

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration**

[Docket: RSPA-98-4957; Notice 1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Existing Information Collection**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Marvin Fell, (202) 366-6205, to ask questions about this notice, or write by e-mail to marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUMMARY: This notice requests public participation in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval process for the extension an existing RSPA information collection. RSPA's information collection concerns a pipeline safety regulation that requires gas service line operators who do not maintain certain customer piping to notify the customers of the need to maintain the piping.**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by March 23, 1999 to be assured of consideration.**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to send comments to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, D.C., 20590. Please identify the docket and notice numbers shown in the heading of this notice.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:***Title:* Customer-Owned Service Lines.*Type of Request:* Existing information collection.*Abstract:* RSPA pipeline safety regulation 49 CFR 192.16 requires operators of gas service lines who do not maintain buried customer piping up to building walls or certain other locations to notify their customers of the need to maintain that piping. Congress directed DOT to take this action in response to service line accidents. By advising customers of the need to maintain their buried gas piping, the notices may reduce the risk of future accidents.

Each operator must make the following records available for inspection by RSPA or a State agency participating in the Federal pipeline safety program at 49 U.S.C. 60105 or 60106: (1) a copy of the notice currently in use; and (2) evidence that notices have been sent to customers within the previous 3 years.

Estimate of Burden: Minimal.*Respondents:* Gas transmission and distribution operators.*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,590.*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 350.*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 9,167 hours.

Comments are invited on: (a) the need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

All timely written comments to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also be available to the public in the docket.

Issued in Washington, DC on January 11, 1999.

Richard B. Felder,*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 99-1454 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Financial Crimes Enforcement Network****Proposed Collection; Comment Request****AGENCY:** Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Treasury.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury ("Treasury"), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN") is soliciting comments concerning a new form, "Designation of Exempt Person," for use by banks and other depository institutions ("banks") in designating their eligible customers as exempt from the requirement that banks report to Treasury customer

transactions in currency in excess of \$10,000.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 23, 1999 to be assured of consideration.**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to: Office of Chief Counsel, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, Suite 200, 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22182-2536, *Attention:* PRA Comments—Designation of Exempt Person. Comments also may be submitted by electronic mail to the following Internet address:"regcomments@fincen.treas.gov" with the caption in the body of the text, "*Attention:* PRA Comments—Designation of Exempt Person."**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**Requests for additional information should be directed to Charles Klingman, Financial Institutions Policy Specialist, FinCEN, at (703) 905-3602, or Eileen Dolan, FinCEN, at (703) 905-3618. A copy of the form may be obtained through the Internet at <http://www.treas.gov/fincen>.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:***Title:* Designation of Exempt Person.*OMB Number:* 1506-0012.*Form Number:* TD F 90-22.53.*Abstract:* The Bank Secrecy Act, Titles I and II of Pub. L. 91-508, as amended, codified at 12 U.S.C. 1829b, 12 U.S.C. 1951-1959, and 31 U.S.C. 5311-5330, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, *inter alia*, to issue regulations requiring records and reports that are determined to have a high degree of usefulness in criminal, tax, and regulatory matters. Regulations implementing Title II of the Bank Secrecy Act (codified at 31 U.S.C. 5311-5330) appear at 31 CFR part 103. The authority of the Secretary to administer Title II of the Bank Secrecy Act has been delegated to the Director of FinCEN.

The reporting by financial institutions of transactions in currency in excess of \$10,000 has long been a major component of the Department of the Treasury's implementation of the Bank Secrecy Act. The reporting requirement is imposed by 31 CFR 103.22, a rule issued under the broad authority granted to the Secretary of the Treasury by 31 U.S.C. 5313(a) to require reports of domestic coins and currency transactions.

The Money Laundering Suppression Act of 1994, Title IV of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act (Pub. L. 103-325) amended 31 U.S.C. 5313. The statutory amendments mandate exemptions from currency transaction reporting in the case of customers that

are other banks, certain governmental entities, or businesses for which reporting would serve little or no law enforcement purpose. The amendments also authorize Treasury to exempt certain other businesses.

On September 8, 1997, and September 21, 1998, Treasury issued final rules regarding these statutory amendments (62 FR 47141 and 63 FR 50147, respectively). The final rules reform and simplify the process by which banks may exempt eligible customers.

Under the simplified procedures of the new rules, a key requirement is a "designation" sent to the Treasury indicating that a customer will be treated by the bank as an exempt person, so that no further currency transaction reports will be filed on the customer's cash transactions exceeding \$10,000. As part of the simplification process, Treasury is issuing a new form specifically for making that designation. This dedicated-use form will be easier to use than the current procedure, which requires banks to complete certain entries on the currency transaction report itself. The dedicated-use form will also enable Treasury to develop procedures for the magnetic media filing of exemptions.

The information collected on the new form, Designation of Exempt Person, TD F 90-22.53 is required to exempt bank customers from currency transaction reporting. The information is used to help determine whether a bank has properly exempted its customers. The collection of information is mandatory.

Type of Review: New information collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 19,000.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 250,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: Reporting average of 10 minutes per response; recordkeeping average of 1 hour per response. Estimated total annual burden hours: Reporting burden of 41,667 hours; recordkeeping burden of 250,000 hours, for an estimated combined total of 291,667 hours.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Records required to be retained under the Bank Secrecy Act must be retained for five years. Generally, information collected pursuant to the Bank Secrecy Act is confidential, but may be shared as provided by law with regulatory and law enforcement authorities.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: January 13, 1999.

William F. Baity,

Acting Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

[FR Doc. 99-1485 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Announcement Concerning Y2K Compliance

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: Customs computer systems have been modified to ensure that they are Y2K compliant—meaning that Customs computer program systems will process data entered for the year 2000 as 2000 and not as the year 1900. This notice announces Customs plan to allow members of the trade with electronic filing capabilities that are approved to interface with Customs through Customs automated systems and that can meet certain operational requirements to transmit trial data to establish if their computer software applications will interface properly with Customs Y2K compliant systems. The purpose of these compliance trials is to provide an opportunity for the trade community to assess their computer applications' Y2K readiness and raise the confidence level of the trade community in Customs Y2k renovated systems.

This notice invites comments concerning any aspect of this exercise and informs interested members of the trade community of the operational

requirements for voluntary participation in the exercise.

DATES: The compliance trials will commence no earlier than February 1, 1999 and will run for approximately four months. Any electronic filer interested in participating should contact their Customs or Census client representative on or before February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding this notice and/or requests to participate in these trials should be addressed to the Chief, Trade Support Branch, U. S. Customs Service, 7501 Boston Blvd., #211, Springfield, VA 22153.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information in general, contact your Customs or Census client representative. For carriers filing in the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), contact the APIS Technical coordinator, Charles Fife (703) 921-5816; Fax (703) 921-5901.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Because of a decision made at the dawn of the computer age to save scarce computer memory by giving all dates a two-digit field in the belief that those early computers would be replaced by the year 2000, computer systems worldwide may malfunction or produce inaccurate information on January 1, 2000. The reason these computer systems may malfunction is that the computers may misinterpret data entered for the year 2000 ("00") as 1900, rather than 2000. This problem is frequently referred to as the Y2K (for Year 2000) problem. Unless corrected, such failures will have a costly widespread impact on federal, state, and local governments, foreign governments, and private sector organizations. All sectors of the economy, many of which provide goods and services that are vital to the nation's health and well being, are at risk, including: telecommunications; public utilities; transportation; banking and finance; commerce and small business; national defense; government revenue collection and benefit payments; and health, safety, and emergency services. Moreover, a Y2K problem in one sector may cascade to others due to the many interdependencies and linkages among them.

The various Customs automated interfaces that may be affected by the Y2K problem include, the Automated Broker Interface, the Automated Manifest System, the Automated Commercial Environment, the Advance