

**Maritime Administration****OMB No.: 2133-0005****Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations****ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of Maritime Administration (MARAD) to request approval of changes to a currently approved information collection.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted on or before May 6, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Richard J. McDonnell, Director, Office of Financial Approvals, Maritime Administration, MAR-580, Room 8114, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-5861 or fax 202-366-7901. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Collection:* Uniform Financial Reporting Requirements.

*Type of Request:* Approval of changes to a currently approved information collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0005.

*Form Number:* MA-172.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* September 30, 1999.

*Summary of Collection of*

*Information:* A form MA-172 consists of a balance sheet, an income statement, schedules of debt and equipment, and listings of company officers, stockholders, and related parties. In order to reduce the burden of the current information collection, the MA-172 would be reduced in scope and number of schedules. The information in the MA-172 is integral to conventional financial records generally kept by all businesses, but is supplemental to their financial statements prepared periodically. Therefore, much of the form can be satisfied by the information found in the financial statements audited by certified public accountants and can be substituted by copies of the published data or listings from the company records. Thus, the time required to complete a MA-172 can be reduced to an efficient gathering of existing documents.

*Need and Use of the Information:* MARAD administers financial assistance programs promoting the U.S. merchant marine. This information collection is in compliance with those

program regulations requiring financial reporting used in reviews and analyses to determine compliance with contractual requirements and to evaluate industry financial trends.

*Description of Respondents:* Various ship-building and ship-owning companies which choose to participate in the Maritime Administration's loan guarantee and operating support programs.

*Annual Responses:* Presently, 95 participants respond semiannually. The number of participants has stabilized after a long period of reduction with approximately the same number of new participants replacing withdrawing participants. This situation is expected to continue indefinitely.

*Annual Burden:* Presently, the total annual burden is 2,375 hours for 190 responses, 12 hours per response. The total hours should decrease when the changes covered by this request for comments are implemented.

Commenters are requested to include their estimates for completing the revised MA-172 information collection.

*Comments:* Send all comments regarding this information collection to Richard J. McDonnell, Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-580, Room 8114, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Send comments regarding whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: March 4, 1996.

Edmund T. Sommer, Jr.,

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-5558 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

**OMB NO: 2133-0525****Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations****ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intentions to request extension of approval of a currently approved information collection.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted on or before May 6, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

James E. Caponiti, Director, Office of Sealift Support, Maritime Administration, MAR-630, Room 7300, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Telephone 202-366-2323 or fax 202-493-2180. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Collection:* Applications and Amendment for Participation under Section 651, Subtitle B, Merchant Marine Act, 1936, As Amended.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved information collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0525.

*Form Number:* No form number is assigned to the application.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* May 31, 1996.

*Summary of Collection of*

*Information:* The information collected includes an initial application for participation in the program as well as amendments of maritime security program operating agreements.

*Need and Use of the Information:*

There are two maritime security bills (S.1139 and H.R.1350) under consideration in the Congress to revise Title VI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended. Both bills will require MARAD to accept applications for enrollment in a Maritime Security Fleet no later than 30 days after the date of enactment. Receipt of an application will indicate intent on the part of the applicant to enter its vessel(s) in the Maritime Security Program. MARAD will analyze the information according to prescribed priorities and select vessels for participation in the program. Over the life of an agreement changes may be necessary for additional vessels, changes to existing vessels or status of the applicant.

*Description of Respondents:* It is estimated that 10 carriers would submit one-time initial applications to participate in the program and it is estimated that five amendments would be required over a ten year period (0.5 per year) of a maritime security program operating agreement.

*Annual Responses:* 10 one-time applications, 0.5 amendments.

*Annual Burden:* 80 hours for one-time applications, 1 hour for amendments.

*Comments:* Send all comments regarding this information collection to James E. Caponiti, Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-630, Room 7300, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Send comments regarding whether this information collection is

necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: March 4, 1996.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-5559 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

## Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 290 (Sub No. 4)]

### Railroad Cost Recovery Procedures-Productivity Adjustment

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Proposed adoption of a Railroad Cost Recovery Procedures productivity adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board proposes to adopt 1.059 (5.9%) as the measure of average growth in railroad productivity for the 1990-1994 (5-year) period. The same 5.9% value, developed for the 1989-1993 period, is currently in use.

**DATES:** Comments are due by March 22, 1996.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The proposed productivity adjustment is effective April 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** H. Jeff Warren, (202) 927-6243. TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423, or telephone (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927-5721.]

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or energy conservation.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), we conclude that our action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Decided: February 21, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-5413 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Special Medical Advisory Group, Notice of Availability of Annual Report

Under Section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the Annual Report of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Special Medical Advisory Group for Fiscal Year 1995 has been issued.

The report summarizes activities of the Group relative to the care and treatment of disabled veterans and other matters pertinent to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Health Administration. It is available for public inspection at two locations:

Federal Documents Section, Exchange and Gift Division, LM 632, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540 and Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary for Health, VA Central Office, Room 811, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: February 27, 1996.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-5320 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request: Veterans Benefits, Veterans Education, Education or Training, VA Form Letter 22-315

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden

estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before May 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M30), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0118.

*Title and Form Number:* Veterans Benefits, Veterans Education, Education or Training, VA Form Letter 22-315.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Need and Uses:* The information is used to determine whether a claimant is eligible for payment for training at an institution other than the institution which will grant a degree or certificate upon completion of training. Without the information, benefits cannot be authorized for any courses pursued at other than the primary institution.

*Current Actions:* VA Form Letter 22-315 is sent to the student by a VA claims examiner. The letter directs the student to have the certifying official of his or her primary institution complete the bottom portion of the form. The certifying official uses the letter to list the course or courses pursued at the second institution for which the primary institution will give full credit. The completed letter is then returned to the VA regional office. A VA claims examiner determines whether education benefits can be authorized for these courses. VA uses the information from the current collection to ensure that claimants are pursuing their approved program while enrolled at a different school. Without this information, VA might underpay or overpay benefits.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions, State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 207 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 7½ minutes per application.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,244.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**