

project in Merced County, in Merced County, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert F. Tally, Team Leader, District Operations—North, California Division, 980 9th Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814-2724, Telephone: (916) 498-5020.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Merced County Department of Public Works, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a regional arterial, the Campus Parkway, in Merced County. The proposed project would involve the construction of an alignment, between the State Route 99/Mission Avenue Interchange to the southwest and the Bellevue Road to the northeast. The project would be approximately 10.5 kilometers (6.5 miles) in length.

Construction of this corridor is considered necessary to provide for the locally projected future traffic demand and conform with the regional transportation planning for the year 2020. The proposed project would provide access to the Merced's eastern industrial area, the northern area of the city of Merced, and the University Community Specific Use Development Plan area near Lake Yosemite, which encompasses the site for the campus of the University of California at Merced. Alternatives under consideration include: (1) Taking no action and (2) constructing a four-lane limited access highway on the ultimate six-lane Right-of-Way. Incorporated into and studied with the various build alternatives will be design variations of grade and alignment.

Letter describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and Local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Public information meetings will be held in Merced County between March and November 2000. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

To ensure that the full range of issues relate to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be

directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program Number 20.205, Highway research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: January 19, 2000.

**Robert F. Tally,**

*Team Leader, District Operations—North California Division, Federal Highway Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-1712 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33844]

#### **Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc., et al.—Corporate Family Transaction Exemption**

Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc. (KCSI), Kansas City Southern Lines, Inc. (KCSL), The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCSR), KCS Transportation Company (KCST), Gateway Western Railway Company (GWWR), and Gateway Eastern Railway Company (GWER) (collectively, applicants),<sup>1</sup> have filed a verified notice of exemption. The exempt transaction involves KCSR's acquisition of KCST's rail subsidiaries, GWWR and GWER, through acquiring KCST's stock from KCSL.

The applicants reported that they intended to consummate the transaction immediately upon the effective date of the exemption. The earliest the transaction could be consummated was January 17, 2000, 7 days after the exemption was filed.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of the transaction is to facilitate the planned spinoff of KCSI's financial subsidiaries into a corporation separate from KCSI, and to bring all of

<sup>1</sup> KCSI is a publicly traded, noncarrier holding company with both rail and nonrail assets. KCSL, a noncarrier holding company which owns direct and indirect interests in rail transportation companies, is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of KCSI. KCSR, a Class I rail carrier operating in the States of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama, is a wholly owned subsidiary of KCSL and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of KCSI. KCST, a noncarrier, is a wholly owned subsidiary of KCSL and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of KCSI. KCST owns all of the stock of GWWR, a Class II rail carrier operating in the States of Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. GWWR owns all of the stock of GWER, a Class III rail carrier operating in the State of Illinois.

<sup>2</sup> Upon completion of the transaction, KCSR will indirectly control GWWR and GWER.

KCSI's commonly controlled railroads under the direct control of KCSR.

This is a transaction within a corporate family of the type specifically exempted from prior review and approval under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(3). The applicants state that the transaction will not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with carriers outside the corporate family.

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Although applicants do not expect any employees to be adversely affected by this control transaction, they have agreed to apply employee protective conditions pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 11326(a). Therefore, any employees adversely affected by the control transaction will be protected by the conditions set forth in *New York Dock Ry.—Control—Brooklyn Eastern Dist.*, 360 I.C.C. 60 (1979).

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to reopen will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33844, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on William A. Mullins, Esq., Troutman Sanders, LLP, 1300 I Street, N.W., Suite 500 East, Washington, DC 20005-3314.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: January 18, 2000.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-1648 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Customs Service

[T.D. 00-6]

#### **Bonds; Approval To Use Authorized Facsimile Signatures and Seals**

The use of facsimile signatures and seals on Customs bonds by the

following corporate sureties has been approved effective this date: Hartford Casualty Insurance Company, Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

Authorized facsimile signature on file for: James M. Gorman, Attorney-in-fact.

The corporate sureties have provided the Customs Service with a copy of the signature to be used, copies of the corporate seals, and certified copies of the corporate resolutions agreeing to be bound by the facsimile signatures and seals. This approval is without prejudice to the sureties' right to affix signatures and seals manually.

Dated: January 19, 2000.

**Jerry Laderberg,**

*Chief, Entry Procedures and Carriers Branch.*

[FR Doc. 00-1683 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0114]

### Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a previously approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine a veteran's marital status.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 27, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0114" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Statement of Marital Relationship, VA Form 21-4170.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0114.

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

*Abstract:* VA Form 21-4170 is used to develop the evidence necessary to make a determination as to whether a claimed common law marriage can be recognized by VA.

Without this information, VA would have no means of determining the proper marital status of the veteran.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 3,000 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 6,000.

Dated: December 23, 1999.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Sandra McIntyre,**

*Management Analyst, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-1716 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0321]

### Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a previously approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed for a veterans service organization to represent a claimant in the prosecution of a VA claim.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 27, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0321" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative, VA Form 21-22.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0321.

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