

respondents are employers of the beneficiaries.

*Number of Respondents:* 150,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 40 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 100,000 hours.

(SSA Address)

Social Security Administration,  
DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W.  
Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations  
Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd.,  
Baltimore, MD 21235

(OMB Address)

Office of Management and Budget,  
OIRA, Attn: Lori Schack, New  
Executive Office Building, Room  
10230, 725 17th St., NW,  
Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 22, 1999.

**Frederick W. Brickenkamp,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security  
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-28434 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3146]

### Shipping Coordinating Committee Assembly and Council; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, November 2, in Room 6103, at U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize preparations for the 20th session of the Extraordinary Council, 83rd Session of Council and 21st Session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which is scheduled for 12-26 November 1999, at the IMO Headquarters in London. Discussions will focus on papers received and draft U.S. positions.

Among other things, the items of particular interest are:

- Reports of Committees;
- Reports on Diplomatic Conferences;
- Work Program and Budget for 1998-1999;
- Election of Members of the Council.

Members of the public may attend these meetings up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: Director, International Affairs, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (G-CI), Room 2114, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC

20593-0001 or by calling: (202) 267-2280.

**Susan K. Bennett,**

*Director, Office of Transportation Policy, U.S.  
Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 99-28518 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-1999-5895]

#### Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway; Public Hearing

On July 29, 1999, FRA published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's (BNSF) request to obtain a permanent waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Safety Appliance Standards, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 231, and the Power Brakes and Drawbars regulations, 49 CFR part 232, concerning RoadRailer<sup>®</sup> train operations over their railroad system. Specifically, BNSF requests relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 231, which specifies the number, location and dimensional specifications for handholds, ladders, sill steps, uncoupling levers and handbrakes; and Section § 232.2, which regulates drawbar height.

As a result of comments received by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) concerning this waiver petition, FRA has determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this petition. Accordingly, a public hearing is hereby set for 10 a.m. on November 23, 1999, in the Minnesota/Michigan Conference Room at the FAA Building, 2300 E. Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at this hearing. The hearing will be informal and will be conducted in accordance with Rule 25 of the FRA Rules of Practice (49 CFR 211.25) by a representative designated by FRA. The FRA representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing, as well as any additional procedures for the conduct of the hearing. The hearing will be a non-adversarial proceeding in which all interested parties will be given the opportunity to express their views regarding this waiver petition without cross-examination. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make a brief rebuttal will be given an opportunity to do so in

the same order in which initial statements were made.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 25, 1999.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety  
Standards and Program Development.*

[FR Doc. 99-28349 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33809]

#### RailTex, Inc., North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Company, Inc., Chesapeake and Albemarle Railroad Company, Inc., Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, Inc., Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc., and Indiana Southern Railroad, Inc.—Corporate Family Transaction; Exemption

RailTex, Inc. (RailTex),<sup>1</sup> North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Company, Inc. (NCVA), Chesapeake and Albemarle Railroad Company, Inc. (CA), Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, Inc., a Texas corporation (DGNO), Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. (MMRR), and Indiana Southern Railroad, Inc. (ISRR), have jointly filed a verified notice of exemption. As part of the proposed corporate restructuring: (1) the assets of DGNO and MMRR, including the assets of the Texas Northeastern Division, a division of MMRR, will be merged into Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, Inc., a Delaware Division (DGNO Delaware), with DGNO Delaware as the surviving entity; (2) the assets of NCVA and CA will be merged into North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation (NCVA Delaware), with NCVA Delaware as the surviving entity; and (3) ISRR will be reincorporated in the State of Delaware. After the transaction is consummated, RailTex will control 16 Class III railroads in the United States.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after October 15, 1999.

The purpose of the transaction is to simplify RailTex's corporate structure and eliminate costs associated with separate accounting, tax, bookkeeping and reporting functions. The proposed transaction will also allow for the reincorporation of additional RailTex subsidiaries in the State of Delaware

<sup>1</sup> RailTex is a noncarrier, which at the time of filing, directly controlled 18 Class III railroads operating in 20 states, as well as 3 rail carriers that operate in Canada.

thereby simplifying RailTex's corporate governance.

This is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3). The parties state that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33809, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morell, P.C., Ball Janik LLP, Suite 225, 1455 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: October 25, 1999.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-28412 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### Treasury Current Value of Funds Rate

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of rate for use in Federal debt collection and discount evaluation.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 11 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3717), the Secretary of the Treasury is

responsible for computing and publishing the percentage rate to be used in assessing interest charges for outstanding debts on claims owed the Government. Treasury's Cash Management Regulations (I TFM 6-8000) also prescribe use of this rate by agencies as a comparison point in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a cash discount. Notice is hereby given that the applicable rate is 5 percent for calendar year 2000.

**DATES:** The rate will be in effect for the period beginning on January 1, 2000 and ending on December 31, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquiries should be directed to the Program Compliance Division, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, 401 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. 20227 (Telephone: (202) 874-6630).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The rate reflects the current value of funds to the Treasury for use in connection with Federal Cash Management systems and is based on investment rates set for purposes of Pub. L. 95-147, 91 Stat. 1227. Computed each year by averaging investment rates for the 12-month period ending every September 30 for applicability effective January 1, the rate is subject to quarterly revisions if the annual average, on the moving basis, changes by 2 per centum. The rate in effect for calendar year 2000 reflects the average investment rates for the 12-month period that ended September 30, 1999.

Dated: October 25, 1999.

**Betty H. Lane,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Federal Finance.*

[FR Doc. 99-28317 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

[FI-189-84]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the 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,

Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, FI-189-84 (TD 8517), Debt Instruments With Original Issue Discount; Imputed Interest on Deferred Payment Sales or Exchanges of Property (§§ 1.1272-3, 1.1273-2(h), 1.1274-3(d), 1.1274-5(b), 1.1274A-1(c), and 1.1275-3(b)).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before December 28, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5242, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Debt Instruments With Original Issue Discount; Imputed Interest on Deferred Payment Sales or Exchanges of Property.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1353.

*Regulation Project Number:* FI-189-84.

*Abstract:* This regulation provides definitions, reporting requirements, elections, and general rules relating to the tax treatment of debt instruments with original issue discount and the imputation of, and accounting for, interest on certain sales or exchanges of property.

*Current Actions:* There is no change to this existing regulation.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations, farms and state, local or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 525,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 21 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 185,500.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

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.

Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information