

from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Frederick L. Montgomery,**

*Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

[FR Doc. 98-20216 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-98-4077]

#### Notice of Request for Clearance of a New Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the FHWA to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of a new information collection. This information collection will be used to: (1) Gather information from motor carriers regarding their expectations/experience with compliance reviews conducted by the FHWA Office of Motor Carriers (OMC); and (2) provide a baseline to measure improvements in customer satisfaction. The information collected from the survey will help the OMC assess the usefulness of the compliance review process, including whether the reviews are being conducted in a business-like manner, and what additional services and information the OMC could provide.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before September 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** All signed, written comments should refer to the docket number that appears in the heading of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Tony Schafer, (202) 366-2953, Office of Motor Carriers, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are

from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Motor Carrier Assessment of Compliance Reviews.

**Background:** The mission of the FHWA's OMC is to promote safe transportation of passengers and goods on the Nation's highways. In the performance of its duties, the OMC conducts periodic compliance reviews with motor carriers in each State. The reviews are normally held at the motor carrier's principal place of business. Compliance reviews are investigations of the carrier's operation to determine whether they meet the safety fitness standards. To meet the safety fitness standards, a motor carrier must demonstrate that it has adequate safety management controls in place which function effectively to ensure acceptable compliance with applicable safety requirements. Upon completion of a compliance review, FHWA assigns the carrier either a satisfactory, conditional, or unsatisfactory rating. A satisfactory rating means the carrier has established and is using adequate safety management controls that meet FHWA's safety fitness standards. A conditional rating means a carrier has adequate controls that could result in violations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. An unsatisfactory rating means that the carrier has inadequate controls that have resulted in violations of the regulations. Compliance reviews can result in enforcement actions against a carrier for violations of safety regulations. A civil fine is a primary enforcement tool used by the FHWA to induce regulatory compliance.

A survey of selected review participants will provide the information necessary for the OMC to assess these compliance reviews so that ongoing improvements to the compliance review process can be accomplished. The information will be collected on a standardized questionnaire, via mail or by telephone. Respondents will be advised of the purpose for the survey and the confidentiality of their responses, either by an accompanying letter or orally by telephone. The questionnaire will request respondents to provide information pertaining to the compliance review process (i.e., notification, purpose and length of the review). The information will be collected from motor carriers shortly after FHWA or State officials complete a compliance review. It is estimated that approximately 9,200 compliance reviews are conducted annually. Of the 9,200 reviews, surveys will be

conducted for approximately 1,500 reviews. The results of the surveys will be analyzed and presented in a report to the management of the OMC. This report will be used for ongoing improvements to the compliance review process.

**Respondents:** The individuals asked to respond to the survey will be the motor carrier employee who signed for receipt of the compliance review.

**Estimated Average Burden per Response:** 10 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden:** 250 hours.

**Frequency:** Collection will occur following completion of each of the 1,500 reviews which will be identified for the survey.

**Public Comments Invited:** Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including, but not limited to: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FHWA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

**Electronic Availability:** An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the **Federal Register** electronic bulletin board service (telephone number: 202-512-1661). Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** WWW site at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs).

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 322(a), 329(a), 31133(a); and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: July 23, 1998.

**George S. Moore, Jr.,**

*Associate Administrator for Administration.*

[FR Doc. 98-20231 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 123X)]

#### Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Butler County, IA

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights* to abandon

and discontinue service over a 5.95-mile line of railroad on the Bristow Branch from milepost 288.8 near Clarksville to milepost 294.75 near Allison, in Butler County, IA. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 50619 and 50602.

UP has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (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 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 August 28, 1998, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by August 10, 1998. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by August 18, 1998, with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Joseph D. Anthofer, General Attorney, Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179.

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

UP has filed an environmental report which addresses the effects of the abandonment and discontinuance, if

<sup>1</sup> 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 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by August 3, 1998. 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) 565-1545. 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), UP shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by UP's filing of a notice of consummation by July 29, 1999, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: July 23, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-20255 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

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