

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board****Release of Waybill Data**

The Surface Transportation Board has received a request from Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw on behalf of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) (WB461-11—10/20/2004) for permission to use certain data from the Board's Carload Waybill Samples. A copy of this request may be obtained from the Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration.

The waybill sample contains confidential railroad and shipper data; therefore, if any parties object to these requests, they should file their objections with the Director of the Board's Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration within 14 calendar days of the date of this notice. The rules for release of waybill data are codified at 49 CFR 1244.9.

Contact: Mac Frampton, (202) 565-1541.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-25610 Filed 11-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 256X)]

**Norfolk Southern Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in Chester
County, PA**

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 0.8-mile line of railroad between milepost 18.92 and milepost 19.72 at Downingtown, in Chester County, PA.¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 19335 and 19372.

NSR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) no overhead traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years and overhead traffic, if there were any, could be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of

rail service on the line (or by a State or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies)² have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on December 18, 2004, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,³ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),⁴ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by November 26, 2004. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 8, 2004, with:

² Pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1), at least 10 days prior to filing a notice of exemption with the Board, the railroad seeking the exemption must notify in writing certain governmental agencies. The notice of exemption in this proceeding was filed on October 28, 2004. In its verified notice, applicant attached, as Exhibit 4, a copy of its transmittal letter dated October 19, 2004, indicating notice of filing a notice of exemption on or about October 29, 2004 with the Board and its compliance with the service and notice requirements of 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1). According to applicant's representative, when applicant sent its transmittal letter, it had anticipated that the Board would receive the filing on October 29, 2004, rather than October 28, 2004. Upon consultation with applicant, October 29, 2004 is used for the computation of due dates in this proceeding.

³ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

⁴ Effective October 31, 2004, the filing fee for an OFA increased to \$1,200. See *Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2004 Update*, STB Ex Parte No. 542 (Sub-No. 11) (STB served Oct. 1, 2004).

Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to NSR's representative: James R. Paschall, General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-2191.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

NSR has filed environmental and historic reports which address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environmental and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by November 23, 2004. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), NSR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by NSR's filing of a notice of consummation by November 18, 2005, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: November 12, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-25612 Filed 11-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

November 9, 2004.

The Department of the Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the

¹ NSR states that the subject line overlaps 0.28 miles of a line that was authorized for abandonment in *Consolidated Rail Corporation—Abandonment Exemption—Chester County, PA*, Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1136X) (ICC served Sept. 19, 1994), because NSR has not been able to verify that Consolidated Rail Corporation exercised the abandonment authority with respect to that segment.

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 December 20, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-1639.

Regulation Project Number: REG-106012-98 Final.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Definition of Contribution in Aid of Construction under section 118(c).

Description: The regulations provide guidance with respect to section 118(c), which provides that a contribution in aid of construction received by a regulated public water or sewage utility is treated as a contribution to the capital of the utility and excluded from gross income.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 300 hours.

Clearance Officer: R. Joseph Durbala (202) 622-3634, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr. (202) 395-7316, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-25596 Filed 11-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0153]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine the insured's continuous entitlement to disability insurance benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 18, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0153" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-21), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Disability Benefits Questionnaire, VA Forms 29-8313 and 29-8313-1.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0153.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: When an insured has been granted waiver of premium or income benefits based on total disability, he/she must report conditions needed to continue disability insurance benefits. VA uses the data collected on VA Forms 29-8313 and 29-8313-1 to determine the insured's continuous entitlement to disability insurance benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 15,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60,000.

Dated: November 5, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Cindy Stewart,

Program Analyst, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 04-25565 Filed 11-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0394]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to verify beneficiaries receiving Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors (REPS) benefits based on a schoolchild enrollment in an approved school.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 18, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of