

Issued on April 20, 2006.

Warren E. Hoemann,

Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Innovative Technology Administration

[Docket No.: RITA-2006-24566]

Notice of Request for Approval To Collect New Information: Confidential Close Call Reporting System

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) intends to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection effort in railroad yards. This data collection effort is in support of a five-year research study aiming at improving rail safety by analyzing information on close calls and other unsafe occurrences in the rail industry. The study is conducted by the Office of Human Factors in the Federal Railroad Administration and is designed to identify safety issues and propose corrective actions based on voluntary reports of close calls submitted to BTS. This collection is necessary because data on close calls are not normally reported to the railroad carriers or the Federal Railroad Administration.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 26, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You can mail or hand-deliver comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Dockets Management System (DMS). You may submit your comments by mail or in person to the Docket Clerk, Docket No. RITA-2006-24566, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments should identify the docket number; paper comments should be submitted in duplicate. The DMS is open for examination and copying, at the above address, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you wish to receive confirmation of receipt of your written comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard with the

following statement: "Comments on Docket RITA-2006-24566." The Docket Clerk will date stamp the postcard prior to returning it to you via the U.S. mail. Please note that due to delays in the delivery of U.S. mail to Federal offices in Washington, DC, we recommend that persons consider an alternative method (the Internet, fax, or professional delivery service) to submit comments to the docket and ensure their timely receipt at U.S. DOT. You may fax your comments to the DMS at (202) 493-2251.

If you wish to file comments using the Internet, you may use the DOT DMS Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Please follow the online instructions for submitting an electronic comment. You can also review comments on-line at the DMS Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Please note that anyone is able to electronically search all comments received into our docket management system by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; pages 19477-78) or you may review the Privacy Act Statement at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Demetra V. Collia, RTS 31, Room 3430, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-1610; Fax No. (202) 493-0568; e-mail: demetra.collia@dot.gov. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Data Confidentiality Provisions: The confidentiality of Close Calls data is protected under the BTS confidentiality statute (49 U.S.C. 111(k) 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. Further, BTS will not release to FRA or any other public or private entity any information that might reveal the identity of individuals or organizations mentioned in close call reports.

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 System.

OMB Control Number: 2139-NEW.

Type of Review: Approval of data collection.

Respondents: Employees of selected (pilot) railroad sites.

Number of Respondents: 350 (per annum).

Estimated Time per Response: 0.50 hours.

Frequency: Intermittent for 5 years. (Reports are submitted when there is a qualifying event, *i.e.*, a close call occurs within a pilot site. The frequency of such event is estimated to be approximately one per day.)

Total Annual Burden: 175.00 hours.

II. Background

Collecting data on the nation's transportation system is an important component of BTS's responsibility to the transportation community and is authorized in BTS statutory authority (49 U.S.C. 111(c)(1) and (2) and 49 U.S.C. 111(c)(5)(j)). BTS and FRA share a common interest in promoting rail safety based on better data. To that end, FRA's Office of Research and Development is sponsoring the Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C³RS) Demonstration Project to investigate the effectiveness of such system in improving rail safety.

A close call represents a situation in which an ongoing sequence of events was stopped from developing further, preventing the occurrence of potentially serious safety-related consequences. This might include the following: (1) Events that happen frequently, but have low safety consequences; (2) events that happen infrequently but have the potential for high consequences (e.g., a train in dark territory proceeds beyond its authority); (3) events that are below the FRA reporting threshold (e.g., an event that causes a minor injury); and (4) events that are reportable to FRA but have the potential for a far greater accident than the one reported (e.g., a slow speed collision with minor damage to the equipment and no injuries.)

Employees involved in a close call will be asked to fill out a questionnaire which will be made available on the Web and at their work site and mail it to BTS. The close call questionnaire will request the respondent to provide information such as: (1) Name and contact information; (2) time and location of the incident; (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.

BTS will collect close call reports submitted by railroad employees, develop an analytical database containing the reported data and other pertinent information, and protect the confidentiality of these data through its own statute (49 U.S.C. 111(i)) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). The database will be a valuable tool to railroad carriers and the FRA in their effort to identify safety issues and provide corrective measures before an accident occurs.

Voluntary reporting of close calls to a confidential system can provide a tool to identify and correct weaknesses in railroad safety systems before an accident actually occurs. The C³RS demonstration project will foster a voluntary, cooperative, non-punitive environment to communicate safety concerns. Through the analysis of close calls the FRA and the railroad community will receive information about factors that may contribute to unsafe events and the error recovery mechanisms that prevented an adverse consequence from occurring. Such information can be used to develop new training programs, identify root causes of potentially adverse events, assess risk and allocate resources to address those risks more efficiently. The database will also provide other users such as rail safety researchers with valuable information regarding precursors to safety risks and contribute to research and development of intervention programs aimed at preventing accidents and fatalities.

III. Request for Comments

BTS requests comments on any aspects of these information collections, including: (1) The accuracy of the estimated burden; (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 in Washington, DC on April 20, 2006.

William Bannister,

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

[FR Doc. E6-6348 Filed 4-26-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

April 20, 2006.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11000, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 30, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

Financial Management Service

OMB Number: 1510-0037.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Voucher for Payment of Awards.

Form: FMS form 5135.

Description: Awards certified to Treasury are paid annual as funds are received from foreign governments. Vouchers are mailed to award holders showing payments due. Award holders sign vouchers certifying that he/she is entitled to payment.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 700 hours.

Clearance Officer: Jiovannah Diggs, (202) 874-7662, Financial Management Service, Room 144, 3700 East West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395-7316, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Michael A. Robinson,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-6316 Filed 4-26-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Departmental Offices—Office of International Investment; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent

burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Office of International Investment within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the information collection provisions of the Regulations Pertaining to Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers by Foreign Persons, 31 CFR 800.402.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before June 26, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Gay Sills, Director, Office of International Investment, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220—(202) 622-1860.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Jack Dempsey, Economist, Office of International Investment, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220—(202) 622-1860; or Francine McNulty Barber, Senior Counsel, Department of the Treasury, Room 2014, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20220—(202) 622-1947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Regulations Pertaining to Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers by Foreign Persons.

OMB Number: 1505-0121.

Abstract: The information request in this proposed collection is contained in 31 CFR 800.402. The information collected under these regulations is used by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an inter-agency committee chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury and comprised of the Secretaries of State, Defense, Treasury, Commerce and Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and the Assistants to the President for National Security, National Economic Policy, and Science and Technology. The President has delegated to CFIUS the President's authority under section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to determine the effects on the national security of acquisitions proposed or pending after the date of enactment (August 23, 1988) by or with foreign persons that could result in foreign control of persons engaged in