

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Notice of Public Information Collection(s) being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

July 12, 2001.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted on or before August 17, 2001. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all comments to Bobby Brown, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-A739, 445 12th Street, SW, DC 20554 or via the Internet to [bbrown@fcc.gov](mailto:bbrown@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information or copies of the information collection(s), contact Bobby Brown at 202-418-0539 or via the Internet at [bbrown@fcc.gov](mailto:bbrown@fcc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Control No.:* 3060-0211.  
*Title:* Section 73.1943 Political File.  
*Form No.:* Not applicable.  
*Type of Review:* Extension of currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 16,597.  
*Estimated Time Per Response:* 0.25 hour per request (each station is

estimated to have 25 political broadcasts per year).

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Total Annual Burden:* 104,744 hours.

*Total Annual Cost:* 0.

*Needs and Uses:* Section 73.1943 requires licensees of broadcast stations to keep and permit public inspection of a complete record (political file) of all requests for broadcast time made by or on behalf of candidates for public office, together with an appropriate notation showing the disposition made by the licensee of such request. The data is used by the public to assess money expended and time allotted to a political candidate and to ensure that equal access was afforded to other qualified candidates.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-17927 Filed 7-17-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6712-01-P**

## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. 01-08]

### The Impact of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act and the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act

**AGENCY:** Federal Maritime Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of inquiry.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Maritime Commission ("FMC" or "Commission") is issuing this Inquiry to solicit information and comments concerning the impact of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act and the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act on all sectors of the U.S. ocean shipping industry. These comments will assist the Commission as it analyzes the use and acceptance of documents in electronic form, as well as other means of engaging in electronic transactions. The Commission plans to provide individuals or entities with the option to submit information or transact business with the Commission electronically, where practicable, and to maintain records electronically when practicable.

**DATES:** Submit an original and 15 copies of comments (paper), or e-mail comments as an attachment in WordPerfect 8, Microsoft Word 97, or earlier versions of these applications, August 17, 2001.

**ADDRESS COMMENTS TO:** Bryant L. VanBrakle, Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol St., NW., Room 1046, Washington, DC

20573-0001, (202) 523-5725, E-mail: [secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:secretary@fmc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Florence A. Carr, Deputy Executive Director, Office of the Executive Director, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20573-0001, (202) 523-5800, E-mail: [florence@fmc.gov](mailto:florence@fmc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Commission is seeking information and comments from interested parties regarding the impact of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act ("GPEA"), Public Law 105-277, and the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act ("E-SIGN"), Public Law 106-229, on all sectors of the U.S. ocean shipping industry.

GPEA provides that electronic records and their related electronic signatures are not to be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability merely because they are in electronic form. GPEA requires agencies, by October 21, 2003, to provide for (1) the option of electronic maintenance, submission, or disclosure of information, when practicable as a substitute for paper; and (2) the use and acceptance of electronic signatures, when practicable. GPEA defines "electronic signature" as a method of signing an electronic message that (a) identifies and authenticates a particular person as the source of the electronic message; and (b) indicates such person's approval of the information contained in the electronic message. GPEA encourages Federal Government use of a range of electronic signature alternatives.

E-SIGN eliminates legal barriers to the use of electronic technology to form and sign contracts, collect and store documents, and send and receive notices and disclosures. E-SIGN provides that a contract, signature, or record may not be denied legal effect, validity or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form, and that a contract relating to such a transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity or enforceability solely because an electronic signature or electronic record was used in its formation, provided that, among other things, the parties agree to use or accept electronic records and or electronic signatures. Provisions in Federal and state statutes and agency regulations requiring the use of paper records and ink signatures in commercial, consumer, and business transactions have been superseded by E-SIGN as of October 1, 2000.

E-SIGN also preserves consumer protections for electronic commerce such as exist for paper-based transactions. The Act applies broadly to