

#### IV. Probable Effects

The FTA and Metro-North will evaluate all potential significant environmental, social, and economic impacts of the alternatives analyzed in the MIS/DEIS. Environmental and social impacts proposed for analysis include: land use, secondary development, community disruption, displacements and relocations, traffic and parking, visual, noise and vibration, safety, aesthetics, stormwater management, archaeological, historic, cultural and ecological resources and wildlife corridors. Impacts on natural areas, rare and endangered species, air and water quality, groundwater, and potentially contaminated sites will also be studied. The impacts will be evaluated both for the construction period and for the long-term period of operation of each alternative. Measures to mitigate adverse impacts will be identified.

#### V. FTA Procedures

The DEIS will be prepared in conjunction with a major transportation investment study and document the results of that study, including an evaluation of the potential social, economic and environmental impacts of the alternatives. Upon completion of the MIS/DEIS, and on the basis of the comments received, Metro-North, in concert with other affected agencies, will select a locally preferred alternative. The MIS/DEIS will be made available for public review and comment and a public hearing will be held during the MIS/DEIS comment period.

On the basis of the MIS/DEIS and comments received, Metro-North and FTA will continue with the preparation of the Final MIS/DEIS. Opportunity for additional public comment will be provided throughout all phases of project development.

Issued on: June 3, 1999.

**Letitia Thompson,**

*Regional Administrator, TRO-II, Federal Transit Administration.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-99-5792]

##### 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) intentions to request approval for three years of an existing information collection entitled, "46 CFR Part 298—Title XI Obligation Guarantees."

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted on or before August 9, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel Ladd, Financial Analyst, Office of Ship Financing, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8122, Washington, D.C. 20590, telephone number—202-366-5744. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

##### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* 46 CFR Part 298—Title XI Obligation Guarantees

*Type of Request:* Approval of an existing information collection

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0018

*Form Number:* MA-163, MA-163A

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Three years from the date of approval

*Summary of Collection of Information:* In accordance with the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (Act), MARAD is authorized to execute a full faith and credit guarantee by the United States of debt obligations issued to finance or refinance the construction or reconstruction of vessels.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information collected is necessary for MARAD officials to evaluate an applicant's project and capabilities, make the required determinations, and administer any agreements executed upon approval of loan guarantees.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals/businesses interested in obtaining loan guarantees for construction or reconstruction of vessels satisfying criteria under the Act.

*Annual Responses:* 25 responses.

*Annual Burden:* 1750 hours.

*Comments:* Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically, address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the

above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., et. Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: June 3, 1999.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-556 (Sub-No. 2X)]

**Railroad Ventures, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—Between Youngstown, OH, and Darlington, PA, in Mahoning and Columbiana Counties, OH, and Beaver County, PA [STB Docket No. AB-555 (Sub-No. 2X)]; The Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad Company—Adverse Discontinuance of Service Exemption—Between Youngstown, OH, and Darlington, PA, in Mahoning and Columbiana Counties, OH, and Beaver County, PA**

On May 19, 1999, Railroad Ventures, Inc. (RVI), filed a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for an exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for RVI to abandon 35.7 miles of railroad line from milepost 0.0 at Youngstown, OH, to milepost 35.7 at Darlington, PA, and a connecting 1-mile spur near Negley, OH. RVI also petitioned for an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for The Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad Company (OPRC) to receive discontinuance authorization for OPRC's service obligations over the line. OPRC has a lease with RVI to provide service over this line, but has not provided service since shortly after RVI purchased the line in 1996.<sup>1</sup>

RVI's acquisition of the subject line, formerly part of the Youngstown & Southern Railroad Company (Y&S), OPRC's lease to operate over the line, and their subsequent attempts to abandon the line and discontinue service have a long and tortuous history.<sup>2</sup> Most recently, on January 4,

<sup>1</sup> Although the proposed discontinuance is styled as an adverse discontinuance because it was filed by RVI, the owner of the line, instead of by OPRC, the carrier authorized to operate over the line, the interests of the parties are not adverse because OPRC agrees that its lease and service obligations should be discontinued and, in fact, had previously sought on its own behalf a discontinuance exemption, which was rejected.

<sup>2</sup> See *Railroad Ventures, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Youngstown & Southern*