

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT****Submission for Review: Reinstatement of a Previously Approved Information Collection Without Change, Standard Form 2812, 2812-A, and OPM Form 1523**

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: 30-Day notice and request for reinstatement.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) offers the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a revised information collection request (ICR) for Standard Form 2812, 2812-A and OPM Form 1523. Reinstatement will allow continued use of the collection and an additional 180 days to complete the full Paperwork Reduction Act approval process.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until October 16, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Funds Management, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415-3500, Attention: Antoinette Cunningham or sent by email to Antoinette.Cunningham@opm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by contacting the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Chief Financial Office, Financial Services, 1900 E Street NW., Room 5478, Washington, DC 20415, Attention: Antoinette Cunningham, or sent by email to Antoinette.Cunningham@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35) as amended by the Clinger-Cohen Act (Pub. L. 104-106), OPM is soliciting comments for this collection (OMB No. 3206-0262). The *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012* (Pub. L. 112-96, Section 5001), made two significant changes to the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS). First, beginning in 2013, new employees (as designated in the statute) will have to pay significantly higher employee contributions, an increase of 2.3 percent of salary. Second, new Members of Congress and Congressional employees, in addition to paying higher retirement contributions, will accrue retirement benefits at the same rate as regular employees. New employees affected by this law will be classified in

a new retirement category; the Federal Employees' Retirement System—Revised Annuity Employees (FERS—RAE). The current Standard Form 2812, Standard Form 2812-A, and OPM Form 1523, have been changed to reflect this additional category.

Reinstatement will allow continued use of the collection and an additional 180 days to complete the full Paperwork Reduction Act approval process. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is particularly interested in comments that:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Analysis

Agency: Trust Fund Management of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of Personnel Management.

Title: (1) Report of Withholdings and Contributions for Health Benefits, Life Insurance and Retirement (Standard Form 2812); (2) Report of Withholdings and Contributions for Health Benefits by Enrollment Code (Standard Form 2812-A); (3) Supplemental Semiannual Headcount Report (OPM Form 1523).

OMB Number: 3206-0262.

Frequency: Semiannually for OPM Form 1523 and once-per-pay-period for Standard Form 2812 and Standard Form 2812-A.

Affected Public: Public Entities with Federal Employees and Retirees.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 30 Minutes.

Total Burden Hours: 2,700.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Kathleen M. McGettigan,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 2017-19642 Filed 9-14-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-38-P

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) will publish 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: Application for Employee Annuity Under the Railroad Retirement Act; OMB 3220-0002.

Section 2(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) provides for payments of age and service, disability, and supplemental annuities to qualified employees. An annuity cannot be paid until the employee stops working for a railroad employer. In addition, the age and service employee must relinquish any rights held to such jobs. A disabled employee does not need to relinquish employee rights until attaining Full Retirement Age, or if earlier, when their spouse is awarded a spouse annuity. Benefits become payable after the employee meets certain other requirements, which depend on the type of annuity payable. The requirements for obtaining the annuities are prescribed in 20 CFR 216 and 220.

To collect the information needed to help determine an applicant's entitlement to, and the amount of, an employee retirement annuity the RRB uses Forms AA-1, *Application for Employee Annuity*; AA-1d, *Application for Determination of Employee Disability*; G-204, *Verification of Workers Compensation/Public Disability Benefit Information*, and electronic Forms AA-1cert, *Application Summary and Certification*, and AA-1sum, *Application Summary*.

The AA-1 application process obtains information from an applicant about their marital history, work history, military service, benefits from other governmental agencies, railroad

pensions and Medicare entitlement for either an age and service or disability annuity. An RRB representative interviews the applicant either at a field office, an itinerant point, or by telephone. During the interview, the RRB representative enters the information obtained into an on-line information system. Upon completion of the interview, the on-line information system generates Form AA-1cert, *Application Summary and Certification*, or Form AA-1sum, *Application Summary*, a summary of the information that was provided for the applicant to review and approve. Form AA-1cert documents approval using the traditional pen and ink "wet" signature, and Form AA-1sum documents approval using the alternative signature

method called Attestation. When the RRB representative is unable to contact the applicant in person or by telephone, for example, the applicant lives in another country, a manual version of Form AA-1 is used.

Form AA-1d, *Application for Determination of Employee's Disability*, is completed by an employee who is filing for a disability annuity under the RRA, or a disability freeze under the Social Security Act, for early Medicare based on a disability. Form G-204, *Verification of Worker's Compensation/ Public Disability Benefit Information*, is used to obtain and verify information concerning a worker's compensation or a public disability benefit that is or will be paid by a public agency to a disabled railroad employee.

The RRB proposes to add the following two new items—"Are you expecting a newborn?" and its possible "Yes" response—"Expected Date" to Form AA-1. A comparable revision will be made to the electronic equivalent forms (AA-1, AA-1cert and AA-1sum). This information will help determine if the applicant can potentially receive an additional benefit amount. The RRB also proposes the implementation of an Internet equivalent version of Form AA-1 that can be completed by the applicant and submitted through the RRB's Web site at www.rrb.gov. The RRB proposes no changes to Forms AA-1d or G-204.

One response is requested of each respondent. Completion of the forms is required to obtain/retain a benefit.

ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

Form No.	Annual responses	Time (minutes)	Burden (hours)
AA-1 (without assistance)	35	62	36
AA-1cert (with assistance)	7,050	30	3,525
AA-1sum (with assistance)	2,415	29	1,167
AA-1 (Internet) (without assistance)	3,220	45	2,415
AA-1d (with assistance)	2,600	60	2,600
AA-1d (without assistance)	5	85	7
G-204	20	15	5
Total	15,345	9,755

Additional Information or Comments:
To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, contact Dana Hickman at (312) 751-4981 or Dana.Hickman@RRB.GOV. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Brian Foster, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-1275 or emailed to Brian.Foster@rrb.gov. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Brian D. Foster,
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-19629 Filed 9-14-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-P

100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-2736

Extension:
Rule 15g-9

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") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Section 15(c)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) (the "Exchange Act") authorizes the Commission to promulgate rules that prescribe means reasonably designed to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, or manipulative practices in connection with over-the-counter ("OTC") securities transactions. Pursuant to this authority, the Commission in 1989 adopted Rule 15a-6, which was subsequently redesignated as Rule 15g-9, 17 CFR 240.15g-9 (the "Rule"). The Rule requires broker-dealers to produce a written suitability determination for, and to obtain a written customer agreement to, certain recommended transactions in penny stocks that are not registered on a

national securities exchange, and whose issuers do not meet certain minimum financial standards. The Rule is intended to prevent the indiscriminate use by broker-dealers of fraudulent, high pressure telephone sales campaigns to sell penny stocks to unsophisticated customers.

The Commission staff estimates that there are approximately 198 broker-dealers subject to the Rule. The burden of the Rule on a respondent varies widely depending on the frequency with which new customers are solicited. On the average for all respondents, the staff has estimated that respondents process three new customers per week, or approximately 156 new customer suitability determinations per year. We also estimate that a broker-dealer would expend approximately one-half hour per new customer in obtaining, reviewing, and processing (including transmitting to the customer) the information required by Rule 15g-9, and each respondent would consequently spend 78 hours annually (156 customers × .5 hours) obtaining the information required in the rule. We determined, based on the estimate of 198 broker-dealer respondents, that the current annual burden of Rule 15g-9 is 15,444 hours (198 respondents × 78 hours).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-325, OMB Control No. 3235-0385]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services,