

organizational affiliation. One of the following valid photo identifications will be required for admission: U.S. driver's license, passport, U.S. Government identification card. Enter the Department of State from the C Street Lobby; in view of escorting requirements, non-Government attendees should plan to arrive not less than 15 minutes before the meeting begins.

Attendees may join in the discussions, subject to the instructions of the Chair. Admission of members will be limited to seating available.

Dated: January 23, 2001.

Doreen McGirr,

Chairman, ITAC-D, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 01-2861 Filed 1-30-01; 3:39 pm]

BILLING CODE 4710-45-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) hereby announces that it is seeking renewal of the following currently approved information collection activities. Before submitting these information collection requirements for clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified below.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than April 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on any or all of the following proposed activities by mail to either: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590, or Ms. Dian Deal, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590. Commenters requesting FRA to acknowledge receipt of their respective comments must

include a self-addressed stamped postcard stating, "Comments on OMB control number 2130-0545." Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via facsimile to (202) 493-6265 or (202) 493-6170, or E-mail to Mr. Brogan at robert.brogan@fra.dot.gov, or to Ms. Deal at dian.deal@fra.dot.gov. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in response to this notice in a subsequent notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB for approval.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292) or Dian Deal, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6133). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Pub. L. No. 104-13, § 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60-days notice to the public for comment on information collection activities before seeking approval for reinstatement or renewal by OMB. 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.10(e)(1), 1320.12(a). Specifically, FRA invites interested respondents to comment on the following summary of proposed information collection activities regarding (i) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (iii) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (iv) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public by automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information

technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)(i)-(iv); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1)(i)-(iv). FRA believes that soliciting public comment will promote its efforts to reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information mandated by Federal regulations. In summary, FRA reasons that comments received will advance three objectives: (i) Reduce reporting burdens; (ii) ensure that it organizes information collection requirements in a "user friendly" format to improve the use of such information; and (iii) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

Below is a brief summary of currently approved information collection activities that FRA will submit for clearance by OMB as required under the PRA:

Title: Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0545.

Abstract: The collection of information is due to the passenger train emergency preparedness regulations set forth in 49 CFR Parts 223 and 239 which require railroads to meet minimum Federal standards for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of emergency preparedness plans connected with the operation of passenger trains, including freight railroads hosting operations of rail passenger service. The regulations require luminescent or lighted emergency markings so that passengers and emergency responders can readily determine where the closest and most accessible exit routes are located and how the emergency exit mechanisms are operated. Windows and doors intended for emergency access by responders for extrication of passengers must be marked with retro-reflective material so that emergency responders—particularly in conditions of poor visibility—can easily distinguish them from the less accessible doors and windows. Records of the inspection, maintenance and repairs of emergency windows and door exits, as well as records of operational efficiency tests, will be used to ensure compliance with the regulations.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Respondent Universe: 18 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

Reporting Burden:

CFR section	Respondent universe	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Total annual burden cost
223.9(d); 239.107—Doors/windows Emergency Egress—Markings.	18 railroads	10,475 decals	5 minutes	873	\$25,317
Doors/Windows—Markings with Retro-reflective Material.	18 railroads	7,620 decals	4/5 minutes	614	17,806
239.107(b)—Records of Inspection, Maintenance, Repair.	18 railroads	3,600 tests/rcds	20 min./3 min.	690	20,060
239.101, 239.201—Filing of Emergency Preparedness Plan.	2 railroads	2 plans	158 hours	316	20,856
—Amendments to Emergency Plans	2 railroads	2 amendments	3.2 hours	6	228
239.101(ii)—Maintenance of Current Emergency Phone Numbers.	2 railroads	2 records	1 hour	2	76
—Subsequent Years	20 railroads	20 records	30 minutes	10	380
239.101(a)(3)—Joint Operations	4 railroad pairs	4 plans	16 hours	64	3,328
—Subsequent Years	1 railroad pair	1 plan	16 hours	16	832
239.101(a)(5)—Liaison with Emergency Responders.	2 railroads	2 plans	6 hours	12	456
—Subsequent Years	20 railroads	20 plans/1,200 copies.	30 min./5 min.	110	4,180
239.101(a)(7)(ii) Passenger Safety Information.	5/12 railroads	1,300 cards/5 progs./5 safety messages/12 progs./12 msgs.	5 min./16 hrs./48 hrs./8 hrs.	812	30,060
239.105—Debriefing and Critique	20 railroads	5 debrief sess.	27 hours	135	2,190
239.301—Operational Efficiency Tests ...	18 railroads	11,075 tests/rcds. ...	5 minutes	923	38,766

Total Responses: 35,362.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 4,583.

Status: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b), 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on January 26, 2001.

Kathy A. Weiner,

Director, Office of Information Technology and Support Systems, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 01–2700 Filed 1–31–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From Requirements

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroads have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR Part 236 as detailed below.

[Docket No. FRA–2000–8502]

Applicant: Union Pacific Railroad Company, Mr. Phil Abaray, Chief Engineer—Signals, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 1000, Omaha, Nebraska 68179–1000.

Union Pacific Railroad Company seeks approval of the proposed modification of the automatic block signal system, on the single main track of the Salina Subdivision, consisting of the discontinuance and removal of signals 1650 and 1651 near West Abilene, Kansas, milepost 165.0, and the discontinuance and removal signals 1859 and 1860 near Salina, Kansas, milepost 186.0.

The reason given for the proposed changes is that the signals are no longer needed due to crew change location revisions, and improve signal spacing for braking distance.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, and contain a concise statement of the interest of the party in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by the docket number and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PI–401, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by the FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as

practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) at DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PI–401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. 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>.

FRA expects to be able to determine these matters without an oral hearing. However, if a specific request for an oral hearing is accompanied by a showing that the party is unable to adequately present his or her position by written statements, an application may be set for public hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC on January 24, 2001.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 01–2701 Filed 1–31–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From Requirements

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroads have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval