

for major capital projects. These activities are noted in Chapter II, Section 2, of the proposed SSMP Circular. FTA is interested to learn of opinions regarding these proposed activities and their relevance to ensuring the safety and security of major capital projects.

Specifically, FTA would like to know if all of the required activities are necessary; if there are activities which should be added; and if grantees currently have programs underway addressing these requirements. Also, for "New Starts" projects requesting entry into Preliminary Engineering (PE), FTA is interested to learn what specific safety and security management activities grantees will perform during PE.

2. Listing of FTA Evaluation Criteria

The proposed circular identifies the criteria to be used by FTA in assessing and evaluating the grantee's performance of required safety and security management activities. These activities are noted in Chapter II, Section 3, of the proposed SSMP Circular. FTA would like to learn if commenters believe that these criteria are appropriate; if there are other criteria that should be considered by FTA, and if grantees believe that they have the project management organization and information management systems in place to meet these criteria.

3. Sensitive Security Information

The proposed circular references the DOT regulation on Sensitive Security Information (see 49 CFR Part 15). FTA has developed procedures to coordinate with grantees regarding their implementation of programs and procedures to identify and protect sensitive security information. FTA is interested in receiving comments regarding how well these procedures have worked in practice, and if there are any suggestions for improvements that should be addressed in the proposed circular.

4. Process for Developing and Updating SSMPs

FTA is seeking comments on the proposed approach to developing and updating SSMPs as part of the PMP. These criteria are found in Chapter III of the proposed circular. Specifically, do grantees require additional guidance regarding the appropriate contents of the SSMP for different project development phases? Do grantees prefer to include the SSMP as a separate chapter of the PMP or referenced as a separate plan within the PMP? Do

grantees with "New Starts" projects believe the proposed circular provides enough information regarding FTA's requirements for the SSMP at entry to Preliminary Engineering, entry to Final Design, application for FFCA, and at other times when circumstances require?

5. Required SSMP Contents

Chapter IV of the proposed circular lists eleven sections to be included in the SSMP developed by the grantee. FTA requests comments regarding these eleven sections. Are the requirements reasonable? Should additional sections or sub-sections be added? Should specific sections or sub-sections be removed? Are the descriptions for any section or sub-section unclear or confusing? Do grantees need additional guidance?

6. Other Comments

FTA also requests comments concerning the costs and benefits associated with meeting guidance in the proposed circular. Grantees are encouraged to comment on the number of hours and/or financial cost associated with implementing the proposed circular's guidance as well as the extent to which following the guidance will assist the grantee in achieving its organizational objectives for safety and security management in major capital projects.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 3rd of October 2006.

James S. Simpson,

Administrator, Federal Transit Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-16684 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34909]

CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Railway Company, and Consolidated Rail Corporation—Joint Use and Operation Exemption

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DoT.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board is granting a petition for exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323-25 for petitioners to provide for the joint use and joint rail freight operations over 7.69 miles of abandoned rail line of the former Staten Island Railway

Corporation¹ in New York and New Jersey, lying generally between the Conrail Chemical Coast Line and points on Staten Island, NY, subject to appropriate employee protective conditions.² The line consists of two segments as follows: (a) The North Shore Line between the end of track at milepost 4.6 at Union Avenue east of Arlington Yard, Richmond County, NY, and milepost 7.4, via the Chemical Coast Connector, at the proposed point of switch at the connection between the Chemical Coast Connector and Conrail's Chemical Coast Line in Union County, NJ, a distance of 2.8 miles; and (b) the Travis Branch between milepost 0.00 Arlington Yard Station and milepost 4.41 in Richmond County, a distance of 4.41 miles. Included within the North Shore Line segment are all tracks in Arlington Yard together with lead tracks on both the east and west ends of the yard, the so-called Wye Connector, that provides a direct connection to the Travis Branch from the North Shore Line and a track designated as the Travis Lead that provides a connection to and from the Travis Branch to the east end of Arlington Yard.³ Petitioners have asked for expedited consideration of the petition.

DATES: The exemption will be effective on October 8, 2006. Petitions to reopen must be filed by October 25, 2006.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34909, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioners' representatives: Louis E. Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204, Peter J. Shultz, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Suite 560,

¹ See *Staten Island Railway Corporation—Abandonment Exemption—in Richmond County, NY*, Docket No. AB-263 (Sub-No. 2X) (ICC served July 3, 1990), and *Staten Island Railway Corporation—Abandonment*, Docket No. AB-263 (Sub-No. 3) (ICC served Dec. 5, 1991). The lines were subsequently acquired by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority).

² Notice of the filing and a request for comments was served and published in the **Federal Register** on August 25, 2006 (71 FR 50500-01). Comments in support of the petition were filed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of the City of New York, NYCEDC and the Port Authority. No comments were filed in opposition.

³ Petitioners concurrently filed a Notice of Modified Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate the subject line in STB Finance Docket No. 34908, *CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Railway Company, and Consolidated Rail Corporation—Modified Rail Certificate*. That request was granted by decision served and published in the **Federal Register** on August 25, 2006 (71 FR 50499-50500).

Washington, DC 20004, and John V. Edwards, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1609. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision served on October 5, 2006. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write, e-mail, or call: ASAP Document Solutions, 9332 Annapolis Rd., Suite 103, Lanham, MD 20706; e-mail: asapdc@verizon.net; telephone: (202) 306-4004. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.]

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: October 4, 2006.

By the Board, Chairman Nottingham, Vice Chairman Mulvey, Commissioner Buttrey.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-16817 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8816

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 Form 8816, Special Loss Discount Account and Special Estimated Tax Payments for Insurance Companies.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 11, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or

copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-6665, or through the Internet at Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Special Loss Discount Account and Special Estimated Tax Payments for Insurance Companies.

OMB Number: 1545-1130.

Form Number: 8816.

Abstract: Form 8816 is used by insurance companies claiming an additional deduction under Internal Revenue Code section 847 to reconcile estimated tax payments and to determine their tax benefit associated with the deduction. The information is needed by the IRS to determine that the proper additional deduction was claimed and to insure the proper amount of special estimated tax was computed and deposited.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 6 hr., 37 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 19,830.

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 are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

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.

Approved: September 27, 2006.

Glenn Kirkland,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-16712 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[CO-93-90]

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, CO-93-90 (TD 8364), Corporations; Consolidated Returns-Special Rules Relating to Dispositions and Deconsolidations of Subsidiary Stock (§§ 1.337(d)-2 and 1.1502-20).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 11, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6512, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the regulations should be directed to Larnice Mack at Internal Revenue Service, room 6512, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202)622-3179, or through the Internet at Larnice.Mack@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Corporations; Consolidated Returns-Special Rules Relating to Dispositions and Deconsolidations of Subsidiary Stock.