

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

[Docket No. RSPA-2002-11270, Notice No. 02-2]

Safety Advisory: Unauthorized Marking of Compressed Gas Cylinders**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.**ACTION:** Safety advisory notice.

SUMMARY: This is to notify the public that RSPA and the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General (OIG) are investigating the unauthorized marking of high-pressure compressed gas cylinders by Fire Safety Products, Inc. Fire Safety Products, Inc. has two facilities: 203 Depot Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, and 101 Beckley Road, Princeton, WV 24605. RSPA and the OIG determined that Fire Safety Products marked and certified an undetermined number of high pressure DOT specification and exemption cylinders as properly tested in accordance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), when the cylinders were not hydrostatically retested or visually inspected, or when the cylinders were improperly tested and inspected.

A hydrostatic retest and visual inspection, conducted as prescribed in the HMR, are used to verify the structural integrity of a cylinder. If the hydrostatic retest and visual inspection are not performed in accordance with the HMR, a cylinder with compromised structural integrity may be returned to service when it should be condemned. Extensive property damage, serious personal injury, or death could result from rupture of a cylinder. Cylinders not retested in accordance with the HMR may not be charged or filled with compressed gas or other hazardous material and offered for transportation in commerce.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony Lima, Hazardous Materials Enforcement Specialist, Eastern Region, Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 306, W. Trenton, NJ 08034. Telephone: (609) 989-2256, Fax: (609) 989-2277.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through its investigation of Fire Safety Products, RSPA and the OIG determined that Fire Safety Products marked and certified an undetermined number of cylinders as properly tested in accordance with the HMR without conducting proper testing

of the cylinders. RSPA and the OIG also discovered that Fire Safety Products destroyed all records of retest and reinspection created prior to April 2001. As a result of this destruction of records, it is impossible to determine, at this time, the number of cylinders in question. The cylinders detailed on Fire Safety Products' records from April 2001 to August 2001 may only represent a limited number of the total number of cylinders that Fire Safety Products apparently marked and certified as in compliance with the HMR, without properly testing and inspecting them. Therefore, all cylinders marked and certified as requalified by Fire Safety Products after August 1998, may pose a safety risk to the public and should be considered unsafe for use in hazardous materials service until retested by a DOT-authorized facility.

Fire Safety Products' Retester Identification Number (RIN) is C716. The cylinders in question are stamped with RIN C716 in the following pattern:

C 7
M Y
61

M is the month of retest (e.g., 10), and Y is the year of the retest (e.g., 01).

Anyone who has a cylinder serviced by Fire Safety Products since August 3, 1998, and has not retested the cylinder since then, should consider the cylinder unsafe and not fill it with a hazardous material unless the cylinder is first properly retested by a DOT-authorized retest facility. Cylinders described in this safety advisory that are filled with an atmospheric gas should be vented or otherwise safely discharged and then taken to a DOT-authorized cylinder retest facility for proper retest. This action is to determine compliance with the HMR and to ensure the cylinders' suitability for continuing service. Cylinders described in this safety advisory that are filled with a material other than an atmospheric gas should not be vented, but instead should be safely discharged. Upon discharge, the cylinders should be taken to a DOT-authorized cylinder retest facility for proper retest to determine compliance with the HMR and to ensure their suitability for continuing service. The inspector can provide a list of authorized retest facilities in your area, or you may obtain the list at the following website: <http://hazmat.dot.gov>. Under no circumstance should a cylinder described in this safety advisory be filled, refilled or used for its intended purpose until it is reinspected and retested by a DOT-authorized retest facility.

RSPA requests that any person possessing a cylinder described in this safety advisory telephone or provide a facsimile to Inspector Lima with the following information for each cylinder: (1) The cylinder manufacturer's name, (2) the serial number of the cylinder, (3) the DOT specification or exemption information for the cylinder, and (4) the month and year of the last marked retest by Fire Safety Products.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 28, 2002.

Frits Wybenga,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-5344 Filed 3-5-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB-101 (Sub-No. 15X)]

Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in St. Louis County, MN

Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway Company (DM&IR) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances* to abandon and discontinue service over a 0.63-mile line of railroad known as the Virginia Branch, extending from milepost B5.5 to milepost B6.1, in St. Louis County, MN. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 55792.

DM&IR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) no overhead traffic has been handled over the line for at least 2 years; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment and discontinuance shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial

revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on April 5, 2002, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by March 18, 2002. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by March 26, 2002 with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Thomas R. Ogoreuc, 135 Jamison Lane, Monroeville, PA 15146.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

DM&IR has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by March 11, 2002. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1552. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), DM&IR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned its line. If consummation has not been effected by DM&IR's filing of a notice of consummation by March 6, 2003, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

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

Decided: February 25, 2002.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-4928 Filed 3-5-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 27, 2002.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 5, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-1570.

Regulation Project Number: REG-120168-97 (Final).

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Preparer Due Diligence Requirements for Determining Earned Income Credit Eligibility.

Description: Income tax return preparers who satisfy the due diligence requirements in this regulation will avoid the imposition of the penalty under section 6695(g) of the Internal Revenue Code for returns or claims for refund due after December 31, 1997. The due diligence requirements include soliciting the information necessary to determine a taxpayer's eligibility for, and amount of, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the retention of this information.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 100,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper: 5 hours, 4 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 507,136 hours.

Clearance Officer: George Freeland, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5577, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Mary A. Able,

Departmental Reports, Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-5259 Filed 3-5-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0379]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 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 extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to verify the actual number of hours worked by a work-study claimant.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before May 6, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0379" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each