

renewal for one Information Collection Request (ICR). The ICR concerns vessels response plans, facility response plans, shipboard oil pollution emergency plans, and additional requirements for Prince William Sound, Alaska. Before submitting the ICR package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the U.S. Coast Guard is asking for comments on the collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to Commandant (G-SII-2), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Room 6106 (Attn: Barbara Davis), 2100 Second St, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001, or deliver them to the same address between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 267-2326. The comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying by appointment at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Davis, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Information Management, telephone (202) 267-2326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The U.S. Coast Guard encourages interested persons to submit written views, comments, data, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this Notice and the specific ICR to which each comments applies, and give reasons for each comments. The U.S. Coast Guard requests that all comments and attachments be submitted in an unbound format no larger than 8½ by 11 inches suitable for copying and electronic filing. If that is not practical, a second copy of any bound material is requested. Persons desiring acknowledgement that their comments have been received should enclose a stamped, self-addressed post card or envelope.

Interested persons can receive copies of the complete ICR by contacting Ms. Davis where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

Information Collection Requests

1. **Title:** Vessel Response Plans, Facility Response Plans, Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans, and Additional Requirements for Prince William Sound, Alaska.

OMB Control No. 2115-0595.

Summary: Three of the requirements found in this collection of information are from the passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-380). The requirements meet the intent of the Oil

Pollution Action of 1990 to reduce the impact of oil spills by requiring owners or operators of certain tank vessels and facilities to plan response actions, practice those actions, and ensure, through appropriate means, the necessary response resources for an oil spill. Additionally, Regulation 26 of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78, the Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan requirements were designed to improve response capabilities and minimize environmental impacts of oil spills.

Need: 33 U.S.C. 1321 requires the development of tank vessel and facility response plans. 33 U.S.C. 1901-1911 requires the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 in U.S. regulations. 33 U.S.C. 2735 requires the additional response measure in Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Respondents: Owners or operators of tank vessels that carry oil in bulk and operate in waters subject of U.S. jurisdiction; owners or operators of marine transportation-facilities; owners or operators of U.S. flag oil tankers of 150 gross tons and above and each U.S. ship of 400 gross tons and above; owners or operators of tank vessels that load cargo at a facility permitted under the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act in Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Frequency: On occasion and annually.

Burden Estimate: The estimated burden is 188,629 hours annually.

Dated: December 4, 1997.

O.N. Naccara,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Director of Information and Technology.

[FR Doc. 97-32261 Filed 12-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (DOT/FAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) this notice announces that the information collection request described below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. The FAA is requesting an immediate emergency clearance in accordance with 5 CFR § 1320.13. The following information describes the

nature of the information collection and its expected burden.

DATES: Submit any comments to OMB and FAA by February 9, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Office of Rulemaking Request for Evaluation of Customer Standards Survey.

Need: This information is being conducted to comply with the Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards. The information will be used to evaluate agency performance in the area of response to exemptions. The completion of this form is voluntary and the information collection will be conducted anonymously.

Respondents: 325 individuals/business who have applied for exemptions.

Frequency: Annually.

Burden: 81 hours annually.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the request for clearance submitted to OMB, you may contact Ms. Judith Street at the: Federal Aviation Administration, Corporate Information Division, ABC-100, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591.

Comments may be submitted to the agency at the address above and to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, Attention FAA Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 3, 1997.

Steve Hopkins,

Manager, Corporate Information Division, ABC-100.

[FR Doc. 97-32265 Filed 12-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Montgomery and Frederick Counties, Maryland

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed transportation project in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Renee Sigel, Planning, Research, and Environmental Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration, The

Rotunda—Suite 220, 711 West 40th Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21211. Telephone (410) 962-4440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of Transportation, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to provide multi-modal transportation measures within the I-270/U.S. 15 corridor in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, Maryland for a distance of approximately 35 miles.

The proposed strategies consist of a combination of improvements to the existing corridor such as highway widening, and transportation management strategies, as well as additional multi-modal facilities including a busway, or light rail transit. The purpose of the proposed transportation improvements is to address the effect of regional growth and traffic congestion on transportation trends and safety operations.

The I-270/U.S. 15 Corridor provides a connection between the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and central and western Maryland, as well as to the midwest via I-70 and I-68. Current operating conditions within the I-270/U.S. 15 Corridor reflect severe traffic congestion at many locations within the project area. Congestion is expected to increase as continued growth in both population and employment occur over the next quarter century.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and Local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A public hearing is anticipated in the fall of 1998. Public notice will be given of the time and place of this hearing.

The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. Scoping meetings for the public, agencies, and for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments have been conducted throughout the course of the project. No formal scoping meeting for this project is planned at this time.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties.

Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning And Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued On: December 3, 1997.

Renee Sigel,

Planning, Research and Environment Team Leader, Baltimore.

[FR Doc. 97-32316 Filed 12-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of 49 CFR Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 235 and 49 U.S.C. App. 26, the following railroads have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 236 as detailed below.

Rules Standards & Instructions Application (RS&I-AP)—No. 1102

Applicants

New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Incorporated, Mr. Robert A. Randall, Vice President and General Manager—Rail, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246.

Morristown and Erie Railway, Incorporated, Mr. Benjamin Friedland, President and General Manager, P. O. Box 2206, Morristown, New Jersey 07962-2206.

New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Incorporated (NJTR) and the Morristown and Erie Railway, Incorporated (ME), jointly seek temporary relief from Section 236.566 of the Rules, Standards, and Instructions (49 CFR 236.566), to the extent that NJTR be permitted to operate two non-equipped ME locomotives in automatic cab signal territory, on the Morristown Line between Lower Hack, milepost 2.7 and Netcong, milepost 48.0; the Bergen County Line between Bergen Junction, milepost 3.1 and "BT," milepost 14.2; and the Boonton Line between Mountain View, milepost 21.3 and Denville, milepost 34.4, until such time as the locomotives can be equipped with automatic cab signal and automatic train control equipment, on or before June 30, 1998.

Applicant's justification for relief: NJTR is currently installing an automatic cab system on the associated trackage, and temporary relief is requested so that the other freight and passenger service can benefit at the earliest time, from the additional safety afforded by the cab signal and automatic train control systems.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, and contain a concise statement of the interest of the protestant in the proceeding. The original and two copies of the protest shall be filed with the Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 within 45 calendar days of the date of issuance of this notice. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

FRA expects to be able to determine these matters without oral hearing. However, if a specific request for an oral hearing is accompanied by a showing that the party is unable to adequately present his or her position by written statements, an application may be set for public hearing.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 1, 1997.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 97-32312 Filed 12-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-97-3190]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1994-1997 Mercedes-Benz S500 Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1994-1997 Mercedes-Benz S500 passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1994-1997 Mercedes-Benz S500 passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because (1) They are substantially