

Opening and reply comments must be served on the persons identified as "parties of record" on the service list.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 49 U.S.C. 13703, we have the authority to immunize approved motor carrier bureau agreements from the antitrust laws. One such bureau, the National Motor Freight Traffic Association, operating through its National Classification Committee (NCC), administers the National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC). The NMFC groups all articles moving by truck into classes based on their transportation characteristics. The NCC operates pursuant to a bureau agreement approved in *National Classification Committee—Agreement*, 299 I.C.C. 519 (1956), and renewed in *National Classification Committee—Agreement*, Section 5a Application No. 61 (ICC served May 18, 1987).¹ Under 49 U.S.C. 13703(d) and (e), all motor carrier bureau agreements will expire on December 31, 1998, unless we approve renewal. Renewal of the collective rate setting bureau agreements of the motor carriers is under investigation in Section 5a Application No. 118 (Amendment No. 1), *et al.*²

By this notice, we are commencing a separate proceeding to explore whether we should renew the NCC's agreement before its statutory expiration. In particular, we question whether the NCC needs antitrust immunity given the fact that its activities, such as grouping freight with common transportation characteristics, publishing bill of lading formats, and gathering information, would not, on the surface, appear to involve antitrust violations. The parties are invited to address, and organize their discussion of, this and other public interest issues by answering the following specific questions:

1. Does the NCC in fact engage in activities that would violate the antitrust laws in the absence of antitrust immunity conferred under 49 U.S.C. 13703?

2. If the NCC engages in activities that would violate the antitrust laws in the absence of antitrust immunity under section 13703, does the public interest require (a) continued exemption of these activities from antitrust law, subject to our regulation, or (b) a regime of marketplace competition subject to antitrust law? Are there "borderline" areas of NCC activity that might be subject to antitrust enforcement in the absence of immunization under 49 U.S.C. 13703, where the public interest warrants continued antitrust immunity for those activities under that section?

3. Should we exclude from any immunity we might confer activities that would *not* violate the antitrust laws in the absence of antitrust immunity, so as to avoid confusing the public about the scope and impact of our regulatory jurisdiction?

4. How do the public interests aspects of the NCC's activities relate to the public interest aspects of the activities of the operating motor carrier rate bureaus, whose renewal is the subject of the proceedings in Section 5a Application No. 118 (Amendment No. 1), *et al.*, *supra*? If we decide not to renew the rate setting immunity of those bureaus, could we, and should we, nonetheless continue immunity for classification?

Decided: November 5, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-29901 Filed 11-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB CONTROL NO. 2900-0546]

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Proposed Collection; Comment Request, Revision

AGENCY: National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Cemetery System (NCS) 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 proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on requirements relating to the biennial survey of individuals holding gravesite set-asides in national cemeteries to determine if they wish to retain their set-aside, or wish to relinquish it.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Rosetta Holloway, National Cemetery System (402D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0546" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosetta Holloway at (202) 273-5185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), 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, NCS invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of NCS's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of NCS'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 and Form Number: Adjacent Gravesite Set-Aside Survey (2 Year), VA Form Letter 40-40.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0546.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: In the past, the survey was conducted annually. VA Form Letter 40-40 will be sent biennially (once every two years on a 24 month rotating basis) to individuals holding gravesite set-asides in national cemeteries to ascertain their wish to retain their set-aside, or wish to relinquish it. The collection of information is necessary to assure that gravesite set-asides are not

¹ Traditionally, motor carrier rate bureau proceedings have been identified as "Section 5a" proceedings, in reference to section 5a of the Interstate Commerce Act as it existed prior to its 1978 codification as 49 U.S.C. 10706. In the ICC Termination Act of 1995, the statutory provisions governing motor carrier rate bureau agreements were severed from the rail provisions of section 10706 and recodified as section 13703.

² See the notice published in the **Federal Register** on May 20, 1997, at 62 FR 27653, and the Board's decisions in those consolidated proceedings served on May 20, 1997, and August 15, 1997. In the decision served on August 15, 1997, we denied a petition to expand the consolidated proceedings to consider whether antitrust immunity should be continued for activities under the NCC agreement, but stated that we would in the future address matters relating to antitrust immunity for NCC activities separately.

wasted. Some holders become ineligible, are buried elsewhere, or simply wish to cancel a gravesite set-aside for them. Without this information, unused set-asides would exist which could be used by other veterans.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Biennially.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 18,000.

Dated: October 17, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

Barbara Epps,

Management Analyst, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-29785 Filed 11-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0227]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Revision

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) 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 of the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on VHA's National Customer Feedback Surveys.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection to Ann Bickoff, Veterans Health Administration (161A1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0227" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Bickoff at (202) 273-8310.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), 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, VHA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA'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) way 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: National Customer Feedback Surveys.

Survey Instruments and Form Numbers: a. Prosthetic Patient Satisfaction Survey, VA Form 10-0142B.

b. Customer Feedback Surveys, VA Form 10-1465 (Series): Nationwide Inpatient Survey, VA Form 10-1465-1; Mental Health Insert, VA Form 10-1465-2; Nationwide Outpatient Survey, VA Form 10-1465-3; Health Update Insert, VA Form 10-1465-4; Persian Gulf Patient Survey Inpatient, VA Form 10-1465-5; Persian Gulf Patient Survey Outpatient, VA Form 10-1465-6; Spinal Cord Injury Inpatient Survey, VA Form 10-1465-7; Spinal Cord Injury Outpatient Survey, VA Form 10-1465-8; Home Based Primary Care, VA Form 10-1465-9; Nursing Home Care, VA Form 10-1465-10; Women Veterans Patient Survey, VA Form 10-1465-11; Ambulatory Care Team, VA Form 10-1465-12.

c. Dietetic Service Survey, VA Form 10-5387.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0227.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: a. The Prosthetic Patient Satisfaction Survey is used to systematically obtain information from prosthetic patients that can be used to identify problems or complaints that need attention and to improve the quality of prosthetic services. The information obtained from the survey will be integrated into each VA filed facility's overall Quality Management Program.

b. The Customer Feedback Surveys are used to implement Title 38, U.S.C., Section 219, which requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to evaluate programs and provision of services to beneficiaries. The information collected meets management, medical and legislative requirements and helps assure that the VA maintains a high quality of care for those who have served the nation.

c. The Dietetic Service Survey is used to collect the necessary information to determine whether improvements are needed to enhance the patients' nutritional therapy. The information will be used to effectively gauge when improvements are needed to enhance patient's nutritional therapy. The information obtained through the survey will have practical utility at all levels of the program to plan and redirect resources and efforts to improve or maintain a high quality of service.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 87,032 total hours.

a. Prosthetic Patient Satisfaction Survey—1,557 hours.

b. Customer Feedback Surveys: Nationwide Inpatient Survey—8,452 hours; Mental Health Insert—4,226 hours; Nationwide Outpatient Survey—6,875 hours; Health Update Insert—6,875 hours; Persian Gulf Patient Inpatient Survey—12,500 hours; Persian Gulf Patient Outpatient Survey—12,500 hours; Spinal Cord Injury Inpatient Survey—1,875 hours; Spinal Cord Injury Outpatient Survey—1,875 hours; Home Based Primary Care Survey—627 hours; Nursing Home Care Survey—1,333 hours; Women Veterans Patient Survey—1,250 hours; Ambulatory Care Team Survey—22,500 hours.

c. Dietetic Service Survey—4,587 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent. a. Prosthetic Patient Satisfaction Survey—3 minutes.

b. Customer Feedback Surveys: Nationwide Inpatient Survey—15 minutes; Mental Health Insert—7.5 minutes; Nationwide Outpatient Survey—15 minutes; Health Update Insert—15 minutes; Persian Gulf Patient Inpatient Survey—30 minutes; Persian Gulf Patient Outpatient Survey—30 minutes; Spinal Cord Injury Inpatient Survey—22 minutes; Spinal Cord Injury Outpatient Survey—22 minutes; Home Based Primary Care Survey—15 minutes; Nursing Home Care Survey—20 minutes; Women Veterans Patient Survey—15 minutes; Ambulatory Care Team Survey—15 minutes.

c. Dietetic Service Survey—2 minutes.
Frequency of Response: On occasion.