

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

assessment information on each proposed safety standard to the advisory committees. The TPSSC and/or THLPSSC evaluate the merits of the data and the methods used in these analyses and, when appropriate, provide recommendations on the adequacy of the cost-benefit analyses.

In addition to the advisory committee meetings, OPS will soon publish a separate notice to announce four public meetings to be held during the week of December 13–17, 2004. These public meetings will include sessions on gas distribution system integrity management, the pipeline operator drug and alcohol program, updates to the operator personnel qualification program, and pipeline safety communications. These public meetings are being scheduled during the same week as the advisory committee meetings to afford members of the advisory committees, state pipeline safety representatives, and the general public the maximum opportunity to attend both the advisory committee meetings and the issue-specific public meetings.

Preliminary Meeting Schedule

On Tuesday, December 14, 2004, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. e.s.t., a meeting of the THLPSSC will be held. The agenda includes briefings on the following:

1. American Petroleum Institute (API) Petition—Changes to Liquid Integrity Management Program (IMP).

2. Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines.

3. Direct Assessment for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines (scheduled for VOTE).

On Wednesday, December 15, 2004, from 8:30 p.m. to 12 p.m. e.s.t., the THLPSSC and the TPSSC will meet in joint session. OPS will provide the committees with briefings on the following:

1. Common Ground Alliance.
2. Community and Technical Assistance State Damage Prevention Assessment Briefing.

3. Pipeline Industry Implementation of Public Awareness Programs (scheduled for VOTE).

4. Annual Update of Standards Incorporated by Reference (scheduled for VOTE).

5. Transportation Research Board Report.

6. Passage of Internal Inspection Devices.

On Wednesday, December 15, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. e.s.t., a meeting of the TPSSC will be held. The following topics will be discussed:

1. Gas Gathering Line Definition.
2. Direct Assessment for Gas Pipelines.

3. Protocols for Gas Integrity Management Program.

4. Technical Studies by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60102, 60115.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 18, 2004.

Richard D. Hurioux,

Director, Technical Standards, Office of Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 04–23588 Filed 10–20–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34562]

Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Delaware and Hudson Railway Company, Inc.

Pursuant to a trackage rights agreement dated September 30, 2004, between Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) and Delaware and Hudson Railway Company, Inc. (D&H),¹ D&H has agreed to grant NSR approximately 155.24 miles of overhead trackage rights over the following lines:

(1) Between milepost 37.10± of D&H's Canadian Main Line in Saratoga Springs, NY, and the point of connection between D&H's Canadian Main Line and D&H's Freight Main Line at CPF 480, located at milepost 21.70± of D&H's Canadian Main Line, a total distance of approximately 15.4 miles; (2) between milepost 480.36± and milepost 611.15± of D&H's Freight Main Line in Binghamton, NY, a distance of approximately 130.79 miles; and (3) between milepost 611.15± and milepost 620.20± of D&H's Freight Main Line (including tracks into and within D&H's East Binghamton Yard) in Binghamton, NY, a distance of approximately 9.05 miles.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after the anticipated October 8, 2004, effective date of this exemption.²

The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow for: (1) The overhead

¹ A redacted version of the trackage rights agreement between NSR and D&H was filed with the notice of exemption. The full version of the agreement, as required by 49 CFR 1180.6(a)(7)(ii), was concurrently filed under seal along with a motion for protective order. A protective order was served on October 8, 2004.

² By decision served on October 7, 2004, the effective date of the exemption was stayed until October 27, 2004, to allow for review of certain documents, filing of a petition to revoke, and the Board's consideration of the stay request filed in this proceeding. Accordingly, consummation of the transaction cannot occur until October 27, 2004.

movement between Saratoga Springs and Binghamton of trains by NSR, which are currently handled by D&H for NSR's account between Saratoga Springs and Rouses Point, NY, pursuant to a haulage agreement between NSR and D&H, and (2) movements over D&H's terminal trackage, including within D&H's East Binghamton Yard. Additionally, traffic moved by the trackage rights will be blocked and switched in D&H's East Binghamton Yard pursuant to a switching agreement between NSR and D&H.

As a condition of this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it 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. 34562, 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 Richard A. Allen, Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger LLP, 888 Seventeenth Street, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006–3939.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: October 13, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04–23450 Filed 10–20–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34561]

Canadian Pacific Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Pursuant to a trackage rights agreement dated September 30, 2004, between Canadian Pacific Railway Company (CPRC) and Norfolk Southern