

respondents are employers of the beneficiaries.

*Number of Respondents:* 150,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 40 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 100,000 hours.

(SSA Address)

Social Security Administration,  
DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W.  
Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations  
Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd.,  
Baltimore, MD 21235

(OMB Address)

Office of Management and Budget,  
OIRA, Attn: Lori Schack, New  
Executive Office Building, Room  
10230, 725 17th St., NW,  
Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 22, 1999.

**Frederick W. Brickenkamp,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security  
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-28434 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3146]

### Shipping Coordinating Committee Assembly and Council; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, November 2, in Room 6103, at U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize preparations for the 20th session of the Extraordinary Council, 83rd Session of Council and 21st Session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which is scheduled for 12-26 November 1999, at the IMO Headquarters in London. Discussions will focus on papers received and draft U.S. positions.

Among other things, the items of particular interest are:

- Reports of Committees;
- Reports on Diplomatic Conferences;
- Work Program and Budget for 1998-1999;
- Election of Members of the Council.

Members of the public may attend these meetings up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: Director, International Affairs, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (G-CI), Room 2114, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC

20593-0001 or by calling: (202) 267-2280.

**Susan K. Bennett,**

*Director, Office of Transportation Policy, U.S.  
Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 99-28518 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-1999-5895]

#### Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway; Public Hearing

On July 29, 1999, FRA published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's (BNSF) request to obtain a permanent waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Safety Appliance Standards, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 231, and the Power Brakes and Drawbars regulations, 49 CFR part 232, concerning RoadRailer<sup>®</sup> train operations over their railroad system. Specifically, BNSF requests relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 231, which specifies the number, location and dimensional specifications for handholds, ladders, sill steps, uncoupling levers and handbrakes; and Section § 232.2, which regulates drawbar height.

As a result of comments received by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) concerning this waiver petition, FRA has determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this petition. Accordingly, a public hearing is hereby set for 10 a.m. on November 23, 1999, in the Minnesota/Michigan Conference Room at the FAA Building, 2300 E. Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at this hearing. The hearing will be informal and will be conducted in accordance with Rule 25 of the FRA Rules of Practice (49 CFR 211.25) by a representative designated by FRA. The FRA representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing, as well as any additional procedures for the conduct of the hearing. The hearing will be a non-adversarial proceeding in which all interested parties will be given the opportunity to express their views regarding this waiver petition without cross-examination. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make a brief rebuttal will be given an opportunity to do so in

the same order in which initial statements were made.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 25, 1999.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety  
Standards and Program Development.*

[FR Doc. 99-28349 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33809]

#### RailTex, Inc., North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Company, Inc., Chesapeake and Albemarle Railroad Company, Inc., Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, Inc., Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc., and Indiana Southern Railroad, Inc.—Corporate Family Transaction; Exemption

RailTex, Inc. (RailTex),<sup>1</sup> North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Company, Inc. (NCVA), Chesapeake and Albemarle Railroad Company, Inc. (CA), Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, Inc., a Texas corporation (DGNO), Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. (MMRR), and Indiana Southern Railroad, Inc. (ISRR), have jointly filed a verified notice of exemption. As part of the proposed corporate restructuring: (1) the assets of DGNO and MMRR, including the assets of the Texas Northeastern Division, a division of MMRR, will be merged into Dallas, Garland & Northeastern Railroad, Inc., a Delaware Division (DGNO Delaware), with DGNO Delaware as the surviving entity; (2) the assets of NCVA and CA will be merged into North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation (NCVA Delaware), with NCVA Delaware as the surviving entity; and (3) ISRR will be reincorporated in the State of Delaware. After the transaction is consummated, RailTex will control 16 Class III railroads in the United States.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after October 15, 1999.

The purpose of the transaction is to simplify RailTex's corporate structure and eliminate costs associated with separate accounting, tax, bookkeeping and reporting functions. The proposed transaction will also allow for the reincorporation of additional RailTex subsidiaries in the State of Delaware

<sup>1</sup> RailTex is a noncarrier, which at the time of filing, directly controlled 18 Class III railroads operating in 20 states, as well as 3 rail carriers that operate in Canada.