

treatment of this part, as stated in the Policy Statement (see Policy Statement at 28422).

#### **Part 240 Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers**

Part 240 contains regulations relating to the qualification and certification of locomotive engineers. The locomotive engineer shoulders significant responsibility for the safety of him/herself and others in the railroad operating environment. Through the regulation's training, eligibility, testing, and monitoring standards, FRA seeks to ensure that only sufficiently qualified individuals are entrusted with those unique responsibilities.

#### *Justification*

VTA requests a waiver from these requirements because VTA will be following CPUC and VTA operator training and qualification standards. VTA believes that compliance with the CPUC/VTA operator qualification and training requirements will provide at least an equivalent level of safety. SOPs 1.5 and 1.9 set forth specific training and certification requirements for VTA light rail operators, in accordance with the requirements of Sections 12.02, 13 and 14.03 of CPUC General Order 143-A and § 5.2 of the Safety Plan. Moreover, compliance with FRA regulations for operators whose routes take them over the Drill Track would require the creation of a separate administrative structure for locomotive engineer training and qualification, which would place an unnecessary administrative burden on VTA without enhancing safety. This request is consistent with FRA's position on the appropriate treatment of this part, as stated in the Policy Statement (see Policy Statement at 28422).

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proceeding by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with either the request for a waiver of certain regulatory provisions or the request for an exemption of certain statutory provisions. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, he or she should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for his or her request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA 1999-6254) and must be submitted to the DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-

401 (Plaza level) 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning this proceeding are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on October 26, 1999.

**Michael Logue,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Maritime Administration**

[Docket No. MARAD-1999-6414]

#### **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 for three years of a currently approved information collection.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted on or before January 3, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jean McKeever, Maritime Administration, Office of Ship Financing, Room 8122, 400 7th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Telephone 202-366-5744, FAX 202-366-7901. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Collection:* Capital Construction Fund and Exhibits.

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

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0027.

*Form Numbers:* None.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* June 30, 2000.

*Summary of Collection of Information:* This information collection consists of application for a Capital

Construction Fund (CCF) agreement under section 607 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 as amended, and annual submissions of appropriate schedules and exhibits. The Capital Construction Fund is a tax deferred ship construction fund that was created to assist owners and operators of U.S.-flag vessels in accumulating the large amount of capital necessary for the modernization and expansion of the U.S. merchant marine. The program encourages construction, reconstruction, or acquisition of vessels through the deferment of Federal income taxes on certain deposits of money or other property placed into a CCF.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The collected information is necessary for MARAD to determine an applicant's eligibility to enter into a CCF Agreement.

*Description of Respondents:* U.S. citizens who own or lease one or more eligible vessels and who have a program to provide for the acquisition, construction or reconstruction of a qualified vessel.

*Annual Responses:* 140.

*Annual Burden:* 2130 hours total.

*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. EDT, 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: October 27, 1999.

**Michael J. McMorrow,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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