DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2012–0063]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration’s (MARAD’s) intention to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before August 7, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis Brennan, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202–366–1029; or email: dennis.brennan@dot.gov. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:


Type of Request: Extension of currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133–0013.

Form Numbers: MA–518.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from date of approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

Summary of Collection of Information: 46 App. U.S.C. 1241–1, Public Resolution 17, required MARAD to monitor and enforce the U.S.-flag shipping requirements relative to the loans/guarantees extended by the Export-Import Bank (EXIMBANK) to foreign borrowers. Public Resolution 17 requires that shipments financed by EXIMbank and that move by sea, must be transported exclusively on U.S.-flag and foreign ships. MARAD will use this information to report annually to Congress the total shipping activities during the calendar year.

Description of Respondents: Shippers subject to EXIMbank financing.

Annual Responses: 336.

Annual Burden: 168 hours.

Comments: Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Comments also may be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at www.regulations.gov. Specifically address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT (or EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at http://regulations.gov.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our docket by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78) or you may visit http://regulations.gov.

Authority: 49 CFR 1.66.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: June 1, 2012.

Julie Agarwai.

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2012–13995 Filed 6–7–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA–2012–0100]

Pipeline Safety: Public Meeting on Integrity Management of Gas Distribution Pipelines

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) are jointly sponsoring a public meeting on Implementing Integrity Management of Gas Distribution Pipelines. The meeting will be held on June 27, 2012, in Fort Worth, Texas. At the meeting, PHMSA/NAPSR will discuss observations from initial inspections of operators’ implementation of integrity management requirements for gas distribution pipelines and current regulatory topics affecting distribution pipeline operators. The meeting will also include panel and breakout session discussions involving gas distribution pipeline industry representatives on topics relating to their experiences implementing the distribution integrity management regulation.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CDT. Name badge pickup and onsite registration will be available starting at 7:30 a.m. Refer to the meeting Web site for a more detailed agenda and times at http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/Home.htm. Please note that the public meeting will be webcast and presentations will be available on the meeting Web site within 30 days following the public meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting is open to all. There is no cost to attend. The meeting will be held at the Omni Hotel, 1300 Houston Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102– 6556. Hotel reservations under the “U.S. DOT DIMP” room block for the nights of June 26–27, 2012, can be made at 1–800–843–6664. A daily rate of $139.00 is available. Information about the meeting room will be posted at the hotel on the day of the public meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris McClure, Office of Pipeline Safety at 281–216–4453 or email at chris.mclaren@dot.gov, regarding the subject matter of this notice.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A final rule establishing requirements for assuring the continued integrity of gas distribution pipelines (DIMP) was published on December 4, 2009, (74 FR 63906). The rule required that operators of gas distribution pipelines develop and implement integrity management plans for their pipeline systems by August 2, 2011. PHMSA and states have conducted a number of inspections of gas distribution pipeline operator integrity management programs. Many more inspections will follow. This public meeting is intended to allow PHMSA, NAPSR, and industry representatives to share observations resulting from these initial inspections.

The public meeting is designed to enhance pipeline safety through improved integrity management of natural gas distribution pipeline systems and will consist of presentations and panel discussions provided by a variety of stakeholders. Panel participants will represent industry, PHMSA, and NAPSR. Panels will present information on PHMSA and NAPSR’s expectations of implemented distribution integrity management programs (DIMP) and observations from DIMP Inspections conducted by PHMSA and NAPSR. PHMSA and NAPSR will promote compliance with regulations by providing an overview of the rule, including expectations of regulatory definitions (such as identification of threats, methodologies for segmentation of assets for evaluation of risk, risk ranking, measures designed to reduce risk, and measuring and monitoring performance) and discussing methodologies that industry is employing to meet the requirements of the rule. Inspection findings from DIMP inspections conducted by PHMSA and state programs and issue areas and areas of concern will be discussed.

Participants of the public meeting will benefit from (1) hearing their peers explain methods of implementation for certain provisions of the rule and associated questions experienced during program development and implementation; (2) listening to PHMSA, NAPSR, and industry experience on implementing the specific elements of the rule; (3) discussing rule compliance concerns; developing a clearer understanding of the DIMP rule provisions, and (4) participating in the development of additional guidance if deemed necessary through stakeholder feedback.

Interested persons may obtain more information on DIMP by accessing the DIMP Web site through the PHMSA Pipeline Safety Community page at http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline by selecting “Integrity Management Program (IMP)” and then “Integrity Management—Distribution.”

Preliminary Agenda
- Discuss Implementation of the DIMP Regulation and Regulatory Developments affecting Distribution Operators.
- Regulators’ (NAPSR and PHMSA) Perspective on Implementation of the DIMP Regulation.
- Breakout Sessions to discuss various topics regarding the implementation of distribution IM Programs and meeting the requirements of the DIMP rule.
- Presentations from representatives of the breakout sessions, NAPSR, and industry.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 5, 2012.

Jeffrey D Wiese,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
[FR Doc. 2012–13991 Filed 6–7–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Surface Transportation Board
[Docket No. EP 682 (Sub-No. 3)]

2011 Tax Information for Use in the Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Board is publishing, and providing the public an opportunity to comment on, the 2011 weighted average state tax rates for each Class I railroad, as calculated by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), for use in the Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method (RSAM).

DATES: Comments are due by July 9, 2012. If any comment opposing AAR’s calculation is filed, AAR’s reply will be due by July 30, 2012. If no comments are filed by the due date, AAR’s calculation of the 2011 weighted average state tax rates will be automatically adopted by the Board, effective July 10, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted either via the Board’s e-filing format or in traditional paper format.

Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the E-FILING link on the Board’s Web site at http://www.stb.dot.gov. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies referring to Docket No. EP 682 (Sub-No. 3) to: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathon Binet, (202) 245–0368. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RSAM figure is one of three benchmarks that together are used to determine the reasonableness of a challenged rate under the Board’s Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases, EP 646 (Sub-No. 1) (STB served Sept. 5, 2007),1 as further revised in Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases—Taxes in Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method, EP 646 (Sub-No. 2) (STB served Nov. 21, 2008). RSAM is intended to measure the average markup that the railroad would need to collect from all of its “potentially captive traffic” (traffic with a revenue-to-variable-cost ratio above 180%) to earn adequate revenues as measured by the Board under 49 U.S.C. 10704(a)(2) (i.e., earn a return on investment equal to the railroad industry cost of capital). Simplified Standards–Taxes in RSAM, slip op. at 1. In Simplified Standards–Taxes in RSAM, slip op. at 3, 5, the Board modified its RSAM formula to account for taxes, as the prior formula mistakenly compared pre-tax and after-tax revenues. In that decision, the Board stated that it would institute a separate proceeding in which Class I railroads would be required to submit the annual tax information necessary for the Board’s annual RSAM calculation. Id. at 5–6.

In Annual Submission of Tax Information for Use in the Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method, EP 682 (STB served Feb. 26, 2010), the Board adopted rules to require AAR—a national trade association—to annually calculate and submit to the Board the weighted average state tax rate for each Class I railroad. See 49 CFR 1135.2(a). On May 30, 2012, AAR filed its calculation of the weighted average state tax rates for 2011, listed below for each Class I railroad:

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1 Aff’d sub nom. CSX Transp., Inc. v. STB, 568 F.3d 236 (DC Cir. 2009), and vacated in part on reh’g, CSX Transp., Inc. v. STB, 584 F.3d 1076 (DC Cir. 2009).