

the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).

If the verified 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 will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34328, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Karl Morrell, Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov).

Decided: April 16, 2003.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-10035 Filed 4-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34329]

#### **Watco Companies, Inc.—Continuance in Control Exemption—Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, Inc.**

Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption to continue in control of Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, Inc. (PSWR), upon PSWR's becoming a Class III railroad.

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after April 1, 2003, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the notice was filed).

This transaction is related to the concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34328, *Pennsylvania Southwestern Railroad, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Steel, LLC*, wherein PSWR seeks to lease and operate approximately 10.5 miles of rail line currently owned by J&L Specialty Steel, LLC.

At the time it filed this notice, Watco controlled six Class III railroads: the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company; Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, Inc.; the Timber Rock Railroad, Inc.; the Stillwater Central Railroad; the Eastern Idaho Railroad, Inc.; and the Kansas & Oklahoma

Railroad, Inc., operating in the states of Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas and Washington.

Applicants state that: (1) The railroads do not connect with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; (2) the continuance in control is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the seven railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2). The purpose of the transaction is to enable Watco to reduce overhead expenses; coordinate billing, maintenance, mechanical and personnel policies and practices of its rail carrier subsidiaries; and improve the overall efficiency of rail service provided by the seven railroads.

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324-25 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

If the verified 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 will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34329, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on: Karl Morrell, Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov).

Decided: April 16, 2003.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-10034 Filed 4-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0227]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before May 27, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT:** Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail: [denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov](mailto:denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0227."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0227" in any correspondence.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### *Titles:*

a. Prosthetics Care and Service, VA Form 10-0142b.

b. Experiences of Patients Recently Discharged Inpatient, VA Form 10-1465-1.

c. Experiences of Patients Ambulatory Care, VA Form 10-1465-3.

d. Nutritional and Food Service, VA Form 10-5387.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0227.

*Type of Review:* Revision 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. VHA uses customer satisfaction surveys to gauge customer perceptions

of VA services as well as customer expectations and desires. Each collection of information will consist of the minimum amount of information necessary to determine customer needs and to evaluate VHA's performance.

The areas of concern to VHA and its customer may change over time, and it is important to have the ability to evaluate customer concerns quickly. Participation in the surveys 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. The results of these information collections lead to improvements in the quality of VHA service delivery by helping to shape the direction and focus of specific programs and services.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on February 19, 2003 at pages 8083–8084.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 207,287 hours.

a. Prosthetics Care and Service, VA Form 10–0142b—7,200.

b. Experiences of Patients Recently Discharged Inpatient, VA Form 10–1465–1—35,000.

c. Experiences of Patients Ambulatory Care, VA Form 10–1465–3—160,500.

d. Nutritional and Food Service, VA Form 10–5387—4,587.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 23 minutes.

a. Prosthetics Care and Service, VA Form 10–0142b—24 minutes.

b. Experiences of Patients Recently Discharged Inpatient, VA Form 10–1465–1—30 minutes.

c. Experiences of Patients Ambulatory Care, VA Form 10–1465–3—30 minutes.

d. Nutritional and Food Service, VA Form 10–5387—2 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 546,600.

a. Prosthetics Care and Service, VA Form 10–0142b—18,000.

b. Experiences of Patients Recently Discharged Inpatient, VA Form 10–1465–1—70,000.

c. Experiences of Patients Ambulatory Care, VA Form 10–1465–3—321,000.

d. Nutritional and Food Service, VA Form 10–5387—137,600.

Dated: April 9, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Martin L. Hill,**

*Acting Director, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–10123 Filed 4–23–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Public Law 92–463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will be held from Tuesday, May 13, 2003, through Thursday, May 15, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day, at the Courtyard Marriott, 1725 West Filmore Avenue, Harlingen, Texas.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits and services to minority veterans, to assess the needs of minority veterans and to evaluate whether VA compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

On May 12, the Committee will hold panel discussions with key staff members from VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network (VISN 17), San Antonio VA Medical Center and Houston Regional Office on services and benefits delivery challenges and concerns for the south Texas veterans. During the afternoon, the Committee will hold panel discussions with various Veteran Service Organizations and Congressman Solomon Ortiz's staff on their concerns and observations of south Texas veterans' needs.

On May 13, the Committee will hold town hall meetings with veterans from the south Texas area in Brownsville as well as tour the Brownsville Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Committee members will also tour the McAllen Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

On May 14, the Committee will tour the University of Harlingen Medical Center and receive a briefing on the medical center's capabilities. In the afternoon, the Committee will begin drafting the 2003 annual report documenting their findings during the current trip.

These sessions will be open to the public. The Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues outlined in the meeting agenda, as well as other issues affecting

minority veterans. Such comments should be referred to the Committee at the following address: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Center for Minority Veterans (00M), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

For additional information about the meeting, you may call Ms. Elizabeth Olmo at (202) 273–6708.

Dated: April 18, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**E. Philip Riffin,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03–10122 Filed 4–23–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Enhanced-Use Lease Development of Property at the Department of Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System, Fort Howard, MD

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to designate.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is designating the Department of Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System, Fort Howard, Maryland, for an enhanced-use lease development. The Department intends to enter a 75-year lease of 94.6 acres of real property with a competitively selected lessee/developer who will finance, design, develop, maintain and manage facilities, including some or all of the components of a continuing care retirement community, all at no cost to VA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jake Gallun, Office of Asset Enterprise Management (004B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273–8862.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 38 U.S.C. section 8161 *et seq.* specifically provides that the Secretary may enter into an enhanced-use lease if he determines that at least part of the use of the property under the lease will be to provide appropriate space for an activity contributing to the mission of the Department; the lease will not be inconsistent with and will not adversely affect the mission of the Department; and the lease will enhance the property or result in improved services to veterans. This project meets these requirements.