

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board****Information Collections; Request for Comments**

ACTION: 60-day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3519 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (Board) gives notice of its intent to request from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval without change of the seven existing collections described below.

Comments are requested concerning each collection as to (1) whether the particular collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when appropriate. Submitted comments will be included and/or summarized in the Board's request for OMB approval.

DATES: Written comments are due on March 13, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Marilyn Levitt, Surface Transportation Board, Suite 1260, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001, or to levittm@stb.dot.gov. Comments should be identified as "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments," and should refer to the title and control number of the specific collection(s) commented upon.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection(s) contact Paul Aguiar at (202) 245–0323 or aguiarp@stb.dot.gov. Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: (800) 877–8339.

Subjects: In this notice the Board is requesting comments on the following information collections:

Collection Number 1

Title: Class I Railroad Annual Report.

OMB Control Number: 2140–0009.

Form Number: R1.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Class I railroads.

Number of Respondents: Seven.

Estimated Time per Response: No more than 800 hours, based on

information provided by the railroad industry during the 1990s. This estimate includes time spent reviewing instructions; searching existing data sources; gathering and maintaining the data needed; completing and reviewing the collection of information; and converting the data from the carrier's individual accounting system to the Board's Uniform System of Accounts (USOA), which ensures that the information will be presented in a consistent format across all reporting railroads. *See* 49 U.S.C. 11141–43, 11161–64; 49 CFR 1200–1201.

Frequency of Response: Annual.

Total Annual Hour Burden: No more than 5,600 hours annually.

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden" Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: Annual reports are required to be filed by Class I railroads under 49 U.S.C. 11145. The reports show operating expenses and operating statistics of the carriers. Operating expenses include costs for right-of-way and structures, equipment, train and yard operations, and general and administrative expenses. Operating statistics include such items as car-miles, revenue-ton-miles, and gross ton-miles. The reports are used by the Board, other Federal agencies, and industry groups to monitor and assess railroad industry growth, financial stability, traffic, and operations, and to identify industry changes that may affect national transportation policy. Information from this report is also entered into the Board's Uniform Rail Costing System (URCS), which is a cost measurement methodology. URCS, which was developed by the Board pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 11161, is used as a tool in rail rate proceedings, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 10707(d), to calculate the variable costs associated with providing a particular service. The Board also uses this information to carry out more effectively other of its regulatory responsibilities, including: Acting on railroad requests for authority to engage in Board-regulated financial transactions such as mergers, acquisitions of control, and consolidations, *see* 49 U.S.C. 11323–11324; analyzing the information that the Board obtains through the annual railroad industry waybill sample, *see* 49 CFR 1244; measuring off-branch costs in railroad abandonment proceedings, in accordance with 49 CFR 1152.32(n); developing the "rail cost adjustment factors," in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 10708; and conducting investigations and rulemakings.

Information from certain schedules contained in these reports is compiled and published on the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. <http://www.stb.dot.gov/Information> in these reports is not available from any other source.

Collection Number 2

Title: Quarterly Report of Revenues, Expenses, and Income—Railroads (Form RE&I).

OMB Control Number: 2140–0013.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Class I railroads.

Number of Respondents: Seven.

Estimated Time per Response: 6 hours.

Frequency of Response: Quarterly.

Total Annual Hour Burden: 168 hours annually.

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"

Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection is a report of railroad operating revenues, operating expenses and income items; it is a profit and loss statement, disclosing net railway operating income on a quarterly and year-to-date basis for the current and prior years. *See* 49 CFR 1243.1. The Board uses the information in this report to ensure competitive, efficient, and safe transportation through general oversight programs that monitor and forecast the financial and operating condition of railroads, and through regulation of railroad rate and service issues and rail restructuring proposals, including railroad mergers, consolidations, acquisitions of control, and abandonments. Information from these reports is used by the Board, other Federal agencies, and industry groups to monitor and assess industry growth and operations, detect changes in carrier financial stability, and identify trends that may affect the national transportation system. Some of the information from these reports is compiled by the Board in our quarterly Selected Earnings Data Report, which is published on the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. <http://www.stb.dot.gov/Information> in these reports is not available from any other source.

Collection Number 3

Title: Quarterly Condensed Balance Sheet—Railroads (Form CBS).

OMB Control Number: 2140–0014.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Class I railroads.

Number of Respondents: Seven.

Estimated Time per Response: 6 hours.

Frequency of Response: Quarterly.

Total Annual Hour Burden: 168 hours annually.

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"

Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection shows the balance, quarterly and cumulative, for the current and prior year of the carrier's assets and liabilities, gross capital expenditures, and revenue tons carried. See 49 CFR 1243.2. The Board uses the information in this report to ensure competitive, efficient, and safe transportation through general oversight programs that monitor and forecast the financial and operating condition of railroads, and through specific regulation of railroad rate and service issues and rail restructuring proposals, including railroad mergers, consolidations, acquisitions of control, and abandonments. Information from these reports is used by the Board, other Federal agencies, and industry groups to assess industry growth and operations, detect changes in carrier financial stability, and identify trends that may affect the national transportation system. Revenue ton-miles, which are reported in these reports, are compiled and published by the Board in its quarterly Selected Earnings Data Report, which is published on the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

Collection Number 4

OMB Control Number: 2140-0004.

Title: Report of Railroad Employees, Service and Compensation (Wage Forms A and B).

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Class I railroads.

Number of Respondents: Seven.

Estimated Time per Response: No more than 30 hours per quarterly report and 40 hours per annual summation, based on information provided by the railroad industry during the 1990s. Again, it is likely that the time required to collect this information is overstated given the advances made in computerized data collection and processing systems.

Frequency of Response: Quarterly, with an annual summation.

Total Annual Hour Burden: No more than 1120 hours annually.

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"

Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens

associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection shows the number of employees, service hours, and compensation, by employee group (e.g., executive, professional, maintenance-of-way and equipment, and transportation), of the reporting railroads. See 49 CFR 1245. The information is used by the Board to forecast labor costs and measure the efficiency of the reporting railroads. The information is also used by the Board to evaluate proposed regulated transactions that may impact rail employees, including mergers and consolidations, acquisitions of control, purchases, and abandonments. Other Federal agencies and industry groups, including the Railroad Retirement Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Association of American Railroads, use the information contained in the reports to monitor railroad operations. Certain information from these reports is compiled and published on the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

Collection Number 5

Title: Monthly Report of Number of Employees of Class I Railroads (Wage Form C).

OMB Control Number: 2140-0007.

Form Number: STB Form 350.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Class I railroads.

Number of Respondents: Seven.

Estimated Time per Response: 1.25 hours.

Frequency of Response: Monthly.

Total Annual Hour Burden: 105 hours annually.

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"

Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection shows, for each reporting carrier, the average number of employees at mid-month in the six job-classification groups that encompass all railroad employees. See 49 CFR 1246. The information is used by the Board to forecast labor costs and measure the efficiency of the reporting railroads. The information is also used by the Board to evaluate the impact on rail employees of proposed regulated transactions, including mergers and consolidations, acquisitions of control, purchases, and abandonments. Other Federal agencies and industry groups, including the Railroad Retirement Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Association of American Railroads, use the information contained in these reports to monitor

railroad operations. Certain information from these reports is compiled and published on the Board's Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

Collection Number 6

Title: Annual Report of Cars Loaded and Cars Terminated.

OMB Control Number: 2140-0011.

Form Number: Form STB-54.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Number of Respondents: Fewer than 10.

Estimated Time per Response: 4 hours.

Frequency of Response: Annual.

Total Annual Hour Burden: 28 hours annually.

Total Annual "Non Hour Burden"

Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection reports the number of cars loaded and cars terminated on the reporting carrier's line. See 49 CFR 1247. Information in this report is entered into the Board's URCS, the uses of which are explained under Collection Number 1. There is no other source for the information contained in this report.

Collection Number 7

OMB Control Number: 2140-000.

Title: Quarterly Report of Freight Commodity Statistics (Form QCS).

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Class I railroads.

Number of Respondents: Fewer than 10.

Estimated Time per Response: 217 hours.

Frequency of Response: Quarterly, with an annual summation.

Total Annual Hour Burden: 6,076 hours annually.

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"

Cost: No "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection have been identified.

Needs and Uses: This collection, which is based on information contained in carload waybills used by railroads in the ordinary course of business, reports car loadings and total revenues by commodity code for each commodity that moved on the railroad during the reporting period. See 49 CFR 1248. Information in this report is entered into the Board's URCS, the uses of which are explained under Collection Number 1. There is no other source for the information contained in this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, a Federal agency conducting or

sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under § 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, Federal agencies are required, prior to submitting a collection to OMB for approval, to provide a 60-day notice and comment period through publication in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: January 10, 2012.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-535 Filed 1-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35579]

Watco Holdings, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Birmingham Terminal Railway, L.L.C.

Watco Holdings, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of Birmingham Terminal Railway, L.L.C. (BHRR), upon BHRR's becoming a Class III rail carrier.

This transaction is related to a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in Docket No. FD 35578, *Birmingham Terminal Railway, L.L.C.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Birmingham Southern Railroad Company*, wherein BHRR seeks Board approval to acquire from Birmingham Southern Railroad Company and operate approximately 75.59 miles of rail line, including all sidings and yard tracks, in Ensley, East Thomas, Bessemer, Fairfield, and Birmingham, AL.

The parties intend to consummate the transaction on or shortly after January 31, 2012.

Watco is a Kansas corporation which currently controls, indirectly, 24 Class III railroads and 1 Class II railroad, operating in 18 States. Watco also owns, indirectly, 100 percent of the issued and outstanding stock of BHRR, a Delaware limited liability company.

Watco controls, through stock ownership and management, Class III railroads South Kansas and Oklahoma

Railroad, Inc., Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, L.L.C., Timber Rock Railroad, L.L.C., Stillwater Central Railroad, L.L.C., Eastern Idaho Railroad, L.L.C., Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, L.L.C., Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, L.L.C., Great Northwest Railroad, L.L.C., Kaw River Railroad, L.L.C., Mission Mountain Railroad, L.L.C., Mississippi Southern Railroad, L.L.C., Yellowstone Valley Railroad, L.L.C., Louisiana Southern Railroad, L.L.C., Arkansas Southern Railroad, L.L.C., Alabama Southern Railroad, L.L.C., Vicksburg Southern Railroad, L.L.C., Austin Western Railroad, L.L.C., Baton Rouge Southern Railroad, L.L.C., Pacific Sun Railroad, L.L.C., Grand Elk Railroad, Inc., Alabama Warrior Railway, L.L.C., Boise Valley Railroad, L.L.C., Autauga Northern Railroad, L.L.C., Swan Ranch Railroad, L.L.C., and Class II railroad Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, L.L.C.

Watco represents that: (1) The rail lines to be operated by BHRR do not connect with any other railroads in the corporate family; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the rail lines with any other railroads in the corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. *See* 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Watco states that the purpose of the proposed transaction is to reduce overhead expenses, coordinate billing, maintenance, mechanical, and personnel policies and practices of its rail carrier subsidiaries, and thereby improve the overall efficiency of rail service provided by the railroads in the corporate family.

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Because the transaction involves the control of one or more Class III rail carriers and one Class II rail carrier, the transaction is subject to the labor protective requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11326(b) and *Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Acquisition Exemption—Lines of Union Pacific Railroad*, 2 S.T.B. 218 (1997).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Stay petitions must be filed no later than January 20, 2012 (at

least 7 days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35579, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, 655 Fifteenth Street NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at “WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: January 10, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Raina S. White,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2012-565 Filed 1-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 10, 2012.

The Department of the Treasury will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, on or after the date of publication of this notice.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before February 13, 2012 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestion for reducing the burden, to (1) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Treasury, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, or email at OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV and (2) Treasury PRA Clearance Officer, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Suite 11020, Washington, DC 20220, or on-line at www.PRACOMMENT.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 927-5331, email at PRA@treasury.gov, or the entire information collection request maybe found at www.reginfo.gov.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-0127.

Type of Review: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.