

City interchange in the south (RP 187) to the Lincoln Road interchange in the north (RP 200). This Draft EIS includes an examination of the purpose and need, alternatives under consideration, travel demand, affected environment, environmental consequences, and mitigation measures as a result of the improvements under consideration. Two build alternatives with five supporting elements and a No-Action Alternative are presented in the Draft EIS and are under consideration by FHWA and MDT.

The FHWA, MDT, and other local agencies invite interested individuals, organizations, and Federal, State, and local agencies to comment on the evaluated alternatives and associated social, economic, or environmental impacts related to the alternatives.

Issued on: February 4, 2003.

**Dale W. Paulson,**

*Program Development Engineer, Montana Division, Federal Highway Administration, Helena, Montana.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Maritime Administration**

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

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on November 5, 2002. No comments were received.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before March 12, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rodney McFadden, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-2647; FAX 202-493-2180, or e-mail:

*rodney.mcfadden@marad.dot.gov.*

Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Maritime Administration (MARAD).

*Title:* Information to Determine Seamen's Reemployment Rights.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0526.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* U.S. merchant seamen who have completed designated national service during a time of maritime mobilization need and are seeking reemployment with a prior employer.

*Form(s):* None.

*Abstract:* MARAD is requesting approval of this collection in an effort to implement provisions of the Maritime Security Act of 1996. These provisions grant reemployment rights and other benefits to certain merchant seamen serving aboard vessels used by the United States during times of national emergencies. The Maritime Security Act of 1996 establishes the procedures for obtaining the necessary MARAD certification for reemployment rights and other benefits.

*Annual Estimated Burden Hours:* 50 hours.

*Addresses:* Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

*Comments are Invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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 best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 4, 2003.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Ex Parte No. 638]

**Procedures To Expedite Resolution of Rail Rate Challenges To Be Considered Under the Stand-Alone Cost Methodology**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board (Board) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 27, 2003, at its offices in Washington, DC, to provide interested persons an opportunity to express their views on the subject of expediting resolution of rail rate challenges to be considered under the Board's Stand-Alone Cost (SAC) methodology. Persons wishing to speak at the hearing should notify the Board in writing.

**DATES:** The public hearing will take place on Thursday, February 27, 2003. Any person wishing to speak at the hearing should file with the Board a written notice of intent to participate, and should indicate a requested time allotment, as soon as possible but no later than February 19, 2003. Each speaker should also file with the Board his/her written testimony by February 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** An original and 10 copies of all notices of intent to participate and testimony should refer to STB Ex Parte No. 638, and should be sent to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 638, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Jamie P. Rennert, (202) 565-1566. [Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) (Hearing Impaired): (800) 877-8339.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board will hold a public hearing to provide a forum for the expression of views by rail shippers, railroads, and other interested persons, on expediting resolution of rail rate challenges to be considered under the SAC methodology.

*Issues.* This public hearing follows the Board's review of comments filed in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) served in this docket on September 4, 2002. In the NPRM, the Board asked for suggestions on ways to streamline resolution of SAC cases, and the Board itself identified several possible measures. These measures included a mandatory pre-filing, non-binding mediation process; discovery standards tailored to the