

extended for an additional twenty-five days. The comment period will now end February 21, 2003.

Most of the extension requests sought an additional forty-five days to submit comments on the Draft EIS. To balance these requests for an extension with the need to move the environmental review process forward without undue delay, SEA believes that a twenty-five day extension to and including February 21, 2003 is appropriate. In order to issue the Final EIS in a timely manner, no further extensions will be granted absent compelling, unforeseen circumstances.

Written comments on the Draft EIS must be postmarked or faxed by the February 21, 2003 due date. SEA encourages written comments by all interested parties and agencies and members of the general public on all aspects of this Draft EIS. SEA will consider all timely comments in preparing the Final EIS, and the Final EIS will respond to all timely substantive comments. When submitting comments on the Draft EIS, please be as specific as possible and substantiate your concerns and recommendations. Please mail written comments to: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

To ensure proper handling of your comments, please mark your submission: Attention: Dana White, Section of Environmental Analysis, Environmental Filing FD No. 34079.

Due to delays in the delivery of mail currently being experienced by Federal agencies in Washington, DC, SEA encourages that comments be faxed to 1-866-293-4979. Faxed comments will be given the same weight as mailed comments; therefore, persons submitting comments by fax do not have to also send comments by mail. Further information about the project can be obtained by calling SEA's toll-free number at 1-888-229-7857 (TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-877-8339).

As stated in our December 6, 2002 Notice of Availability, and in the Draft EIS, SEA will host two public meetings on the Draft EIS in January 2003. At each meeting, SEA will give a brief presentation and interested parties will be invited to make oral comments. SEA will have a transcriber present to record the oral comments in either English or Spanish. Written comments may also be submitted at the meetings. Meetings will be held at the following locations, dates, and times: Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX, January 14, 2003, 7-9 pm, Cesar E. Chavez High School, 8501 Howard Drive, Houston, TX, January 15, 2003, 7-9 pm. Both meetings will follow the

same format and agenda; it is not necessary to attend both meetings.

Persons wanting to speak at a public meeting are strongly urged to pre-register by calling the toll-free number at 1-888-229-7857 (TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-877-8339) and leaving their name, telephone number, the name of any group, business, or agency affiliation, if applicable, and the date of the meeting at which they wish to speak. The deadline for pre-registration for all meetings is January 7, 2003.

Persons will be called to speak at each meeting in the order in which they pre-registered. Those wishing to speak who did not pre-register will be accommodated at each meeting as time allows. Those wishing to speak at more than one meeting will also be accommodated as time allows and after all others have had an opportunity to participate. As SEA would like as many persons as possible to participate and given that there will be a limited amount of time at each meeting, all speakers are strongly encouraged to prepare summary oral comments, and submit detailed comments in writing. SEA also encourages groups of individuals with similar comments to designate a representative to speak for them. A translator will be available at both meetings for Spanish-speakers wishing to speak.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Dana White, Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, or 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 <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34282]

Western Illinois Railway Company— Acquisition Exemption—Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway Corporation

The Western Illinois Railway Company (WIRC), a noncarrier, filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from the Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway Corporation (TP&W) the rail, ties, and certain

improvements on a 71.5-mile rail line, between milepost 194.5 at La Harpe and milepost 123.0 at Peoria, in Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, and Peoria Counties, IL (the La Harpe Line or Line).¹ TP&W will retain the common carrier obligation and the permanent and exclusive right to operate the Line, the right to maintain and renew the Line, and the right to require WIRC to transfer the Line's physical assets in the event TP&W agrees or is required to sell the Line under an offer of financial assistance pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10904.²

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after November 27, 2002.

In a related matter, RailAmerica, Inc. (RailAmerica) and Palm Beach Rail Holdings, Inc. (PBRH), a noncarrier subsidiary of RailAmerica, filed a notice of exemption in *RailAmerica, Inc. et al.—Corporate Family Reorganization Exemption—Western Illinois Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34283, for PBRH to continue in control of WIRC when it becomes a rail carrier.³

If the 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 transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34282, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Louis E. Gitomer, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

¹ In *SF&L Railway, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Toledo, Peoria and Western Railway Corporation Between La Harpe and Peoria, IL*, STB Finance Docket No. 33995 *et al.* (STB served Oct. 17, 2002), the Board ordered SF&L Railway, Inc. (SF&L), to reconvey to TP&W the operating easement over, and the rail, ties and certain improvements on the 71.5-mile rail line acquired under the class exemption in that proceeding that was served and published in the *Federal Register* at 66 FR 9411 on February 7, 2001. A petition for reconsideration was filed by SF&L on December 13, 2002.

² On September 3, 2002, SF&L filed a petition for exemption to abandon the La Harpe Line. See *SF&L Railway, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—in Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, and Peoria Counties, IL*, STB Docket No. AB-448 (Sub-No. 2X) (STB served Sept. 23, 2002). Notice was served and published in the *Federal Register* at 67 FR 59596 on September 23, 2002. TP&W, on October 30, 2002, filed a motion for permission to substitute for SF&L in STB Docket No. AB-448 (Sub-No. 2X). A decision on the motion will be issued in the near future.

³ On November 26, 2002, RailAmerica, PBRH, and WIRC jointly filed a motion to dismiss both the acquisition in this case and the continuance in control in STB Finance Docket No. 34283 for lack of Board jurisdiction. The motion will be handled in a separate decision.

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

Decided: December 16, 2002.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Security Administration

Notice of Intent to Request Renewal From the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of Two Current Public Collections of Information

AGENCY: Transportation Security Administration (TSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: TSA invites public comment on two currently approved information collection requirements abstracted below that will be submitted to OMB for renewal in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Send your comments by February 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed or delivered to A. Lawan Jackson, Office of Finance and Administration, Office of Records Management, TSA-14, Room 4616, Transportation Security Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Lawan Jackson at the above address or by telephone (202) 385-1644; facsimile (202) 493-1731; e-mail lawan.jackson@tsa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Therefore, in preparation for submission to renew clearance of the following information collections, TSA solicits comments in order to—

(1) evaluate whether the proposed information requirement is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden;

(3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who

are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

1. *2110-0005; Indirect Air Carrier Security.* Section 44903(b) of Title 49 U.S.C. directed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to prescribe regulations (14 CFR part 109), to protect passengers and property on an aircraft operating in air transportation or intrastate air transportation against acts of criminal violence and aircraft piracy, and the public interest in the promotion of air transportation and intrastate air transportation. On November 19, 2001, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, Public Law 107-71, transferred this responsibility to TSA. These standards were developed and implemented in 49 CFR part 1548. With the transfer of these responsibilities to TSA, the corresponding collection of information was also transferred from FAA to TSA. The previous OMB clearance number for FAA was OMB 2120-0505. The TSA number is now OMB 2110-0005. The current estimated annual reporting burden is 664 hours.

2. *2110-0010; Explosives Detection System Certification Testing.* Section 108 of the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990, Public Law 101-604, provides in pertinent part that no deployment or purchase of any explosive detection equipment pursuant to sections 108.7(b)(8) and 108.20 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any similar rule, shall be required after the date of the enactment of this section, unless the FAA Administrator certifies that, based on the results of tests conducted pursuant to protocols developed in consultation with expert scientists from outside the FAA such equipment alone or as part of an integrated system can detect under realistic air carrier operating conditions the amounts, configurations, and types of explosive material, which would be likely to be used to cause catastrophic damage to commercial aircraft. On November 19, 2001, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, Public Law 107-71, transferred this responsibility to TSA. With the transfer of this responsibility to TSA, the corresponding collection of information was also transferred from FAA to TSA. The previous OMB clearance number for FAA was OMB 2120-0577. The TSA number is now OMB 2110-0010. The current estimated annual reporting burden is 775 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 16, 2002.

Susan T. Tracey,

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-32139 Filed 12-19-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0051]

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 accurately reimburse State Approving Agencies (SAA) for expenses incurred in the approval and supervision of education and training programs.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before February 18, 2003.

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. 2900-0051" 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., 3501-3520), 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