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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
ROOM 403, U.S. CUSTOMHOUSE, 610 SOUTH CANAL STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607

MAR 27 1975

Mr. James L. Cowen, Chairman  
U. S. Railroad Retirement Board  
844 North Rush Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Cowen:

We have completed a review of the energy conservation efforts undertaken at the Railroad Retirement Board. Our objectives were to determine how effectively energy conservation measures were implemented and to identify potential areas for effective long-term energy conservation through more efficient operating procedures and capital improvements. Specifically, we were concerned with the development of an adequate energy-use information system, controls to reduce energy consumed in the building and by vehicles, and the impact of energy conservation on operations.

Our review disclosed significant reductions in energy consumption during fiscal year 1974 and the first half of fiscal year 1975. These reductions were attributable to the combined efforts of the Board and the General Services Administration (GSA), the agency responsible for building management. Compared to fiscal year 1973, we found that consumption of electricity, gas, and fuel oil was reduced by 31 and 54 percent during fiscal year 1974 and the first 6 months of 1975, respectively. The Board also reported a reduction of about 14 percent in vehicle mileage by its five regional offices during calendar year 1974. These reductions, Board officials informed us, were achieved with no adverse effects on operations.

Major changes made to reduce energy consumption on a long-term basis included the elimination of a third shift in computer operations and the establishment of two-man base points in key locations to reduce vehicle usage. GSA is also planning major changes in the building's heating and air conditioning system to further reduce energy consumption.

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Although significant savings have been achieved, we believe it would be desirable to establish a formal comprehensive plan to assure conservation of energy on a continuing basis.

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We appreciate the cooperation extended to our representatives during the review.

A copy of this report is being sent to the Regional Administrator, GSA Region V, Chicago, Illinois.

Sincerely yours,

G. F. Stromvall

G. F. Stromvall  
Regional Manager

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