

not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29³ must be filed by January 16, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 27, 1997, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Thomas F. McFarland, Jr., Attorney for Ludington & Northern Railway, Inc., McFarland & Herman, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1330, Chicago, IL 60606-2902.

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

L&N has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 10, 1997. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 3219, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser, Chief of SEA, at (202) 927-6248. 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.

Decided: December 30, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-181 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

¹ 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.

² See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

³ The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests as long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

[Dept. Circ. 570, 1996 Rev., Supp. No. 4]

Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds, American Interstate Insurance Company

A Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety on Federal Bonds is hereby issued to the following company under Sections 9304 to 9308, Title 31, of the United States Code. Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 1996 Revision, on page 34283 to reflect this addition:

American Interstate Insurance Company. BUSINESS ADDRESS: 1807 Highway 190 West, DeRidder, Louisiana, 70634-6005. PHONE: (318) 463-9052. UNDERWRITING LIMITATION *b/*: \$2,578,000. SURETY LICENSES *c/*: AR, GA, IN, KY, LA, ME, MN, MS, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WI, WY. INCORPORATED IN: Louisiana.

Certificates of Authority expire on June 30 each year, unless revoked prior to that date. The Certificates are subject to subsequent annual renewal as long as the companies remain qualified (31 CFR, Part 223). A list of qualified companies is published annually as of July 1 in Treasury Department Circular 570, with details as to underwriting limitations, areas in which licensed to transact surety business and other information.

The Circular may be viewed and downloaded through the Internet (<http://www.ustreas.gov/treasury/bureaus/finman/c570.html>) or through our computerized public bulletin board system (FMS Inside Line) at (202) 874-6887. A hard copy may be purchased from the Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC, telephone (202) 512-1800. When ordering the Circular from GPO, use the following stock number: 048-000499-7.

Questions concerning this Notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Funds Management Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6F04, Hyattsville, MD 20782, telephone (202) 874-7116.

Dated: December 23, 1996.

Charles F. Schwan III,
Director, Funds Management Division,
Financial Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-95 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

Internal Revenue Service

[IA-17-90]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, 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 proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, IA-17-90 (TD 8571), Reporting Requirements for Recipients of Points Paid on Residential Mortgages (§§ 1.6050H-1 and 1.6050H-2).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 7, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reporting Requirements for Recipients of Points Paid on Residential Mortgages.

OMB Number: 1545-1380.

Regulation Project Number: IA-17-90

Abstract: These regulations require the reporting of certain information relating to payments of mortgage interest. Taxpayers must separately state on Form 1098 the amount of points and the amount of interest (other than points) received during the taxable year on a single mortgage and must provide to the payer of the points a separate statement setting forth the information being reported to the IRS.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of OMB approval.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 37,644.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 7 hrs. 31 min.