

Data Confidentiality Provisions: The confidentiality of Close Call data is protected under the BTS confidentiality statute (49 U.S.C. 6307) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-347, Title V). In accordance with these confidentiality statutes, only statistical and non-identifying data will be made publicly available through reports. BTS will not release to WMATA/ATU or any other public or private entity any information that might reveal the identity of individuals or organizations mentioned in close call reports without explicit consent of the respondent.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. The Data Collection

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35; as amended) and 5 CFR part 1320 require each Federal agency to obtain OMB approval to initiate an information collection activity. BTS is seeking OMB approval for the following BTS information collection activity:

Title: Confidential Close Call Reporting for Transit Rail System
OMB Control Number: TBD.
Type of Review: Approval of data collection.

Respondents: WMATA rail employees.

Number of Respondents: 400 (per annum).

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.
Frequency: Intermittent for 5 years.

(Reports are submitted when there is a qualifying event, i.e., when a close call occurs within WMATA's rail system.)

Total Annual Burden: 400 hours.

Abstract: Collecting safety data on the nation's transportation system is an important component of BTS's responsibility to the transportation community and is authorized in BTS statute (49 U.S.C. 6302). BTS and WMATA/ATU share a common interest in promoting transit rail safety based on accurate information. To that end, WMATA's Office of the Deputy General Manager Operations (DGMO) and ATU's President/Business Agent are sponsoring the Confidential Close Call Reporting for Transit Safety Rail System (C³RTRS) project to investigate the effectiveness of such system in improving transit rail safety. A close call is a situation or circumstance that had the potential for safety consequences, but did not result in an adverse safety event. Knowledge about a close call presents an opportunity to address unsafe work conditions and improve safety in the workplace.

It is estimated that the time to complete a close report and participate

in a brief confidential interview will be no than 60 minutes for a maximum total burden of 400 hours (400 reports*60 minutes/60 = 400 hours). Reports are submitted when there is a qualifying event, i.e., a close call occurs within WMATA's rail system.

II. Background

Collecting data on the nation's transportation system is an important component of BTS' mission and responsibility to the transportation community as stated in its authorizing statute (49 U.S.C. 6302). BTS and WMATA/ATU share a common interest in promoting rail transit safety through the use of timely, accurate, and relevant data. WMATA/ATU is sponsoring the Confidential Close Call Reporting for Transit Rail System (C³RTRS) project to improve transit rail safety by studying the effectiveness of its own rail system through data and information collected from reported close calls.

A close call is a situation or circumstance that had the potential for safety consequences, but did not result in an adverse safety event. Knowledge about a close call presents an opportunity to address unsafe work conditions, prevent accidents, and improve safety in the workplace.

BTS will collect close call reports submitted by WMATA rail employees, conduct employee interviews, as needed, develop an analytical database containing the reported data and other pertinent information, provide statistical analysis to WMATA, and protect the confidentiality of these data through its own statute (49 U.S.C. 6302) and CIPSEA. Accordingly, only statistical and non-sensitive information will be made available through publications and reports.

Voluntary reporting of close calls to a confidential system can provide a tool to identify and correct weaknesses in WMATA's transit rail system and help prevent accidents. The C³RTRS project will foster a voluntary, cooperative, non-punitive environment to communicate safety concerns. Through the analysis of close calls the WMATA/ATU will receive information about factors that may contribute to unsafe events and use that information to develop new training programs and identify root causes of potentially adverse events. The database will also potentially provide researchers with valuable information regarding precursors to safety risks and contribute to research and development of intervention programs aimed at preventing accidents and fatalities.

Employees involved in reporting a close call incident will be asked to fill

out a report and participate in a brief, confidential interview. Employees will have the option to mail or submit the report electronically to BTS. Participants will be asked to provide information such as: (1) Name and contact information; (2) time and location of the event; (3) a short description of the event; (4) contributing factors to the close call; and (5) any other information that might be useful in determining a root cause of such event.

III. Request for Public Comment

BTS requests comments on any aspects of this information collection request, including: (1) The accuracy of the estimated burden of 400 hours detailed in Section I; (2) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (3) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the information collected, including additional use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued on: _October 25, 2012.

Patricia Hu,

Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

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U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

Notice of Release of the Commission's 2012 Annual Report to Congress

Advisory Committee: U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Official Public Release of the Commission's 2012 Annual Report to Congress on November 14, 2012.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Name: Dennis C. Shea, Chairman of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

The Commission is mandated by Congress to investigate, assess, evaluate and report to Congress annually on the U.S.-China economic and security relationship. The mandate specifically charges the Commission to prepare a report to Congress "regarding the national security implications and impact of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China [that] shall include a full

analysis, along with conclusions and recommendations for legislative and administrative actions * * *.”

Purpose of Meeting

Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission will hold an official public conference in Washington, DC to release the 2012 Annual Report on November 14, 2012.

The Commission is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) with the enactment of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 that was signed into law on November 22, 2005 (Pub. L. 109–108). In accord with FACA, meetings of the Commission to make decisions concerning the substance and recommendations of its 2012 Annual Report to Congress are open to the public.

Topics Addressed

The Commission’s 2012 Annual Report contains the following chapters and sections:

- Executive Summary
 - Key Recommendations for Congress
- Introduction
- Chapter 1: The U.S.-China Trade and Economic Relationship

- Section 1: Trade and Economics Year in Review
- Section 2: Chinese State-Owned and State-Controlled Enterprises
- Section 3: The Evolving U.S.-China Trade & Investment Relationship
- Chapter 2: China’s Impact on U.S. Security Interests
 - Section 1: Military and Security Year in Review
 - Section 2: China’s Cyber Activities
 - Section 3: China’s Nuclear Developments
- Chapter 3: China in Asia
 - Section 1: China and the South China Sea
 - Section 2: China and Taiwan
 - Section 3: China and Hong Kong
- Chapter 4: China’s Global Reach
 - Section 1: China and Europe
 - Section 2: China’s Demand for and Control of Global Resources
- Chapter 5: Assessing China’s Efforts to Become an Innovative Society
- Chapter 6: China’s Political Transition

Release Date, Time, and Location (Eastern Daylight Time)

- Wednesday, November 14, 2012 (10:00 a.m.)—Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 538

ADDRESSES: The Commission’s official public conference to release the 2012

Annual Report will be held in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 538. The Dirksen Senate Office Building adjoins the Hart Senate Office Building and can be accessed through entrances on 1st Street and C Street.

Public seating is limited and will be available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Advanced reservations are not required. All participants must register at the front desk.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gavin Williams, USCC Staff Assistant, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 602, Washington, DC 20001; Phone: (202) 624–1407; Email: gwilliams@uscc.gov.

Authority: Congress created the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in 2000 in the National Defense Authorization Act (Pub. L. 106–398), as amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. L. 108–7), as amended by Public Law 109–108 (November 22, 2005).

Dated: October 31, 2012.

Michael Danis,

Executive Director, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

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