

report. The Task Team focus areas include: Emerging Technologies, Compliance Practices, Excavation Practices, Locating and Marking Practices, Mapping Practices, One-Call Center Practices, Planning and Design Practices, Public Education Practices, and Reporting and Evaluation Practices. These Task Teams are meeting frequently over the next few months to develop their content for the report.

All Task Teams have scheduled their respective meetings and have begun identifying the best practices in their respective focus areas. The Teams are coordinating information, receiving and disseminating comments, and drafting the introductory and concluding chapters of the report on damage prevention best practices. As mentioned before, all Study Team meetings are open to the public and OPS invites public attendance.

Information about team activities and specific meeting information is available through the OPS Information System (OPSIS). OPSIS and the OCSS Information System can be accessed through the OPS Homepage (ops.dot.gov). Select the "Damage Prevention" and then the "OPS Damage Prevention Best Practices—Implementation of One-Call Systems Study" options.

#### **OCSS Information System provisions**

After accessing the OCSS Information System, the user is provided with several options, including:

- The ability to submit issues and concerns for consideration by the Study Team;
- Contact information for all Study Team members;
- Information on scheduled meetings; and
- Access to applicable documents.

These include the "TEA-21" one call provisions, protocols of the Study Team, meeting summaries, and the current damage prevention practices identified to-day by the Task Teams.

#### *"Submit an Issue"*

The OCSS Information System allows input concerning damage prevention from interested parties outside of the team participants. The "submit an issue" option provides the user the ability to submit a detailed description of the problem or issue of concern, and allows the user to suggest a solution or recommend a "best practice" to address the problem or issue. The user may also recommend which Task Team should address the issue further.

Individuals without access to the Internet may also submit an issue to the Study Team through OPS. OPS will

forward written issues to the Team for consideration. These will subsequently be entered into the OCSS Information System. Issue submissions should include the contact information for the person submitting the issue. This includes the person's name, organization, job title, E-mail address, phone number (E-mail or phone required), mailing address, detailed description of problem or issue and, if applicable, a recommended solution or "best practice". Issues submitted outside of the OCSS Information System should be sent in writing to Eben M. Wyman, Office of Pipeline Safety, 400 7th St., SW, Room 7128, Washington, DC 20590.

In order for RSPA to manage the considerable number of "issues" that may be submitted, the submitter's contact information is required. Any information provided is for Study Team consideration and evaluation. The Study Team will record the disposition of each issue offered for consideration. Any information provided may appear in Government reports and/or other public documents. Proprietary information should not be provided.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 23, 1998.

**Richard B. Felder,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 131X)]

#### **Union Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Cameron County, TX**

On December 14, 1998, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) 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 its line of railroad known as the Brownsville Branch, extending from milepost 197.90 near Naranjo Road to milepost 205.04 near E. Van Buren St., a distance of 7.14 miles in Brownsville, Cameron County, TX. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 78520 and 78521 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in UP'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 April 2, 1999.

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 January 20, 1999. 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-33 (Sub-No. 131X) 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) Joseph D. Anthofer, 1416 Dodge St., Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179-0830. Replies to the UP petition are due on or before January 20, 1999.

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 made 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: December 18, 1998.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-34282 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### **Financial Management Service; Proposed Collection of Information: Electronic Federal Tax Payment System in an Electronic Data Interchange Environment Survey**

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service,  
Fiscal Service, Treasury.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Financial Management Service, 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 a proposed information collection. By this notice, the Financial Management Service solicits comments concerning a voluntary survey to learn ways to help entities comply with electronic payment requirements using the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System in an Electronic Data Interchange Environment.

**DATES:** All comments should be received on or before March 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Financial Management Service, 3361-L 75th Avenue, Landover, Maryland 20785.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Elizabeth Oldenburn, Financial Program Specialist, Financial Management Service, Room 522B, 401 14th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20227, (202) 874-6835.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c) (2)(A)), the Financial Management Service solicits comments on the collection of information described below.

*Title:* Electronic Federal Tax Payment System in an Electronic Data Interchange Environment Survey.

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Abstract:* The Financial Management Service (FMS) and its contractor, Logistics Management Institute, plan to conduct a one-time survey which will obtain information about the potential

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) trading partners for the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS). An EDI payment application would allow taxpayers or tax payment service providers to send multiple tax payments, or single tax payments for multiple taxpayers, in one payment transaction.

Prior to developing an EDI payment application in EFTPS, FMS would like to determine if there is interest in using such an option within the tax payment community. If sufficient interest exists, FMS wants to design the EDI payment application to meet the needs and technical capabilities of the EFTPS trading partners. The survey will gauge interest in using EDI as an EFTPS payment option and will determine the trading partners' needs and expectations for EFTPS in an EDI environment.

The Internet is also being considered as an EFTPS payment and enrollment option. The survey will also gauge interest in using the Internet as a payment vehicle for EFTPS, as well as for enrolling in EFTPS by filling out an on-line application form.

The survey will provide quantitative research information from approximately 3,520 respondents in the tax payment community including businesses, payroll processors, tax preparers, state governments, and financial institutions. FMS and its contractor estimate that the survey will take an average of fifteen (15) minutes to complete. Respondent participation is voluntary. The results of the survey will be used to determine if sufficient interest exists to support development of an EFTPS EDI payment option. Also, the survey will help FMS to design the new payment options to meet the needs and technical requirements of EDI trading partners, as well as to develop a marketing (media) plan which will serve as the basis for a marketing campaign to encourage the use of a new EFTPS payment mechanism(s).

*Current Actions:* New collection.

*Type of Review:* Regular.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,520.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 880 hours.

*Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget 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 will 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.

**Betty H. Lane,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Federal Finance.*

[FR Doc. 98-34480 Filed 12-30-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### **Renegotiation Board Interest Rate; Prompt Payment Interest Rate; Contract Disputes Act**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of the Public Debt,  
Fiscal Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** For the period beginning January 1, 1999 and ending on June 30, 1999, the prompt payment interest rate is 5% (five) per centum per annum.

**DATES:** This notice announces the interest rate applicable for the January 1, 1999 to June 30, 1999 period.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments or inquiries may be mailed to Cynthia S. Winters, Team Leader, Debt Accounting Branch, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328. A copy of this Notice will be made available for downloading from the <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephanie E. Brown, Director, Division of Accounting Operations, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328, (304) 480-5180, Cynthia S. Winters, Team Leader, Debt Accounting Branch, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-5174, Edward C. Gronseth, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-3692, or Brenda L. Hoffman, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-3698.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Although the Renegotiation Board is no longer in