter Technology

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice of final plan.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service has already completed the first phase of a plan to remove insecure postage meters from use with the decertification of mechanical postage meters. The second phase of the plan, the retirement of manually reset electronic meters, is now underway in accordance with the notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 13, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 240, page 77934-77938). This notice publishes the final plan for phases III and IV of the Postal Service's Plan for Secure Postage Meter Technology. There may be additional phases of the plan beyond phase IV. Upon completion of all phases of the plan, meters in service will offer enhanced levels of security, thereby greatly reducing the Postal Service's exposure to meter fraud, misuse, and loss of revenue. These new meters also provide advanced customer features and convenience.

DATES: This plan is effective November 15, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Wilkerson by fax at (703) 292-4073.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1995, the Postal Service, in cooperation with all authorized postage meter manufacturers, began a phaseout of all mechanical postage meters because of identified cases of indiscernible tampering and misuse. Postal Service revenues were proven to be at serious risk. The completion of this effort, which resulted in the withdrawal of 776,000 mechanical meters from service, completed phase I of the Plan for Secure Postage Meter Technology. Phase II of the plan, the retirement of electronic meters that are manually set by Postal Service employees, is now being implemented. Phases III and IV of the plan are described in the current notice.

The proposed plan for phases III and IV, describing the retirement of meters with nondigital or letterpress indicia, was published for comment in the **Federal Register**, August 21, 2000 (Vol. 65, No. 163, page 50723-50724). The Postal Service requested that comments on the proposed plan be submitted by October 5, 2000. The Postal Service received four written comments from postage meter manufacturers by the closing date. One comment, from an industry association, was received after the closing date but was still considered in our response.

The Postal Service gave thorough consideration to the comments, modified the proposed plan as appropriate, and now announces the adoption of the final plan. It is the Postal Service's intent to make this an orderly process that minimizes impacts on meter users and the meter manufacturers. Publication of the final plan for phases III and IV gives both postage meter manufacturers and postage meter users ample time to make timely and intelligent decisions on the selection of postage meters and associated mailing equipment.

The Postal Service's evaluation of the comments follows. The final plan, as revised, follows the discussion of comments. The comments are organized to reflect common topics addressed by the commenters.

Discussion of Comments

1. Timetable for Meter Retirement

Manufacturers questioned the timetable for withdrawal of letterpress meters, suggested various alternatives, and requested a "date certain" by which meters already placed with customers must be removed from service.

The Postal Service reviewed the various suggestions and revised the withdrawal timetable to ensure that all users will have appropriate technology available to meet their mail processing needs. The plan adds dates for customer notification to ensure ample time for customers to make timely and intelligent decisions on replacement meters and adds a date by which meters already placed with customers must be removed from service.

2. Realizing Return on Investment in Meter Technology

Meter manufacturers and the mailing industry association expressed concern that the early retirement of meters using letterpress technology would prevent them from receiving adequate return on their investments. The comments noted that the proposal must be sensitive to the requirements of users of high-volume/high-speed meters and the unique relationship these mailers have with the Postal Service, since these users tend to make longer-term determinations regarding postage and metering technology needs.

The retirement plan schedule gives customers 5 years from the date of notification to the date that nonenhanced, letterpress (phase III) meters already placed must be removed from service. Any newly placed phase III meter placed in accordance with the schedule may remain in service for at least 4 years before it must be removed. Users of enhanced letterpress (phase IV) meters have 5½ years from the date of notification to the date that phase IV meters already placed must be removed from service. Any newly placed phase IV meter placed in accordance with the schedule may remain in service for at least 4½ years before it must be removed. For manufacturers, publication of this notice provides at least 5 years to recover investments on nonenhanced letterpress technology, and over 7 years to recover investments on enhanced letterpress metering technology before the units must be removed from service.

3. Security of Meters

One industry association asked for information to support the Postal Service claim of increased security benefits from postage meters that have a timeout feature and use digital indicia, and for information on the actual risk to Postal Service revenue from meters that print indicia using letterpress technology, with or without a timeout feature.

The presence of a feature that disables letterpress meter operations when certain preprogrammed criteria are met

increases its security but does not compensate for the insecurity inherent in letterpress technology. The printing die used for letterpress indicia is open to tampering in ways that the process used to print digital indicia is not. Digital printing technology also enables the printing of unique indicia, which permits the Postal Service to establish enhanced processes to identify counterfeit indicia.

4. Communications with Meter Users

One postage meter manufacturer was concerned about inadequate, misleading, or confusing communications to meter users, and suggested that phases III and IV be combined to avoid possible confusion that might arise from having multiple retirement dates.

The retirement schedule for phase III meters will differ from that for phase IV meters. The Postal Service is working to ensure the integrity of the meter retirement process with expeditious, accurate, and informative communications to postage meter users, Postal Service employees, and postage meter manufacturers, and it expects manufacturers to provide accurate, clear, and timely information to their customers.

5. Multiple Dates for Completing the Retirement of Letterpress Meters

One manufacturer suggested that the plan be sensitive to the needs of those mailers with multiple meters with different lease expiration dates.

The plan provides for one date by which all nonenhanced letterpress meters must be withdrawn from service, and one date by which all enhanced letterpress meters must be withdrawn from service.

6. Increased Cost

One industry association expressed concern with the increased cost of printing digital postage indicia compared with the cost of preparing mail using letterpress metering technology, as well as increased equipment costs, especially the need for new mailing equipment if the new digital meter is incompatible with the mailer's existing mailing equipment.

The Postal Service recognizes that there may be a slight increase in cost initially but believes this increase in cost will diminish as competition increases. Any additional costs for users are determined on a manufacturer-by-manufacturer basis and not by the Postal Service. Customers have choices in a competitive meter marketplace if they are not satisfied with the costs of a given manufacturer's technology. Individual

meter manufacturers can provide detailed information about their products and services.

7. Classification of Meter Models as Nonenhanced or Enhanced

Some meter manufacturers questioned whether specific meter models would be classified as nonenhanced (phase III) or enhanced (phase IV) based on the presence of a feature that disables meter operations when certain preprogrammed criteria are met.

These issues involve company proprietary information. The Postal Service responded directly to the manufacturers concerned.

8. How the Retirement Plan for Letterpress Meters Will Be Enforced

One manufacturer asked about the enforcement of the retirement plan for letterpress meters.

After the date by which a meter must be withdrawn from service, the Postal Service, in coordination with the meter manufacturers, will prevent postage resets, and manufacturers will be required to take possession of the meter.

Final Postal Service Plan for the Retirement of Letterpress Postage Meters

Phases III and IV of the Postal Service proposed Plan for Secure Postage Meter Technology affect nondigital, or letterpress, meters that are remotely reset under the Computerized Meter Resetting System (CMRS). If such a meter has a feature that automatically disables the meter if it is not reset within a specified time period or when certain preprogrammed criteria are met, it is called an enhanced meter. Phase III of the proposed plan requires that the users of nonenhanced CMRS letterpress meters are notified of the schedule for the retirement of their meters by December 31, 2001. The placement of nonenhanced CMRS letterpress meters must cease by December 31, 2002, and these meters must be off the market by December 31, 2006. Phase IV of the proposed plan requires that the customers of enhanced CMRS letterpress meters are notified of the schedule for the retirement of their meters by June 30, 2003. The placement of enhanced CMRS letterpress meters must cease by June 30, 2004, and these meters must be off the market by December 31, 2008.

Stanley F. Mires,
Chief Counsel, Legislative.

[FR Doc. 01-28553 Filed 11-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

POSTAL SERVICE

Privacy Act of 1974, System of Records

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Advance notice of amendment to an existing system of records.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service proposes to amend Postal Service Privacy Act System of Records 120.090, Personnel Records—Medical Records. The proposed amendments reflect the collection, maintenance, and storage of candidate medical assessment records for Postal Service employment. The system is a Web-based application with a secure user-friendly interface that allows nontechnical medical staff to collect, maintain, and store post-offer candidate medical assessment records. The system will ensure Human Resources staff has ready access to ability-to-work information about these candidates. This notice amends the system location, categories of individuals covered by the system, categories of records in the system, storage, retrievability, safeguards, and retention and disposal sections to reflect the new process for collection, maintenance, and storage of medical assessment records. Other minor changes are included to bring the notice into conformity with current practices.

DATES: This proposal will become effective without further notice on December 17, 2001, unless comments received on or before that date result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver written comments to the Records Office, U.S. Postal Service, Room 5821, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260-5202. You can view or make copies of all written comments between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susie Travers, Records Office, 202-268-3362.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The electronic Medical Assessment Program (eMAP) is a Web-based application that streamlines the manual process of collecting, analyzing, maintaining, and storing medical data on candidates who have been offered employment with the Postal Service.

Authorized Human Resources personnel with the appropriate access authorization will use the eMAP application to enter the candidate information into the centralized eMAP database, creating a candidate record. Authorized Human Resources personnel will then contact the candidate to

schedule the assessment at an authorized Medical Assessment Program (MAP) site. Authorized medical personnel at MAP sites will use the eMAP application to display a list of candidates required to appear at the assigned MAP site office for a medical assessment. When the candidate appears at the MAP site office, the candidate's identity will be verified and he or she will be given the Medical History Questionnaire and answer sheet for completion. The answer sheet will be an optical mark recognition (OMR) form that the candidate can easily use to indicate his or her responses to the questionnaire by shading in the appropriate oval on the form. When the candidate completes the questionnaire, the authorized MAP site medical personnel will scan the form using an OMR scanner. The candidate's responses will be recorded automatically by the eMAP application, and the results will be immediately displayed to the authorized MAP site medical personnel for verification of a successful scan. The results from a successful scan will be stored in a permanent centralized eMAP database that will use a unique encrypted code for candidate identification. The eMAP application will generate and record timestamp information as the candidate proceeds through the medical assessment process and will produce printed letters as needed. Authorized eMAP users will be able to generate standard, predefined printed reports at the MAP site, district, area, and national levels. Authorized application users will be allowed to easily add, annotate, or inactivate candidate assessment records. Candidate inactivated records will remain in the database. A copy of each candidate's medical information will be printed and retained in the medical office. Candidate medical information includes the medical history questionnaire; answer sheet containing the candidate's responses; copy of job application, job description and functional requirements; and supporting medical information acquired in the process of reaching a medical determination of ability to work. If the candidate is hired, the candidate's medical information is retained in the employee medical file (EMF).

Candidate and response data obtained from sites currently using the existing Medical History Questionnaire with the stand-alone application (MAQ or MAP version 1) will be imported into the eMAP database, one time only, using a utility that automates the process with minimal user interaction. After the