

FMCSA published a "Notice of Request for Renewal of a Currently Approved Information Collection: Financial Responsibility for Motor Carriers of Passengers and Motor Carriers of Property" in the **Federal Register**. Comments on the proposed information collection burden were solicited. No comments regarding the ICR were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 Seventeenth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, *Attention:* DOT Desk Officer. We particularly request your comments on whether the collection of information is necessary for the FMCSA to meet its goals of reducing truck crashes, including whether the information is useful to this goal; the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms on information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Marian Lee, (202) 385-2423, Insurance Compliance Division (MC-ECI), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., *e.t.*, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Financial Responsibility for Motor Carrier of Passengers and Motor Carriers of Property.

OMB Control Number: 2126-0008.

Background: The Secretary of Transportation is responsible for implementing regulations which establish minimal levels of financial responsibility for: (1) Motor carriers of property to cover public liability, property damage, and environmental restoration, and (2) for-hire motor carriers of passengers to cover public liability and property damage. The Endorsement for Motor Carrier Policies of Insurance for Public Liability (Form MCS-90/90B) and the Motor Carrier Public Liability Surety Bond (Form MCS-82/82B) contain the minimum amount of information necessary to document that a motor carrier has obtained, and has in effect, the minimum levels of financial responsibility as set forth in applicable regulations (motor carriers of property—

49 CFR 387.9; and motor carrier of passengers—49 CFR 387.33). FMCSA and the public can verify that a motor carrier of property or passengers has obtained, and has in effect, the required minimum levels of financial responsibility, by use of the information embraced within these documents.

Respondents: Insurance and surety companies of motor carriers of property (Form MCS-90 and Form MCS-82) and motor carriers of passengers (Form MCS-90B and Form MCS-82B).

Average Burden Per Response: Two minutes to complete the Endorsement for Motor Carrier Policies of Insurances for Public Liability or the Motor Carrier Public Liability Surety Bond; one minute to file the Motor Carrier Public Liability Surety Bond; one minute to have either document on board the vehicle (foreign-domiciled motor carriers only). These endorsements are maintained at the motor carrier's principal place of business (49 CFR 387.7(iii)(d)).

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 5,285 hours.

Frequency: Upon creation, change, or replacement of an insurance policy or surety bond.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.73.

Issued on: August 8, 2003.

Warren E. Hoemann,
Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

**Environmental Impact Statement:
Sussex County, DE**

AGENCIES: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed highway improvement project in northern Sussex County, Delaware.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert F. Kleinburd, Realty and Environmental Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, Delaware Division, J. Allen Frear Federal Building, 300 South New Street, Room 2101, Dover, DE 19904; Telephone: (302) 734-2966; or Mr. Monroe C. Hite, III, P.E., Project

Manager, Delaware Department of Transportation, 800 Bay Road, P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903; Telephone: (302) 760-2120. DelDOT Public Relations office (800) 652-5600 (in DE only).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the construction of a potential new alignment in northern Sussex County, Delaware. The proposed limited access facility could connect two existing highways (U.S. Route 113 and Delaware Route 1), which pass through a rapidly developing commercial area in the City of Milford, Delaware.

DelDOT is currently undertaking a planning study (US 113 North/South Study) to consider improvements for the U.S. Route 113 corridor from the vicinity of Delaware Route 1 north of the City of Milford south to the Delaware/Maryland State Line. The US 113 North/South Study is the next step in the overall planning process for this corridor. This effort will be a follow-up to a previously completed feasibility study (Sussex County North-South Transportation Feasibility Study) in July 2001. The data and findings from the feasibility study indicate that a new alignment bypassing the existing U.S. Route 113 may be considered in the Milford Area.

The US 113 North/South Study recommends that the Milford Area (area in and around the City of Milford located in northern Sussex County, Delaware) should be studied separately from the remaining U.S. Route 113 corridor, south to the Maryland State Line. Because of the potential for a new alignment alternative and the resulting potential for significant impacts on the human environment, the FHWA has determined that an EIS is the appropriate documentation for the Milford Area study.

A program of public involvement and coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies has been initiated. Both agency and public involvement will continue throughout project development. Comments are being solicited from appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Public scoping meetings will be held. Additional informational meetings will be scheduled during the course of the study. In addition, a formal public hearing will be held after the draft EIS

has been prepared. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the scoping meetings, and the formal public hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing on the draft EIS.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments, and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or DelDOT at the addressed provided above:

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued by: August 18, 2003.

Thomas D. Myers,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Dover, Delaware.

[FR Doc. 03-22657 Filed 9-4-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Industry Implementation of Effective Public Awareness Programs

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of advisory bulletin.

SUMMARY: RSPA's Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is issuing this advisory bulletin to owners and operators of hazardous liquid pipelines, gas transmission pipelines, gas distribution pipelines, and crude oil and gas gathering pipeline systems regulated under 49 CFR parts 192 and 195. The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (PSIA) requires that each owner or operator of a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility implement a continuing public education program. By December 17, 2003, each owner or operator must review its existing public education program for effectiveness and modify the program as necessary. RSPA/OPS is asking that each operator complete a self-assessment of its public education program against the guidelines established in the recently-issued consensus standard, American Petroleum Institute's API RP 1162, "Public Awareness Programs for

Pipeline Operators," before December 17, 2003, to demonstrate compliance with the PSIA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Wiese, (202)366-2036; or by e-mail, jeff.wiese@rspa.dot.gov. This document can be viewed at the OPS home page at <http://ops.dot.gov>. General information about the RSPA/OPS programs may be obtained by accessing RSPA's home page at <http://RSPA.dot.gov>.

I. Advisory Bulletin (ADB-03-04)

To: Owners and Operators of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines, Gas Transmission Pipelines, Gas Distribution Pipeline Systems, and Crude Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline Systems.

Subject: Pipeline Industry Implementation of Effective Public Awareness Programs.

Purpose: To advise owners and operators of hazardous liquid, gas transmission, gas distribution, and crude oil and gas gathering pipeline systems of the statutory requirement to review and maintain effective public education programs and to evaluate programs for effectiveness.

Advisory: The (PSIA) requires that each owner or operator of a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility must carry out a continuing public education program. By December 17, 2003, each owner or operator must review its existing public education program for effectiveness and modify the program as necessary. RSPA/OPS is asking each operator to complete a self-assessment of its public education program against the guidelines established in the recently-issued, industry consensus standard, API RP 1162, "Public Awareness Programs for Pipeline Operators." To assist in this process, RSPA/OPS is developing a self-assessment system that operators can access and complete over the Internet. The self-assessment will help operators identify gaps in their public education programs and improvements needed to align their programs with the requirements of API RP 1162. In September 2003, RSPA/OPS, the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives, and the pipeline industry are cosponsoring two public workshops to help operators understand the requirements of the law and the use of the self-assessment system. Operators should submit their self-assessments to RSPA/OPS no later than December 17, 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

II. Background

The Federal pipeline safety regulations at 49 CFR parts 192 and 195 require operators of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines to establish continuing educational programs to enable customers, the public, government organizations, and persons engaged in excavation-related activities to recognize a pipeline emergency for the purpose of reporting it to the operator or the appropriate public officials. The regulations also require that operators implement written programs to prevent pipeline damage from excavation activities and establish public awareness liaison with emergency officials. Accordingly, pipeline operators have previously conducted public awareness programs with the affected public, emergency responders, and excavators along their routes.

The PSIA requires that each owner or operator of a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility must carry out a continuing program to educate the public on the use of a one-call notification system prior to excavation and other damage prevention activities, the possible hazards associated with unintended releases from the pipeline facility, the physical indications that such a release may have occurred, what steps should be taken for public safety in the event of a pipeline release, and how to report such an event.

The PSIA requires that by December 17, 2003 (not later than 12 months after the date of its enactment), each owner or operator of a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility must review its existing public education program for effectiveness and modify the program as necessary. The completed program must include activities to advise affected municipalities, school districts, businesses, and residents of pipeline facility locations. The completed program must be submitted to the Secretary of Transportation or, in the case of an intrastate pipeline facility operator, the appropriate State agency, and shall be periodically reviewed by the Secretary or, in the case of an intrastate pipeline facility operator, the appropriate State agency.

The PSIA also provides that the Secretary of Transportation may issue standards prescribing the elements of an effective public education program. The Secretary may also develop material for use in the program.

In recognition of the importance of effective public awareness programs, outstanding recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board and anticipated legislative action in this regard, an industry task force developed