

surrounding the above-referenced employee deaths, the five SOFA Working Group recommendations, and the RSAC Declaration, FRA further believes that railroads can reduce the likelihood of suffering the loss of additional employee lives during switching operations if they and their employees elect to follow the

recommendations of the Working Group and commit to the principles of the RSAC Declaration.

Based on the information obtained from FRA's ongoing initiatives concerning safety during switching operations, investigations of railroad accidents and incidents, and information gathered pursuant to the Declaration and other partnership

initiatives with rail labor and management, FRA may modify Safety Advisory 2000-03, issue additional safety advisories, or take other appropriate necessary action to ensure the highest level of safety on the Nation's railroads.

Appendix A—Calendar Year 2000 Switching Operations Fatalities

Employee job title	Years of railroad service	Date of death	Circumstances surrounding the death
Conductor	21	January 2	Struck by a box car fouling the track while riding the lead car of a shoving movement into an industry track.
Conductor	23	March 9	Coupled (crushed) between two rail cars while switching in a classification yard.
Foreman	32	April 21	Stepped into the path of a rail car that had been released into the track for classification from the gravity hump.
Brakeman	2	May 22	Crushed between the side of a hopper car and a coal unloader while riding the leading end of a shoving move into a customer's siding.
Switchman	2	May 31	Crushed between the locomotive he was riding and a standing cut of box cars.
Conductor	19	July 7	Stepped between moving cars and was struck and run over by the equipment.
Conductor	30	July 24	Struck by own locomotive after lining a switch on the opposite side of the track from the engineer.
Brakeman	27	July 28	Pinned between the car he was riding and the loading dock at a customer's siding during a shoving move.
Brakeman	4	August 11	Struck by another train crew's consist while switching at an intermodal facility.
Switch Foreman	27	September 9	Stepped into the path of and struck by own equipment.

Appendix B—The Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Declaration

Together, the railroad community will initiate an on-going focused safety campaign to prevent fatalities and injuries from occurring during switching operations. This initiative underscores our collective commitment to zero injuries and accidents in the workplace. This safety campaign will include the following steps:

- Switching operations industry wide will immediately be assessed as a team effort by labor, management and FRA through increased monitoring and audits to determine safety risks;
- Supervisors and employees will increase their efforts to communicate the importance of safety and urge everyone to redouble their focus on safe practices;
- The Switching Operations Fatality (SOFA) Analysis report and the "Five SOFA Lifesavers" will be used as the basis to create a plan to address safety risks; and
- Managers will communicate with employees and their families to educate them on potential dangers and to seek their support in eliminating fatalities and injuries in the workplace.

We will work together to further strengthen a rail safety culture that protects the lives and well being of every railroad employee. As an industry, we are dedicated to achieving this safety goal.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on October 27, 2000.

Jolene M. Molitoris,
Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-28150 Filed 11-01-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Reports, Forms and Record Keeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 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 review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period was published on May 5, 2000 [65 FR 26273-26274].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Jackson at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Technology and Resource Management, (NAD-40), 202-366-2588. 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 6240, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Title: Air Bag Deactivation.

OMB Number: 2127-0588.

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

Abstract: If a private individual or lessee wants to install an air bag on-off switch to turn-off either or both frontal air bags, they must complete Form OMB 2127-0588 to certify certain statements regarding use of the switch. The dealer or business must, in turn, submit the completed forms to NHTSA within seven days. The submission of the completed forms by the dealers and repair business to NHTSA, as required, will serve the agency several purposes. They will aid the agency in monitoring the number of authorization requests submitted and the pattern in claims of risk groups membership. The completed forms will enable the agency to determine whether the dealers and

repair business are complying with the terms of the exemption, which include a requirement that the dealers and repair businesses accept only fully completed forms. Finally, submission of the completed forms to the agency will promote honesty and accuracy in the filling out of the forms by vehicle owners. The air bag on-off switches are installed only in vehicles in which the risk of harm needs to be minimized on a case-by-case basis.

Affected Public: Private individuals, fleet owners and lessees, motor vehicle dealers, repair business.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 7,500 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention NHTSA Desk Officer.

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.

A Comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 30, 2000.

Herman L. Simms,

Associate Administrator for Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-28149 Filed 11-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33946]

State of Texas Acting by and Through the Texas Department of Transportation—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—South Orient Railroad Company, Ltd.

The State of Texas acting by and through the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), a noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from South Orient Railroad Company, Ltd. (SORC) and to operate approximately 370.5 miles of rail line in Brewster, Coleman,

Crane, Crockett, Irion, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Runnels, Tom Green and Upton Counties, TX. TxDOT would acquire from SORC the right to operate¹ between milepost 1029.1 on the International Bridge near Presidio, TX, and milepost 956.7, at Paisano Junction, and between milepost 945.3, at Alpine, TX, and milepost 0+330 feet, near San Angelo Junction on the east, and Lampasas Subdivision milepost 373+4362 feet, near San Angelo Junction on the west. TxDOT already owns the underlying right-of-way and it would acquire ownership of the track and track materials from the South Orient Rural Rail Transportation District.² In connection with its operation of these lines, Pacifico would also acquire the right to operate, by assignment of SORC's trackage rights, over a line of the Union Pacific Railroad Company extending between milepost 956.7 at Paisano Junction and milepost 945.3, at Alpine Junction. The operations by Pacifico would thus extend over approximately 381.9 miles. TxDOT states that it will retain the residual common carrier obligation with respect to the lines it owns. TxDOT states that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not exceed those of a Class III rail carrier.³

The transaction was expected to be consummated on or after October 17, 2000.

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

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33946, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Richard H.

¹ TxDOT states that it is in the final stages of negotiating a lease and operating agreement with Texas Pacific Transportation, Ltd. (Pacifico), whereby Pacifico will conduct freight operations over the above-described rail lines.

² See *South Orient Railroad Company, Ltd.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company*, Finance Docket No. 31971 (ICC served Sept. 3, 1992).

³ On February 18, 2000, Pacifico filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire and operate the above-described rail line from SORC. See *Texas Pacific Transportation, Ltd.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—South Orient Railroad Company, Ltd.*, STB Finance Docket No. 33851 (STB served Mar. 3, 2000). It appears that the transaction was never consummated and that the acquisitions and operations described in the present notice would substitute for those anticipated by the filing in STB Finance Docket No. 33851.

Streeter, Barnes & Thornburg, 1401 Eye Street, NW., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005.

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

Decided: October 25, 2000.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-27954 Filed 11-01-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Thrift Supervision

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Today, the Office of Thrift Supervision within the Department of the Treasury solicits comments on the following information collections: 1550-0005, "De Novo Applications"; 1550-0015, "Savings Associations Holding Company Applications"; and 1550-0037 "Fiduciary Powers Applications".

DATES: Submit written comments on or before January 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES:

Mail: Send comments to Manager, Dissemination Branch, Information Management and Services Division, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, Attention 1550-0005, 1550-0015, 1550-0037.

Delivery: Hand deliver comments to the Guard's Desk, East Lobby Entrance, 1700 G Street, NW., from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on business days, Attention 1550-0005, 1550-0015, 1550-0037.

Facsimiles: Send facsimile transmissions to FAX Number (202) 906-7755, Attention 1550-0005, 1550-0015, 1550-0037; or (202) 906-6956 (if comments are over 25 pages).

E-Mail: Send e-mails to "public.info@ots.treas.gov", Attention 1550-0005, 1550-0015, 1550-0037, and include your name and telephone number.