

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; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

#### Description of Collection

*Title:* Arbitration "Opt-in" Notices.

*OMB Control Number:* 2140-0020.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Respondents:* All regulated rail carriers.

*Number of Respondents:* 2.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 0.5 hours.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Total Burden Hours* (annually including all respondents): 1.0 hours.

*Total "Non-hour Burden" Cost:* None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

*Needs and Uses:* Under the Interstate Commerce Act, as amended by the ICC Termination Act of 1995, the Board is responsible for the economic regulation of common carrier rail transportation. Under 49 CFR 1108.3, rail carriers subject to the Board's jurisdiction may agree to participate in the Board's arbitration program by filing a notice with the Board to "opt in." Once a rail carrier is participating in the Board's arbitration program, it may discontinue its participation only by filing with the Board a notice to "opt out," which would become effective 90 days after its filing.

Under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors 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. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-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: February 24, 2020.

**Kenyatta Clay,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2020-03989 Filed 2-26-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

### 30-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Extension of Approval: Information Collection—Rail Depreciation Studies

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

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

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice of its intent to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of the collection of Rail Depreciation Studies, described below. The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the **Federal Register** on December 12, 2019 (84 FR 67,990). That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

**DATES:** Comments on this information collection should be submitted by March 30, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be identified as "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board: Rail Depreciation Studies." These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Michael J. McManus, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer: By email at [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov); by fax at (202) 395-1743; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Please also direct comments to Chris Oehrle, PRA Officer, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001, or to [PRA@stb.gov](mailto:PRA@stb.gov). For further information regarding this collection, contact Pedro Ramirez at (202) 245-0333 or [pedro.ramirez@stb.gov](mailto:pedro.ramirez@stb.gov). Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Comments are requested concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) 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; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

#### Description of Collection

*Title:* Rail Depreciation Studies.

*OMB Control Number:* 2140-0028.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Respondents:* Class I railroads.

*Number of Respondents:* 7.

*Estimated Time per Response:*

Approximately 250 hours per study (estimating that studies will require between 125 hours and 375 hours depending on the extent to which the carriers assist outside consultants perform the study).

*Frequency of Response:* Bi-annual.

(Under 49 CFR part 1201, section 4-1 to 4-4, the Board requires all Class I (large) carriers to submit depreciation studies no less than every three years for equipment property and every six years for road property. That means that for any given six-year period, the Class I railroads must submit no less than three depreciation reports, or the equivalent of 0.5 depreciation reports per year.)

*Total Annual Hour Burden:* 875 hours (250 hours × 0.5 studies/year × 7 Class I railroads).

*Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"*

*Cost:* Approximately \$175,000 per year. Board staff estimates that each study will cost between \$20,000 and \$80,000, which equals a cost of approximately \$10,000-\$40,000 per year. Using an average cost (\$25,000 per year × 7 Class I railroads), the non-hour burden cost is estimated to be approximately \$175,000 per year.

*Needs and Uses:* Under 49 CFR part 1201, section 4-1 to 4-4, the Board is required to identify those classes of property for which rail carriers may include depreciation charges under operating expenses, and the Board must also prescribe a rate of depreciation that may be charged to those classes of property. Under 49 U.S.C. 11145, Class I rail carriers are required to submit depreciation studies to the Board. Information in these studies is not available from any other source. The Board uses the information in these studies to prescribe depreciation rates. These depreciation rate prescriptions state the period for which the depreciation rates therein are applicable. Class I railroads apply the prescribed depreciation rates to their investment base to determine a monthly

and annual depreciation expense. This expense is included in the railroads' operating expenses, which are reported in their R-1 reports (OMB Control Number 2140-0009). Operating expenses are used to develop operating costs for application in various proceedings before the Board, such as in rate reasonableness cases and in the determination of railroad "revenue adequacy."

Under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors 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. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-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.

Information from certain schedules contained in these reports is available at the Board's website at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov) by navigating to "Reports & Data" and clicking on "Economic Data." Information in these reports is not available from any other source.

Dated: February 24, 2020.

**Kenyatta Clay,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2020-03992 Filed 2-26-20; 8:45 am]

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## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

### 30-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Extension of Approval: Information Collection Activities—Recordations (Rail and Water Carrier Liens), Water Carrier Tariffs, and Agricultural Contract Summaries

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

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

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice of its intent to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of the collections required by statute for rail or water carrier equipment liens (recordations), water carrier tariffs, and rail agricultural contract summaries, described below. The Board previously published a notice about these collections in the **Federal Register** on

December 12, 2019 (84 FR 67,991). That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

**DATES:** Comments on these information collections should be submitted by March 30, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be identified as "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board: Recordations (Rail and Water Carrier Liens), Water Carrier Tariffs, and Agricultural Contract Summaries." These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Michael J. McManus, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer: by email at [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov); by fax at (202) 395-1743; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Please also direct comments to Chris Oehrle, PRA Officer, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001, or to [PRA@stb.gov](mailto:PRA@stb.gov). For further information regarding this collection, contact Michael Higgins, Deputy Director, Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-0284 or at [michael.higgins@stb.gov](mailto:michael.higgins@stb.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Comments are requested concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) 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; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

### Description of Collections

#### Collection Number 1

**Title:** Agricultural Contract Summaries.

**OMB Control Number:** 2140-0024.

**Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Extension without change.

**Number of Respondents:**

Approximately 10 (seven Class I [large] railroads and a limited number of other railroads).

**Frequency:** On occasion. (Over the last three years, respondents have filed an average of 150 agricultural contract

summaries per year. The same number of filings is expected during each of the next three years.)

**Estimated Time per Response:**

Approximately 0.25 hours.

**Total Burden Hours** (annually including all respondents): 37.5 hours (150 submissions × 0.25 hours estimated per submission).

**Total Annual "Non-hour Burden" Cost** (such as start-up and mailing costs): There are no non-hourly burden costs for this collection.

**Needs and Uses:** Under 49 U.S.C. 10709(d), railroads are required to file a summary of the nonconfidential terms of any contract for the transportation of agricultural products.

#### Collection Number 2

**Title:** Recordations (Rail and Water Carrier Liens).

**OMB Control Number:** 2140-0025.

**Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Extension without change.

**Respondents:** Parties holding liens on rail equipment or water carrier vessels, and carriers filing proof that a lien has been removed.

**Number of Respondents:**

Approximately 50 respondents.

**Frequency:** On occasion. (Over the last three years, respondents have filed an average of 1,750 responses per year. The same number of filings is expected during each of the next three years.)

**Estimated Time per Response:**

Approximately 0.25 hours.

**Total Burden Hours** (annually including all respondents): 437.5 hours (1,750 submissions × 0.25 hours estimated per response)

**Total "Non-hour Burden" Cost** (such as start-up and mailing costs): There are no non-hourly burden costs for this collection. The collection may be filed electronically.

**Needs and Uses:** Under 49 U.S.C. 11301 and 49 CFR part 1177, liens on rail equipment or water carrier vessels must be filed with the STB in order to perfect a security interest in the equipment. Subsequent amendments, assignments of rights, or release of obligations under such instruments must also be filed with the agency. This information is maintained by the Board for public inspection. Recordation at the STB obviates the need for recording the liens in individual States.

#### Collection Number 3

**Title:** Water Carrier Tariffs.

**OMB Control Number:** 2140-0026.

**Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Extension without change.