

MSTP gains access to TSBY trackage at this location. It does not own or control any trackage with the exception of two lead tracks extending from siding tracks, each approximately 130 feet in length. These tracks are leased from the TSBY. The MSTP plans to conduct this program in either of two locations. The first is the San Yard, between Mile Post (MP) 105.2, on the TSBY track at the point where it meets the Central Michigan Railroad west of Legion Road, to MP 106.1, south of the highway/railroad grade crossing at Gould and Corunna Road. The second location is at the Henderson, Michigan Grain Elevator, on the St. Charles Branch of the TSBY between MP 70.2 and MP 69.2, north of the highway/railroad grade crossing at Riley Road. The proposed dates of operation will be three consecutive weekends between the months of June and September.

MSTP's argument for granting this waiver is twofold. First, "to accomplish a part of our mission statement, i.e., to operate the locomotive in an effort to educate the public as to what steam power looked, sounded, smelled, and felt like by providing a hands-on approach." Second, "to generate needed interest and revenue so that we may continue to educate the public about steam locomotive technology, in an effort that the next generation will keep the knowledge, and the 1225, alive into the future."

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket No. FRA-2001-10379) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours at the above facility. All written communications are also accessible on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on September 21, 2001.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Finance Docket No. 34079]

San Jacinto Rail Limited—Construction Exemption—and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Operation Exemption—Build-Out to the Bayport Loop Near Houston, Harris County, Texas

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: On August 30, 2001, the San Jacinto Rail Limited (San Jacinto) and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 for authority for construction by San Jacinto and operation by BNSF of a new rail line near Houston, Harris County, Texas. The project would involve approximately 12.8 miles of new rail line. Because the construction and operation of this project has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate. The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to notify individuals and agencies interested in or affected by the proposed project of the decision to require an EIS. SEA will hold public scoping meetings as part of the EIS process. Meeting dates and locations will be announced at a later date.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The proposed project, known as the Bayport Loop Build-Out includes approximately 12.8 miles of new rail line connecting plastics and chemical production facilities located in the Bayport Industrial District in southeast Houston, Texas, with the former Galveston, Henderson and Houston Railroad (GH&H) line, now owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), near the southeast corner of Ellington Field at Texas State Highway

3. As a result of the new construction, BNSF would have access to the facilities located in the Bayport Loop using the new line, and the facilities would be provided with a choice of rail providers in the area. The EIS will analyze the potential impacts of the proposed route, the "no-build" alternative, and possible alternative routes.

Environmental Review Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is intended to assist the Board and the public in identifying and assessing the potential environmental consequences of a proposed action before a decision on the proposed action is made. SEA is responsible for ensuring that the Board complies with NEPA and related environmental statutes. The first stage of the EIS process is scoping. Scoping is an open process for determining the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. SEA will soon develop and make available a draft scope of study for the EIS and provide a period for the submission of written comments on it. Concurrently, scoping meetings will be held to provide further opportunities for public involvement and input into the scoping process. The dates and locations for the scoping meetings will be announced at a later date. Following the issuance of a draft scope and the comment period, SEA will issue a final scope of study for the EIS.

After issuing the final scope of study, SEA will prepare a Draft EIS (DEIS) for the project. The DEIS will address those environmental issues and concerns identified during the scoping process. It will also contain SEA's preliminary recommendations for environmental mitigation measures. The DEIS will be made available upon its completion for public and agency review and comment. SEA will prepare a Final EIS (FEIS) that considers comments on the DEIS from the public and agencies. In reaching its decision in this case, the Board will take into account the DEIS, the FEIS, and all environmental comments that are received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dana G. White, Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20412-0001, or call SEA's toll-free number for this project at 1-888-229-7857 (TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-877-8339). The website for the Surface Transportation Board is www.stb.dot.gov.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief,
Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-24398 Filed 9-28-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[REG-106388-98]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS),
Treasury.

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 proposed and/or 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 IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing notice of proposed rulemaking, REG-106388-98, Education Tax Credits.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 30, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this regulation should be directed to Allan Hopkins, (202) 622-6665, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Education Tax Credits.

OMB Number: 1545-1630.

Regulation Project Number: REG-106388-98.

Abstract: Internal Revenue Code section 25A allows individual taxpayers to claim a tax credit for certain educational expenses. This regulation provides that a taxpayer must elect to claim these education credits by attaching Form 8863, Education Credits (Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits) to the taxpayer's return for the year in which the credit is claimed.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

The estimated burden for the collection of information in this regulation is reflected in the burden of Form 8863.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: September 24, 2001.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-24438 Filed 9-28-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0043]

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 confirm marital status and dependency of children.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0043" 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 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), 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: Declaration of Status of Dependents, VA Form 21-686c.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0043.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The form is used to obtain information to confirm marital status and existence of any dependent child(ren). The information is used by VA to determine eligibility to benefits.