

docketing and public notice. Because the sections affected, modes of transportation, and the nature of application have been shown in earlier Federal Register publications, they are not repeated here. Requests for modifications of exemptions (e.g. to provide for additional hazardous materials, packaging design changes, additional mode of transportation, etc.) are described in footnotes to the application number. Application

numbers with the suffix "M" denote a modification request. These applications have been separated from the new applications for exemptions to facilitate processing.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 3, 1997.

ADDRESS COMMENTS TO: Dockets Unit, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-addressed stamped postcard showing the exemption number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Copies of the applications are available for inspection in the Dockets Unit, Room 8426, Nassif Building, 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC.

Application No.	Applicant	Renewal of exemption
8230-M	Olin Corporation, Norwalk, CT (See Footnote 1)	8230
11294-M	Environmental Products & Services, Inc., Syracuse, NY (See Footnote 2)	11294
11490-M	Lockheed Martin Corp., Princeton, NJ (See Footnote 3)	11490
11854-M	Zarn, Reidsville, NC (See Footnote 4)	11854

¹ To modify the exemption to provide for a smaller size teflon bottle than what is authorized, bottles will be placed in heat sealed bags within an absorbent lined bag and then overpacked in 4G fiberboard boxes for use in transporting Division 5.1 material.

² To modify the exemption to authorize the transportation in commerce of individual drums instead of pallets and shrink-wrapping of lab packs.

³ To reissue the exemption originally issued on an emergency basis to authorize the transportation of Class 8 material in DOT-Specification 110A500W multi-unit tank tanks not equipped with pressure relief devices.

⁴ To reissue the exemption originally issued on an emergency basis to authorize the manufacture, mark and sale of non-DOT specification packaging for use in transporting regulated medical waste classed in Division 6.2 material.

This notice of receipt of applications for modification of exemptions is published in accordance with Part 107 of the Hazardous Materials Transportations Act (49 U.S.C. 1806; 49 CFR 1.53(e)).

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 12, 1997.

Suzanne Hedgepeth,

Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals.

[FR Doc. 97-15962 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33404]

San Joaquin Valley Railroad Co.— Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Sunset Railway Co.

San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company, a Class III rail common carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by lease and operate 47.5 miles of rail line from the Sunset Railway Company between milepost 0.5, near Bakersfield, and milepost 48.0, at Taft, in Kern County, CA.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after May 30, 1997.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of

a petition to revoke does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33404, 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 Fritz R. Kahn, P.C., Suite 750 West, 1100 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-3934.

Decided: June 12, 1997.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.
Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-15966 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0571]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs
ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The National Cemetery System (NCS), Office of Management (OM), and Office of Inspector General (IG) are 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 requirements relating to the NCS, OM, and IG customer satisfaction surveys.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before August 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Ron Taylor, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0571" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Taylor at (202) 273-8015.

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 collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collections of information, comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the burden estimate of the proposed

collections of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title and Form Number: Generic Clearance for the VA Central Office Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0571.
Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards, requires Federal agencies and departments to identify and survey its customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing service. The NCS, OM, and IG use the customer satisfaction surveys to

evaluate customer services as well as customer expectations and desires. The results of this information collection lead to improvements in the quality of the NCS, OM, and IG service delivery by helping to shape the direction and focus of specific services.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Year	Number of respondents	Estimated annual burden (hours)	Frequency
National Cemetery System Focus Groups With Next of Kin (10 Participants per Group/3 Hours Each Session)			
1998	150	450	15 Groups Annually..
1999	150	450	15 Groups Annually..
2000	150	450	15 Groups Annually.
National Cemetery System Focus Groups With Funeral Directors (10 Participants per Group/3 Hours Each Session)			
1998	150	450	15 Groups Annually.
1999	150	450	15 Groups Annually.
2000	150	450	15 Groups Annually.
National Cemetery System Focus Groups with Veterans Service Organizations (10 Participants per Group/3 Hours each session)			
1998	150	450	15 Groups Annually.
1999	150	450	15 Groups Annually.
2000	150	450	15 Groups Annually.
National Cemetery System Focus Groups with State Veterans Officers (10 Participants per Group/3 Hours each Session).			
1998	20	60	2 Groups Annually.
1999	20	60	2 Groups Annually.
2000	20	60	2 Groups Annually.
National Cemetery System Visitor Comments Cards			
1998	2,500	420	Twice Annually.
1999	2,500	420	Twice Annually.
2000	2,500	420	Twice Annually.
National Cemetery System Next of Kin National Customer Satisfaction Survey (Telephone)			
1998	1,150	750	Annually.
1999	1,150	750	Annually.
2000	1,150	750	Annually.
National Cemetery System Potential Customers National Customer Satisfaction Survey (Telephone)			
1998	1,150	750	Annually.
1999	1,150	750	Annually.
2000	1,150	750	Annually.
National Cemetery System Program/Specialized Service Survey (Telephone)			
1998	1,000	250	Annually.
1999	1,000	250	Annually.
2000	1,000	250	Annually.
Office of Management Accountability Report Pilot Evaluation Form			
1998	550	138	Annually.
1999	550	138	Annually.
2000	550	138	Annually.
Office of Inspector General Patient Questionnaire			
1998	1,200	200	Annually.
1999	1,200	200	Annually.

Year	Number of respondents	Estimated annual burden (hours)	Frequency
2000	1,200	200	Annually.

Most customer satisfaction surveys will be recurring so that the NCS, OM, and IG can create ongoing measures of performance and to determine how well the agency meets customer service standards. Each collection of information will consist of the minimum amount of information necessary to determine customer needs and to evaluate the organization's performance. The NCS expects to conduct 47 focus groups annually involving a total of 1,410 hours during the approval period. In addition, the NCS expects to conduct telephone surveys with a total annual burden of 1,750 hours. The NCS, OM, and IG will

distribute written surveys with a total annual burden of 758 hours.

The areas of concern to the NCS, OM, and IG and their customers may change over time, and it is important to have the ability to evaluate customer concerns quickly. OMB will be requested to grant generic clearance approval for a 3-year period to conduct customer satisfaction surveys and focus groups. Participation in the surveys and focus groups will be voluntary and the generic clearance will not be used to collect information required to obtain or maintain eligibility for a VA program or benefit. In order to maximize the voluntary response rates, the

information collection will be designed to make participation convenient, simple, and free of unnecessary barriers. Baseline data obtained through these information collections will be used to improve customer service standards. The NCS, OM, and IG will consult with OMB regarding each specific information collection during this approval period.

Dated: June 10, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

William T. Morgan,

Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 97-15913 Filed 6-16-97; 8:45 am]

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