

effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* (PRA), has submitted a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of approval for the currently approved collection of maps in abandonment exemption proceedings. The Board previously published a notice about these collections in the **Federal Register** on July 12, 2006, at 71 FR 39395. That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

The purpose of the current notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment to satisfy the requirements of the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3507(b). Comments are sought from interested persons concerning (1) whether the collection of maps is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) 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.

Description of Collection

Title: Maps Required in Abandonment Exemption Proceedings.

OMB Control Number: 2140-0008.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Railroads initiating abandonment exemption proceedings.

Number of Respondents: 91.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour, based on average time reported in informal survey of respondents conducted in 2003.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 91.

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"

Cost: None has been identified.

Needs and Uses: Under 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(2) and 1152.60(b), the Board requires in each abandonment exemption proceeding a detailed map of the rail line, depicting the line's relation to other rail lines, roads, water routes, and population centers. The Board uses this information to determine the scope and the impact of the proposed abandonment. In addition, this information is posted on the Board's Web site and serves as a form of notice to current and/or potential shippers, and to persons who might want either to continue rail service under 49 U.S.C. 10904; to acquire the line as a trail

under the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C 1247(d); or to acquire the line for another public purpose under 49 U.S.C. 10905.

Deadline: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by December 14, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be in writing and directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, Room 10235, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, or to *Alexander_T._Hunt@omb.eop.gov*. Comments should be identified as "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board, Maps Submitted in Abandonment Proceedings, OMB Control Number 2140-0008."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the regulations pertaining to this information collection may be obtained by contacting Barbara G. Saddler at (202) 565-1656 or *saddlerb@stb.dot.gov*. These rules can also be found on the Board's Web site at *http://www.stb.dot.gov* by searching under "E-Library," and then "Research Aids."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, a Federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. 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: November 14, 2006.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-19179 Filed 11-13-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Notice and Request for Comments

ACTION: 30-Day Notice of Information Collection Under Review: System Diagram Maps.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board), as part of its continuing

effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* (PRA), has submitted a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of approval for the currently approved collection of rail system diagram maps. The Board previously published a notice about these collections in the **Federal Register** on July 21, 2006, at 71 FR 41513. That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. One comment was received. As pertinent here, the commenter emphasized the importance of the Board's collection of system diagram maps in providing advance notice to the public about rail service that is likely to be abandoned, especially in light of the importance of that notice to the viability of the Board's feeder-line program, 49 U.S.C. 10907, which enables shippers and communities to acquire marginal rail lines that are likely to be downgraded or abandoned.

The purpose of the current notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment to satisfy the requirements of the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3507(b). Comments are sought from rail carriers that have recently filed amended or new system diagram maps (or, in the case of small carriers, the alternative narrative description of rail system), as well as from members of the shipping public who may make use of these maps, concerning (1) whether the particular collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) 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.

Description of Collection

Title: System Diagram Maps.

OMB Control Number: 2140-0003.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Common carrier freight railroads that are either new or reporting changes in the status of one or more of their rail lines.

Number of Respondents: 4.

Estimated Time per Response: 4.5 hours, based on average time reported in informal survey of respondents conducted in 2003.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 18 hours (4 respondents × 4.5 hours).

Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden"

Cost: Range is between \$.50 and \$2,550, depending on size and class of carrier.

Needs and Uses: Under 49 U.S.C. 10903(c)(2) and 49 CFR 1152.10–1152.13, all rail carriers subject to the Board's jurisdiction are required to maintain, publish, and submit to the Board a complete diagram of the transportation system operated. These carriers are also required to publish and submit any amendments to their system diagram maps (SDMs) as necessary to keep the SDMs current. Under the Board's regulations, 49 CFR 1152.10(a), a Class III carrier (a carrier with assets of not more than \$20 million in 1991 dollars), may submit the same information in narrative form. The information sought in this collection identifies all lines in a particular railroad's system, categorized to indicate the likelihood that service on a particular line will be abandoned and/or whether service on a line is currently provided under the financial assistance provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10904. This information constitutes advance notice to the Board and the public about likely decreases in the availability of rail service and provides a valuable planning tool for the Board and the shipping public. It facilitates informed decision making by the Board, and permits shippers and communities to participate in Board proceedings that may affect them, to submit timely proposals for continuing rail service under the feeder-line acquisition program (49 U.S.C. 10907(b)(i)), and/or to plan for alternative means of transportation.

Deadline: Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments by December 14, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, Room 10235, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, or to Alexander_T._Hunt@omb.eop.gov. Comments should be identified as "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board, System Diagram Map, OMB Control Number 2140-0003."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the regulations pertaining to this information collection may be obtained by contacting Barbara G. Saddler at (202) 565-1656 or saddlerb@stb.dot.gov. These rules can also be found on the Board's Web site at [http://](http://www.stb.dot.gov)

www.stb.dot.gov by searching under "E-Library," and then "Research Aids."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, a Federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. 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: November 14, 2006.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 281X);
STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 270X)]

Yadkin Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Stanly County, NC; Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Stanly County, NC

Yadkin Railroad Company (Yadkin) and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) (collectively, applicants), have jointly filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR Part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* for Yadkin to abandon, and for NSR to discontinue service over, a 4.14-mile line of railroad between milepost N 27.50 in North Albemarle and milepost N 31.64 in Albemarle, Stanly County, NC. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 28001. The line includes the former stations of North Albemarle and Albemarle.

Applicants have certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a State or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements of

49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication) and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment and discontinuance shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on December 14, 2006, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by November 24, 2006. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 4, 2006, with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicants' representative: James R. Paschall, Senior General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

Applicants have filed environmental and historic reports which address the effects, if any, of the abandonment and discontinuance on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by November 17, 2006. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA at (202) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which was increased to \$1,300 effective on April 19, 2006. See *Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2006 Update*, STB Ex Parte No. 542 (Sub-No. 13) (STB served Mar. 20, 2006).