

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Ex Parte No. 290 (Sub No. 5) (2005-1)]

Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.**ACTION:** Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.**SUMMARY:** The Board has approved the first quarter 2005 rail cost adjustment factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. The first quarter 2005 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 1.107. The first quarter 2005 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.546. The first quarter 2005 RCAF-5 is 0.521.**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2005.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mac Frampton, (202) 565-1541. [Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.]**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, call ASAP Document Solutions at (301) 577-2600. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS: 1-800-877-8339.]

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or energy conservation.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), we conclude that our action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Decided: December 17, 2004.

By the Board, Chairman Nober, Vice Chairman Mulvey, and Commissioner Buttrey.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-28086 Filed 12-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB-874X]

**Sierra Northern Railway—
Abandonment Exemption—in Yolo
County, CA**Sierra Northern Railway (Sierra) has filed a notice of exemption¹ under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt*¹ The notice was supplemented by a filing received on December 15, 2004.*Abandonments* to abandon an approximately 9.27-mile line of railroad extending from milepost 90.5 in the City of West Sacramento to a point south of Pumphouse Road, in Yolo County, CA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 95612 and 95691.

Sierra has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic 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 at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 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 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 January 25, 2005, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by January 3, 2005.

Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 12, 2005, with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

² 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.³ Effective October 31, 2004, the filing fee for an OFA increased to \$1,200. *See Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2004 Update*, STB Ex Parte No. 542 (Sub-No. 11) (STB served Oct. 1, 2004).

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to Sierra's representative: Janie C. I. Sheng, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

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

Sierra has filed an environmental report which addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by December 30, 2004. 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 impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), Sierra shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by Sierra's filing of a notice of consummation by December 23, 2005, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: December 16, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.**Vernon A. Williams,**
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-27977 Filed 12-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0393]

**Proposed Information Collection
Activity: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request****AGENCY:** Office of Management,
Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Management (OM), 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 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 evaluate quotations received and to determine which quotation offers the best value in terms of price and other factors.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before February 22, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Donald E. Kaliher, Office of Acquisition Resources Service (049A5), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail donald.kaliher@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0393" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald E. Kaliher at (202) 273-8819.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), 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, OM invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of OM's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of OM's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Part 813.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0393.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA collects acquisition information from firms and individuals

who wish to sell supplies, services, and construction or who wish to establish blanket purchase agreements (BPA) or other contractually related agreements with VA. VA uses the information collected to determine to whom to award contracts or with whom to enter into BPAs or other contractually related agreements.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Individuals and households, Not-for-profit institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 20,845 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,845.

Dated: December 10, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 04-28031 Filed 12-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0418]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office Management (OM), 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 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 determine whether or not a firm's plant being considered for an award has been inspected by another Federal agency and whether or not an award of a contract to the firm involves a conflict of interest.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before February 22, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Donald E. Kaliher, Office of Acquisition

Resources Service (049A5), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail donald.kaliher@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0418" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald E. Kaliher at (202) 273-8819.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), 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, OM invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of OM's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of OM's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Sections 809.106-1, 809.504(d), and Clause 852.209-70.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0418.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved.

Abstract:

a. VAAR section 809.106-1 requires VA to contact a firm being considered for a contract award for bakery, dairy, or ice cream products or for laundry or dry cleaning services whether or not the firm's facility has recently been inspected by another Federal agency and, if so, which agency. The information is used to determine whether a separate inspection of the facility should be conducted by VA prior to award contract.

b. VAAR section 809.504(d) and Clause 852.209-70 requires VA to determine whether or not to award a contract to a firm that might involve or result in a conflict of interest. VA uses the information to determine whether additional contract terms and conditions are necessary to mitigate the conflict.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; individuals and households; and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Annual Burden: