

information regarding environmental issues, or the environmental review schedule, contact SEA's Project Manager for the proposed CN/IC Acquisition, Michael Dalton, at (202) 565-1530.

By the Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief of the Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-24572 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-317 (Sub-No. 5X)]

Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Company—Abandonment and Discontinuance of Trackage Rights Exemption—in Cook County, IL and Lake County, IN

On August 25, 1998, Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Company (IHB) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad known as the East Chicago Belt Branch, extending from railroad Valuation Station (-0+17) beginning at a point 168 feet west of the Illinois/Indiana State line in Burnham, IL, near Brainard Avenue, extending generally eastward through Hammond, IN, to and including a point 100 feet east of the east edge of Indianapolis Boulevard in East Chicago, IN, at railroad Valuation Station (140 + 00), a distance of 2.3 miles in Cook County, IL, and Lake County, IN. The line includes approximately 0.4 mile of track in Hammond, in the vicinity of Sohl Avenue and Hohman Avenue, owned by the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company, over which IHB seeks to discontinue trackage rights. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 60603, 46320, and 46312. There are no stations on the line.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it. The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by December 11, 1998.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will

be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,000 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than October 5, 1998. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-317 (Sub-No. 5X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Roger A. Serpe, 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1460, Chicago, IL 60604-2704. Replies to the IHB petition are due on or before October 5, 1998.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

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

Decided: September 8, 1998.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-24573 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Notice of Receipt of Cultural Property Request From the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of cultural property request from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus made a cultural property request to the Government of the United States under Article 9 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention. The request was received on September 4, 1998, by the United States Information Agency. It seeks U.S. protection of certain categories of archaeological and/or ethnological material the pillage of which, it is alleged, jeopardizes the national cultural patrimony of Cyprus. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2603 *et seq.*) the request will be reviewed by the Cultural Property Advisory Committee which will develop recommendations before a determination is made.

Dated: September 8, 1998.

Penn Kemble,

Deputy Director, United States Information Agency.

[FR Doc. 98-24590 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Notice of Meeting of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice of meeting of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

The Cultural Property Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, September 28, 1998, from approximately 9:30 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m., at the U.S. Information Agency, Room 840, 301 4th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. to review a cultural property request from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to the Government of the United States seeking protection of certain archaeological and/or ethnological materials. A portion of the meeting, from approximately 9:30 a.m. to approximately 10:30 a.m., will be open to interested parties wishing to provide comment to the Committee that may bear on this request. The Cyprus request, submitted under Article 9 of the

1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2601 et seq., Pub. L. 97-446). Since review of this matter by the Committee will involve information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed action, the meeting from approximately 10:30 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. will be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(9)(B) and 19 U.S.C. 2605(h). The Committee will also meet in open session on Tuesday, September 29, 1998, from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in the Board Room, 6th Floor, the Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., to provide an opportunity for discussion with members of the public about U.S. implementation of the 1970 Convention. Seating is limited. Persons wishing to attend open portions of the meeting on September 28 and September 29, must notify cultural property staff at (202) 619-6612 no later than 5:00 p.m. (EDST) Thursday, September 24, 1998, to arrange for admission.

Dated: September 8, 1998.

Penn Kemble,

Deputy Director, United States Information Agency.

Determination To Close the Meeting of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee

September 28, 1998.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), and 19 U.S.C. 2605(h), I hereby determine that a portion of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee meeting on September 28, 1998, approximately 10:30 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m., at which there will be deliberation of information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed actions, will be closed.

Dated: September 8, 1998.

Penn Kemble,

Deputy Director, United States Information Agency.

[FR Doc. 98-24589 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0001]

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 revision of a currently approved collection and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to determine a veteran's eligibility, dependency, and income, as appropriate, for compensation and/or pension benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 13, 1998.

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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0001" 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 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 collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection 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 collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Veteran's Application for Compensation or Pension, VA Forms 21-526.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0001.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Title 38, U.S.C., Section 5101(a) provides that a specific claim in the form provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must be filed in order for benefits to be paid to any individual under laws administered by the Secretary. VA Form 21-526 is the prescribed form for disability claims.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 790,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 2 hours.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 395,000.

Dated: August 14, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 98-24538 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0033]

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 reinstatement of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to determine if the insured is