

consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that govern the NASD.⁶ The Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁷ which requires, among other things, that the Association's rules be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Commission also finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ which requires that the rules of an association provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and other persons using any facility of the association.

The Commission believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act⁹ because it provides an alternative and generally less expensive form of dispute resolution. According to NASD Regulation, most mediations are successfully conducted in less than a single day and typically result in lower attorney fees for the parties. Further, parties who use mediation as compared to arbitration may save money by avoiding discovery costs.

In addition, the proposal is consistent with Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act¹⁰ because it is reasonably designed to allow NASD Regulation to recover its costs in administering the mediation program. NASD Regulation represents that the mediation program is subsidized and results in an annual program deficit of \$860,000. NASD Regulation estimates that the amended fee schedule will generate annual income of \$640,000, and believes that these funds should help offset the operational costs of the mediation program. Most of this new revenue will come from fees imposed on parties who first choose arbitration and then switch to mediation. In the past, these parties were not charged a fee when they switched to mediation, even though NASD Regulation represents that it incurs expenses through these switches. Based on these representations and the fact that parties with small claims will be charged little or no fees to use mediation, the Commission finds that proposal equitably allocates fees among its customers, broker-dealers, and

associated persons, and is reasonable under the circumstances.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹¹ that the proposed rule change (SR-NASD-00-11) is hereby approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-21072 Filed 8-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Pub. L. 104-13 effective October 1, 1995, The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and to the OMB Desk Officer at the following addresses:

(OMB), Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20503.

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

The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance. Your comments on the information collection would be most useful if received by OMB and SSA within 30 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him at the address listed above.

Internet Retirement Insurance Benefit (IRIB) Application—0960-0618. SSA will offer its customers another way to

apply for retirement insurance benefits. Currently, applicants for retirement insurance benefits complete a SSA-1, Application for Retirement Insurance Benefits, by telephone or in person with the assistance of a SSA employee. The IRIB application will enable individuals to complete the application on their own electronically over the Internet. The information that SSA collects will be used to determine entitlement to retirement insurance benefits. SSA plans to implement the IRIB application nationally later this year. The respondents are individuals who apply for retirement insurance benefits over the Internet.

Number of Respondents: 139,308.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 46,436 hours.

Dated: August 14, 2000.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,
SSA Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-21013 Filed 8-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as Amended by Pub. L. 104-13; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). The Tennessee Valley Authority is soliciting public comments on this proposed collection as provided by 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1). Requests for information, including copies of the information collection proposed and supporting documentation, should be directed to the Agency Clearance Officer: Wilma H. McCauley, Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street (EB 5B), Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801; (423) 751-2523.

Comments should be sent to the Agency Clearance Officer no later than October 17, 2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of Request: Regular submission, proposal to reinstate with change a previously approved collection for which approval has expired (OMB control number 3316-0062).

⁶In approving this rule change, the Commission has considered its impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(5).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(5).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s-(b)(2).

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Title of Information Collection: TVA Procurement Documents, including Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposal, Request for Quotation, and other related Procurement or Sales Documents.

Frequency of Use: On Occasion.

Type of Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, non-profit institutions, small businesses or organizations.

Small Business or Organizations Affected: Yes.

Federal Budget Functional Category Code: 999.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 24,500.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50,000.

Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Request: 0.49.

Need For and Use of Information: TVA procures goods and services to fulfill its statutory obligations and sells surplus items to recover a portion of its investment costs. This activity must be conducted in compliance with a variety of applicable laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. Vendors and purchasers who voluntarily seek to contract with TVA are affected.

Jacklyn J. Stephenson,

Senior Manager, Enterprise Operations, Information Services.

[FR Doc. 00-21071 Filed 8-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8120-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for renewal and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on May 15, 2000 [FR 65, page 31048]. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 18, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Delores King, Air Carrier Fitness

Division, X-56, Office of Aviation Analysis; Office of the Secretary; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW.; Washington, DC 20590-0002. Telephone (202) 366-2343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Office of the Secretary (OST)

Title: USE AND CHANGE OF NAMES OF AIR CARRIERS, FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS AND COMMUTER AIR CARRIERS.

OMB Control Number: 2106-0043.

Affected Public: Persons seeking to use or change the name or trade name in which they hold themselves out to the public as an air carrier or foreign or commuter air carrier authority must register the name or trade name which they will use to hold out air service to the public.

Annual Estimated Burden: 69.*

*The annual estimated burden has decreased from 87.4 hours because of the decrease in the number of name registration applicants over the past two years.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 15, 2000.

Michael Robinson,

Information Resource Management, United States Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 00-21127 Filed 8-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD-2000-7801]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel R' ADVENTURE II.

SUMMARY: As authorized by Public Law 105-383, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the

Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a description of the proposed service, is listed below. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines that in accordance with Public Law 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388 (65 FR 6905; February 11, 2000) that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels, a waiver will not be granted.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2000-7801. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-832 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-4357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title V of Public Law 105-383 provides authority to the Secretary of Transportation to administratively waive the U.S.-build requirements of the Jones Act, and other statutes, for small commercial passenger vessels (no more than 12 passengers). This authority has been delegated to the Maritime Administration per 49 CFR § 1.66, Delegations to the Maritime Administrator, as amended. By this notice, MARAD is publishing information on a vessel for which a request for a U.S.-build waiver has been received, and for which MARAD requests comments from interested parties. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver