

Department of State for consideration by the Federal interagency. The plenary session will occur in the late January timeframe (specific date to be determined) at NAPA offices, and like the focus groups, be limited to a predetermined number of attendees due to space limitations. Attendance will be determined by the Department of State with the objective of ensuring balanced and broad representation from stakeholders.

The Department of State is committed to engaging its critical stakeholders in an unprecedented opportunity to review its Program Structure, so as to improve its foreign assistance reform effort currently underway. General information related to U.S. Foreign Assistance may be found at the following Internet site: <http://www.state.gov/f/>.

Dated: December 10, 2007.

Paula R. Lynch,

Acting Director Office of Global/Functional Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E7-24491 Filed 12-17-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Information Collection Requirements (ICRs) abstracted below have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICRs describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burdens. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on October 5, 2007 (72 FR 57097).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 17, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292), or Ms. Gina Christodoulou, Office of Support Systems Staff, RAD-

43, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6139). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Pub. L. 104-13, 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.5, 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.12. On October 5, 2007, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on ICRs that the agency was seeking OMB approval. 72 FR 57097. FRA received one comment in response to this notice.

The comment came from John P. Tolman, Vice President and National Legislative Representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET). The BLET is the duly designated and recognized collective bargaining representative for the craft or class of Locomotive engineer employed on all Class I railroads. The BLET also represents operating and other employees on numerous Class II and Class III railroads. In his letter, Mr. Tolman stated the following:

BLET supports the full range of information collection encompassed under OMB Control Number 2130-0500. However, BLET believes the revision of certain of FRA's forms to require railroads to provide additional information already in their possession will enhance the safety data available to FRA and facilitate more precise analyses of trends in the industry. Specifically, the BLET is concerned that exclusive reliance on mileage-based data in developing accident/incident and injury casualty rates already has compromised the quality of analysis of switching operations. Furthermore, the narrow focus on mileage-based data also may infect data analysis for other freight operations in the future, because mileage-based measures fail to reflect the ongoing evolution of remote control locomotive operations throughout the American railroad industry.

Mr. Tolman then alluded to FRA's prior 60-day **Federal Register** renewal notice pertaining to these activities that was published on December 14, 2005 (70 FR 74103). He noted:

In response to that notice, the BLET filed comments on January 4, 2006 * * * In those comments, we explained in detail, our rationale for revising certain FRA forms to require railroads to report the number of employee hours spent in each of the various classes of service, in addition to the mileage totals currently reported.

In its response to BLET's comments of January 4, 2006, FRA acknowledged that BLET had raised important issues which needed to be looked into carefully. FRA further remarked that it would like to examine these issues by initiating an independent study sometime in 2006, budget permitting.

In the current BLET letter dated November 29, 2007, Mr. Tolman goes on to observe:

In the 21+ months since FRA acknowledged the need to study the vital safety issues our 2006 comments raised, funding for the study has not been allocated. We believe that lack of re-authorization for the rail safety program has been a major factor in this needed work not going forward. Nonetheless, the need for such a study—and possible revision of applicable forms thereafter—is as great today as it was nearly two years ago. Indeed, given that FRA has published at least two sets of guidelines pertaining to non-incident remote control locomotive operations on main track, the issue of data normalization has become more pressing now, in our view. Accordingly, we urge FRA to reiterate the shared concerns identified in our previous comments, and to reaffirm its intention to study the issue when sufficient funding is available to do so.

FRA appreciates BLET's current letter of support for this vital information collection, and now reaffirms its intention to study this issue. Further, FRA hereby states that it will commit agency funding to this study, and plans on beginning this study sometime in the second quarter of 2008. Once this study is completed, FRA will review its accident/incident forms to determine appropriate changes and will, of course, keep the BLET fully apprised of developments.

Before OMB decides whether to approve these proposed collections of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b); 5 CFR 1320.12(d). Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30 day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)-(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); *see also* 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes that the 30 day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect. 5 CFR 1320.12(c); *see also* 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995.

The summaries below describe the nature of the information collection requirements (ICRs) and the expected burden. The proposed requirements are

being submitted for clearance by OMB as required by the PRA.

Title: Accident/Incident Reporting and Recordkeeping.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0500.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Railroads.

Form(s): FRA F 6180.54/55/55A/56/57/78/81/97/98/99/107.

Abstract: The collection of information is due to the railroad accident reporting regulations set forth in 49 CFR part 225 which require railroads to submit monthly reports summarizing collisions, derailments, and certain other accidents/incidents involving damages above a periodically revised dollar threshold, as well as certain injuries to passengers, employees, and other persons on railroad property. Because the reporting requirements and the information needed regarding each category of accident/incident are unique, a different form is used for each category.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 47,521 hours.

Addressee: Send comments regarding these information collections to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 Seventeenth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: FRA Desk Officer. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to OMB at the following address:

oira_submissions@omb.eop.gov.

Comments are invited on the following: Whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimates of the burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 12, 2007.

D.J. Stadler,

Director, Office of Financial Management, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. E7-24516 Filed 12-17-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2007 0023]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel ALL GOOD.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2007-0023 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 17, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2007-0023. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents

entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W21-203, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel ALL GOOD is:

Intended Use: "sportfishing charter."

Geographic Region: "Gulf of Mexico off Texas to 100 NM."

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 19477-19478).

Dated: December 12, 2007.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

Christine Gurland,

Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. E7-24525 Filed 12-17-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2007-0024]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel WINDY DAY.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2007-0024 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S.