

investors and the public interest. Acceleration of the operative date will allow the pilot to continue without interruption. For these reasons, the Commission designates the proposal to be effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.¹¹

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CSE-2003-03 and should be submitted by April 25, 2003.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-8183 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Interest Rates

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the optional "peg" rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This

rate will be 4.500 (4½) percent for the April-June quarter of FY 2003.

LeAnn M. Oliver,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 03-8243 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Public Federal Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Roundtable; Region VI Regulatory Fairness Board

The Small Business Administration Region VI Regulatory Fairness Board and the SBA Office of the National Ombudsman will hold a Public Roundtable on Tuesday, April 22, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. at the State Chamber at 330 NE., 10th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104, to provide small business owners and representatives of trade associations with an opportunity to share information concerning the federal regulatory enforcement and compliance environment.

Anyone wishing to attend or to make a presentation must contact Darla Booker in writing or by fax, in order to be put on the agenda. Darla Booker, U.S. Small Business Administration, Oklahoma District Office, 210 Park Avenue, Suite 1300, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, phone (405) 231-5521 Ext. 243, fax (405) 231-4876, e-mail: Darla.Booker@sba.gov.

For more information, see our Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman>.

Dated: March 31, 2003

Michael L. Barrera,

National Ombudsman.

[FR Doc. 03-8241 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Public Federal Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Hearing; Region VI Regulatory Fairness Board

The Small Business Administration Region VI Regulatory Fairness Board and the SBA Office of the National Ombudsman will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 24, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. at the Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business, Fincher Building Gallery, 6212 Bishop Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75205, to receive comments and testimony from small business owners, small government entities, and small non-profit organizations concerning regulatory enforcement and compliance actions taken by Federal agencies.

Anyone wishing to attend or to make a presentation must contact Glenda Schufford in writing or by fax, in order to be put on the agenda. Glenda Schufford, U.S. Small Business Administration, Dallas/Fort Worth District Office, 4300 Amon Carter Boulevard, Suite 114, Fort Worth, TX 76155, phone (817) 684-5500 Ext. 5526, fax (817) 684-5543, e-mail: Glenda.Schufford@sba.gov.

For more information, see our Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman>.

Dated: March 31, 2003.

Michael L. Barrera,

National Ombudsman.

[FR Doc. 03-8242 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Delegation of Authority 255]

Delegation by the Deputy Secretary of State to the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs of All Authorities Normally Vested in the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the United States, including the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, and the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, and pursuant to Delegation of Authority No. 245 (April 23, 2001), I hereby delegate to the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, to the extent authorized by law, all authorities vested in the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, including all authorities vested in the Secretary that have been delegated to that Under Secretary by Delegation of Authority No. 234 (October 1, 1999), or that may be delegated or re-delegated to that Under Secretary.

Any authorities covered by this delegation may also be exercised by the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of State.

Any act, executive order, regulation or procedure subject to, or affected by, this delegation shall be deemed to be such act, executive order, regulation or procedure as amended from time to time.

This delegation shall enter into effect on March 29, 2003, and shall expire upon the appointment and entry upon duty of a new Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

Any re-delegation of authority by the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy

¹¹ For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of the proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

and Public Affairs to the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, pursuant to Delegation of Authority No. 234, shall remain in effect.

This delegation shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 25, 2003.

Richard L. Armitage,

Deputy Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-8249 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2003-14836]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intentions to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before June 3, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Zok, Maritime Administration (MAR-500), 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-0364, FAX: 202-366-9580, or e-mail: jim.zok@marad.dot.gov.

Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Customer Service Survey.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0528.

Form Numbers: MA-1016, MA-1017, and MA-1021.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from date of approval.

Summary of Collection of Information. Executive Order 12862 requires agencies to survey customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and the level of satisfaction with existing services. This collection provides the instruments used to collect the information regarding MARAD programs and services.

Need and Use of the Information: Responses to the Customer Service Questionnaire (Form MA-1016) are

needed to obtain prompt customer feedback on the quality of specific services/products provided to the customer by MARAD. Responses to the Program Performance Survey (Form MA-1017) are needed to obtain customers' views on MARAD's major programs and activities with which the customers were involved during the preceding year. Responses to the Conference/Exhibit Survey (Form MA-1021) will be used to obtain prompt responses from attendees at MARAD-sponsored conferences, exhibits and other maritime industry events.

Description of Respondents: Individuals receiving goods and services from MARAD.

Annual Responses: 6,650 responses.

Annual Burden: 256 hours.

Comments: Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT (or EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator,

Dated: April 1, 2003.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-8250 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub No. 622X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—in Pike County, OH

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon an approximately 4.14 mile line of railroad at Teays Industrial Track between

milepost CES-0.00 and milepost CES-4.14 in Pike County, OH. The line traverses United States Postal Zip Codes 45661, 45613 and 45690.

CSXT has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the line; (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 employees adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.*—

Abandonment—Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91

(1979). To address whether this condition adequately protect 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 May 6, 2003, 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 April 14, 2003. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 24, 2003, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSX's representative: Natalie S. Rosenberg, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water Street, J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

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 OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).