

surrounding environment or CWS workers, or be allowed to re-enter the water treatment system.

5. Posting and Labeling

A CWS operating under enforcement discretion must ensure that the equipment containing uranium, in concentrations greater than 0.05 percent by weight, is clearly labeled and must provide sufficient information (such as the radionuclide present or "Caution—Radioactive Materials") to permit individuals handling or using the containers, or working in the vicinity of the containers, to take precautions or minimize exposures. Areas, such as sludge ponds, containing the uranium in concentrations greater than 0.05 percent by weight, should be posted with a conspicuous sign or signs bearing the radiation symbol and the words "CAUTION, RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS."

6. Criteria for Terminating Operation Under Enforcement Discretion

Enforcement discretion will apply until either:

(A) NRC amends its regulations to create a new general license for CWSs, or decides to no longer pursue a new regulation;

(B) The CWS obtains a specific license from the NRC or an Agreement State; or

(C) The CWS ceases operations. If this is the case, it shall decommission/decontaminate the facility in accordance with 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E, "Radiological Criteria for License Termination."

Enforcement discretion may be rescinded if the CWS is not meeting the above objectives, or in NRC's opinion, the CWS cannot operate safely under the enforcement discretion policy.

If the NRC modifies or ceases its policy of enforcement discretion, the NRC will appropriately modify or rescind the RIS, and will notify all affected CWSs of such changes.

7. Enforcement Guidance

Enforcement guidance has been developed and is located on NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref/enf-man/app-a.html>.

Note: NRC generic communications may be found on the NRC public Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov>, under Electronic Reading Room/Document Collections.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of September 2006.

Patricia K. Holahan,

Acting Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 06-8012 Filed 9-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

ACTION: Notice of decision.

SUMMARY: As part of an ongoing effort to improve the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information collected and disseminated by the Federal Government, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is issuing revised Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys. OMB proposed revised standards and requested public comment on July 14, 2005 (70 FR 40746-40747). The proposed standards were based on recommendations from the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology's (FCSM) Subcommittee on Standards for Statistical Surveys whose charge was to update and revise OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 1, Standards for Statistical Surveys, and OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 2, Publication of Statistics. The guidance, which applies to all Federal agencies subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, is intended to ensure that the results of statistical surveys sponsored by the Federal Government are as reliable and useful as possible. OMB received six public comments on the proposed standards and has made some modifications to the proposed standards and guidelines in response to these comments. OMB is now issuing these Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys as final, and they are available in their entirety along with the public comments and OMB's summary of and response to the public comments on the OMB Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/statpolicy.html>.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(3).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Harris-Kojetin, Ph.D., Statistical and Science Policy Office, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Room 10201, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Telephone: 202-395-3093.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Statistics collected and published by the Federal Government constitute a significant portion of the available information about the United States' economy, population, natural resources, environment, and public and private institutions. These data are used by the Federal Government and others as a basis for actions that affect people's lives and well-being. It is essential that they be collected, processed, and published in a manner that guarantees and inspires confidence in their reliability. The statistical programs of the Federal Government are decentralized among more than 70 agencies or organizational units. It is therefore also essential that, to the extent permitted by law, there be sufficient government-wide uniformity in statistical methods and practices to ensure the maximum usefulness of the statistics produced.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA; 44 U.S.C. 3504) gives the Director of OMB broad responsibility for improving the usefulness of information collected, maintained, and disseminated by the Federal Government and for reducing the reporting burden on the public. Among the Director's functions under the PRA are statistical policy and coordination, which includes the development and implementation of "Government-wide policies, principles, standards, and guidelines concerning (a) statistical collection procedures and methods; (b) statistical data classification; (c) statistical information presentation and dissemination; (d) timely release of statistical data; and (e) such statistical data sources as may be required for the administration of Federal programs" (44 U.S.C. 3504 (e)(3)). The Administrator for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in OMB has the responsibility to "develop programs and prescribe regulations to improve the compilation, analysis, publication, and dissemination of statistical information by executive agencies" (31 U.S.C. 1104 (d)).

The revised Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys provide guidance for designing, conducting, and disseminating statistical surveys and studies sponsored by Federal agencies. The standards and guidelines are intended to ensure that such surveys and studies are designed to produce reliable data as efficiently as possible and that methods are documented and results presented in a manner that makes the data as accessible and useful as possible.

These revised standards and guidelines replace OMB Statistical Policy Directives Nos. 1 and 2, on Standards for Statistical Surveys, and Standards for Publishing Statistics, respectively. These standards and guidelines were last revised in 1974 when they were issued as OMB Circular No. A-46, Exhibits A and B. The standards were reissued in 1978 as Statistical Policy Directives 1 and 2 when the statistical policy function was temporarily relocated to the Department of Commerce, and their designation as Statistical Policy Directives remained when the statistical policy function was returned to OMB in 1981 under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

Development and Review

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the quality of information collected by the Federal Government and to update statistical standards and guidance, OMB requested in 2003 that agencies who were members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) nominate representatives to a new subcommittee formed under the aegis of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM). This subcommittee was asked to review Statistical Policy Directives Nos. 1 and 2 and to make recommendations for updating or revising these standards to reflect current best practices in Federal statistical agencies.

The subcommittee reviewed the OMB directives, standards currently used by Federal statistical agencies, and standards and guidelines produced and disseminated by national statistical institutes in a number of other countries. The subcommittee also drew on interagency efforts by statistical agencies to develop a common framework for their activities in response to OMB's issuance of its Information Quality Guidelines (IQG) and the requirement that agencies issue their own IQGs (67 FR 8452-8460).

The revised and updated standards and guidelines developed by the subcommittee reflected the organizational framework that the statistical agencies used for their Information Quality Guidelines. They were the product of a careful and deliberate process to create a set of standards and guidelines that will address all key aspects of planning, conducting, processing, and disseminating Federal statistical surveys. Because OMB standards and guidelines must cover a broad range of applications, agencies are encouraged to develop their own more specific standards for the statistical surveys and studies they conduct or sponsor. The

subcommittee provided initial draft standards and guidelines for review by the FCSM and then by the ICSP in 2004. The subcommittee addressed the comments it received at each stage and provided its recommendations to OMB in 2005.

OMB issued the proposed standards and guidelines for public comment in July 2005 (70 FR 40746-40747). Six public comments were received in response to OMB's request. OMB reviewed the standards and guidelines and made some modifications in response to the public comments. The final standards and guidelines, the public comments, and OMB's summary of and response to the public comments are available on the OMB Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoREG/statpolicy.html>.

Steven D. Aitken,

Acting Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. 06-8044 Filed 9-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review

Summary: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

Summary of Proposal(s)

- (1) *Collection title:* Employer Reporting.
- (2) *Form(s) submitted:* AA-12, G-88A.1, G-88A.2, BA-6a, BA-6a (Internet), BA-6a (E-mail).
- (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0005.
- (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 12/31/2006.
- (5) *Type of request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.
- (6) *Respondents:* Business or other for-profit, Individuals or Households.
- (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 495.
- (8) *Total annual responses:* 1,958.
- (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 418.
- (10) *Collection description:* Under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, railroad employers are required to report service and compensation for employees needed to determine eligibility to and the amounts of benefits paid.

Additional Information or Comments: Copies of the forms and supporting

documents can be obtained from Charles Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363) or Charles.Mierzwa@rrb.gov.

Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611-2092 or Ronald.Hodapp@rrb.gov and to the OMB Desk Officer for the RRB, at the Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Charles Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 06-8049 Filed 9-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collections; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extensions:

Form F-7, OMB Control No. 3235-0383, SEC File No. 270-331. Form F-8, OMB Control No. 3235-0378, SEC File No. 270-332.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management Budget for approval.

Form F-7 (17 CFR 239.37) may be used to register under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) securities offered for cash upon exercise of rights that are granted to its existing shareholders of the registrant to purchase or subscribe such securities. The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information. Form F-7 takes approximately 4 hours per response to prepare and is filed by 5 respondents. We estimate that 25% of 4 hours per response (one hour) is prepared by the company for a total annual reporting burden of 5 hours (one hour per response × 5 responses). The remaining