

400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mamie Smith, (202) 366-2529, Office of Real Estate Services, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Identify and Evaluate Barriers to Right-of-Way Training Needs.

*Abstract:* More training for individuals handling right-of-way activities for Federal and State transportation agencies is needed. The State right-of-way managers and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) divisions' realty offices frequently express concern to the FHWA's Office of Real Estate Services (HEPR) about the lack of training for current and new employees. Yet, it appears that these groups may underutilize existing training resources, such as courses offered through the National Highway Institute (NHI), the International Right-of-Way Association (IRWA), and the Appraisal Institute (AI). The goal of this research project is to determine whether HEPR's State and Federal customers are taking full advantage of existing training opportunities. This proposed information collection would involve responses to a questionnaire and a follow-up survey to identify and evaluate barriers to existing right-of-way training courses.

*Respondents:* The respondents to the survey will be the state right-of-way managers and the FHWA division realty officers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, as well as the selected training providers at NHI, IRWA, and AI.

*Frequency:* This is a one-time survey.  
*Estimated Average Burden per Response:* The estimated average burden per response is 30 minutes. This includes the time needed to complete the questionnaire and the follow-up survey.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* The estimated total annual burden for all respondents is 45 hours.

*Public Comments Invited:* Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including but not limited to: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FHWA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden, including the use of electronic technology without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

*Privacy Act:* Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets 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 visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

**James R. Kabel,**

*Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.*

[FR Doc. 04-23549 Filed 10-20-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2004-18785]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Request for Comments; Clearance of a New Information Collection; Evaluate the Effects of Appraisal Waivers

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for a new information collection, which is summarized below under Supplementary Information. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Please submit comments by December 20, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT DMS Docket Number FHWA-2004-18785 by any of the following methods:

- Web Site: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax: 1-202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Reginald Bessmer, 202-366-2037, Office of Real Estate Services, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Evaluate the Effects of Appraisal Waivers.

*Abstract:* The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Properties Act of 1970, as amended, provides that "Real property shall be appraised before the initiation of negotiations, and that the owner, or the owner's designated representative shall be given an opportunity to accompany the appraiser during the appraiser's inspection of the property, except that the head of the lead agency may prescribe a procedure to waive the appraisal in cases involving the acquisition by sale or donation of property with a low fair market value." The appraisal waiver policy is based on the premise that administrative costs, particularly appraisal costs, should not be a high proportion, or even exceed the value of the actual real property to be acquired. The procedure to waive the appraisal is specified in 49 CFR 24.102(c) and allows agencies acquiring real property to " \* \* \* determine that an appraisal is unnecessary because the valuation problem is uncomplicated and the fair market value is estimated at \$2,500 or less, based on a review of available data." The Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA) has expanded this policy through 49 CFR 24.7, Federal agency waiver of regulations, to allow the State Departments of Transportation, at their request, to raise the appraisal waiver threshold to a maximum of \$10,000 and more recently, to a maximum of \$25,000. This information collection involves a survey to determine the impact of FHWA's appraisal waiver policy on the acquisition of real property by agreements with owners, subsequent litigation (eminent domain), consistent treatment for owners, and public confidence in Federal land acquisition practices. Also, the FHWA seeks to determine the impacts that the FHWA's appraisal waiver procedures may have on the State DOTs' operations. The information to be collected will be used to determine whether the appraisal waiver policy, as implemented by the FHWA through its State Department of Transportation partners, is accomplishing its intended goals. This includes, minimizing administrative costs, expediting the acquisition of real property, avoiding litigation, and maintaining consistent treatment for owners. The information will also help identify and analyze the impact of unknown and unintended consequences of the appraisal waiver program, as implemented by the FHWA.

**Respondents:** 50 State Departments of Transportation, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (Right-of-Way Department).

**Frequency:** This is a one-time survey.

**Estimated Average Burden per**

**Response:** 3 hours.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden**

**Hours:** 156 hours.

**Public Comments Invited:** You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

**Privacy Act:** Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets 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 visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued On: October 7, 2004.

**James R. Kabel,**

*Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.*

[FR Doc. 04-23550 Filed 10-20-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-98-4470]

#### Pipeline Safety: Meetings of the Pipeline Safety Advisory Committees

**AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice; Meetings of the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee and the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee.

**SUMMARY:** Meetings of the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC) and the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (THLPSSC) will be held on December 14 and 15, 2004, at the Marriott Washington, 1221 22nd Street, NW., Washington, DC. The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) will provide briefings on pending rulemakings and regulatory initiatives. The advisory committees will discuss and vote on proposed rulemakings.

**ADDRESSES:** Members of the public may attend the meetings at the Marriott Washington, 1221 22nd Street, NW., Washington, DC. The phone number for Marriott reservations is 1-800-228-9290. Reservations by attendees must be received on or before November 22. Priority is given to advisory committee members and State pipeline safety representatives for a limited block of rooms. Any additional information or changes will be posted on the OPS Web page approximately 15 days before the meeting date at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

An opportunity will be provided for the public to make short statements on the topics under discussion. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should notify Jean Milam, (202) 493-0967, not later than November 16, 2004, on the topic of the statement and the length of the presentation. The

presiding officer at each meeting may deny any request to present an oral statement and may limit the time of any presentation.

#### Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Jean Milam at (202) 493-0967.

**Comments:** You may submit written comments on the subject matter of the advisory committee meetings by mail or deliver to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You also may submit written comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log onto the following Internet Web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" for instructions on how to file a document electronically. All written comments should reference docket number RSPA-98-4470. Anyone who would like confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets 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 visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cheryl Whetsel, OPS, (202) 366-4431 or Richard Huriaux, OPS, (202) 366-4565, regarding the subject matter of this notice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The TPSSC and THLPSSC are statutorily mandated advisory committees that advise OPS on proposed safety standards for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. These advisory committees are constituted in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. app. 1). The committees consist of 15 members—five each representing government, industry, and the public. The TPSSC and THLPSSC are tasked with determining reasonableness, cost-effectiveness, and practicability of proposed pipeline regulations.

Federal law requires that OPS submit cost-benefit analyses and risk