carrier vehicle maintenance practices as a result of an intervention; significant benefits of interventions; and ways the intervention process could be improved. Information provided by the IE Group will address the portion of Objective 2 regarding sufficiency of regulations and where interventions need to be improved to facilitate complying with these regulations.

Survey responses will be summarized and reported using plots, tables, content analysis, and calculated summary statistics. Plots and tables will provide a visual comparison of multiple choice and checkbox survey responses for successful carriers (*i.e.,* carriers in the RP Group) and those receiving interventions in the last 24 months (*i.e.,* carriers in the IE Group). These methods will also allow researchers to summarize responses by carrier operation type (*i.e.,* truck or bus) and size. Bar charts will be used to plot responses to many survey questions. Some survey responses may be summarized with tables with rows for each of the carrier operation types (truck or bus) and each carrier-size subgroup. To explore and summarize responses to open-ended survey questions, researchers will use content analysis methods. An illustration of an open-ended question in the survey is ''List examples of critical safety-related maintenance activities for trailer vehicle milestones.'' The goal of content analysis of open-ended questions will be to identify common answers.

The results of this information collection will be documented in a technical report to be delivered to and published by FMCSA. In addition, the results will be used to create a ''recommended best practices'' report that will outline minimum standards for inspection intervals, mechanic qualifications and training, and certification of maintenance facilities. Finally, VTTI is required under the contract with FMCSA to compile and analyze the collected information and develop a public-use data set.

This ICR is for a one-time data collection. If this data collection does not take place, the truck and bus industry would continue to operate with the uncertainty of what a ''systematic maintenance'' program, as currently worded in section 396.3(a), consists of. This term's ambiguous definition makes it difficult for federal and state inspectors to evaluate the effectiveness of a carrier's maintenance program or its compliance with this provision. Furthermore, this uncertainty may make it difficult for carriers to ascertain and therefore comply with the regulation's intent.

Title: Truck and Bus Maintenance Requirements and Their Impact on Safety.

OMB Control Number: 2126–XXXX.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Respondents: Freight motor carriers and passenger carriers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 578 respondents [578 respondents will complete the Online Recruitment Survey. Of those 578 respondents, 289 will also complete the Carrier Maintenance Manager Survey].

Estimated Time per Response: Varies [Online Recruitment Survey: 5 minutes. Carrier Maintenance Manager Survey: 45 minutes].

Expiration Date: 3 years after approval.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 265 hours [Online Recruitment Survey: 578 respondents × (5 minutes ÷ 60 minutes) = 48 hours; Carrier Maintenance Manager Survey: 289 respondents × (45 minutes ÷ 60 minutes) = 217 hours].

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the performance of FMCSA's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for FMCSA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Issued under the authority of 49 CFR 1.87 on: July 10, 2018.

Kelly Regal,

Associate Administrator for Office of Research and Information Technology.

[FR Doc. 2018–15151 Filed 7–13–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs Housing Loan Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations, VA intends to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental consequences of continued operation and administration of VA's Housing Loan Program (HLP). VA's reference to the HLP includes federal assistance, administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), in the form of loans made, insured, or guaranteed by VA. It also includes housing benefits that can be used in conjunction with the HLP (*e.g.,* the Specially Adapted Housing program). Under the HLP, VBA is also responsible for the management, marketing, and disposition of real estate owned (REO) properties that VA acquires following the foreclosure of certain VA-guaranteed loans and loans held in VA's portfolio. This notice opens the public scoping phase and invites interested parties to identify potential issues, concerns, and reasonable alternatives that should be considered in the PEIS. Following the scoping meeting referenced below, a Draft PEIS will be prepared and circulated for public comment.

DATES: All written comments should be submitted by August 15, 2018.

VA invites federal, state, tribal, and local entities; non-profit organizations; businesses; interested parties; and the general public to comment on the proposed scope and content of the PEIS. VA will consider all scoping comments in developing the PEIS. VA will conduct a public scoping meeting on Thursday, August 2, 2018, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The scoping meeting will afford the public an opportunity to learn more about the project and provide input on the environmental analysis process. During the meeting, VA will provide an overview of the project, as well as details regarding the PEIS scope, purpose, and need. VA will also outline the overall NEPA process. Additionally, VA will post a scoping presentation on a publicly available website during the 30-day scoping period. Such presentation will be available at *http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/environmental_impact.asp.*

Proposed Actions and Alternatives: VA's Proposed Action is to continue administering the HLP and incorporating programmatic changes as necessitated by amendments to program authorities, Veteran need, market conditions, and factors not foreseen at the time of this publication.

VA's No Action Alternative refers to a scenario wherein VA operates the HLP in a manner consistent with policies

and procedures as of fiscal year 2017 (October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017). The No Action Alternative is being presented as a snapshot in time to provide a baseline from which to compare the Proposed Action. Nevertheless, the No Action Alternative is likely unrealistic, as it assumes that HLP policies and requirements are frozen, and thereby does not account for subsequent programmatic improvements, legislation, Executive Branch directives, or other requirements.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through *http://www.regulations.gov;* by mail or hand delivery to the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 1063B, Washington DC 20420; or by fax to 202–273–9026. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to ''Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs Housing Loan Program''. Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Room 1063B, Washington, DC 20420, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Please call (202) 461–4902 (this is not a toll-free number) for an appointment. During the comment period, comments may also be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System at *www.regulations.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elysium Drumm, VA Housing Loan Program, at 202–632–8790 or *VAHLPNEPA.VBAVACO@va.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The most significant element of the HLP is the provision of housing benefits that assist eligible Veterans in financing the purchase, construction, repair, or improvement of a home for their personal occupancy. See 38 U.S.C. 3701 *et seq.* VBA administers these and other housing benefits, such as assistance to Veterans who want to adapt their homes, to assist Veterans in readjusting to civilian life. The HLP provides what can be, for some Veterans, their sole opportunity to obtain crucial housing loans and adaptations.

Through this PEIS, VA is using the NEPA process to evaluate the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of the HLP; to invite public participation; and to assist with and inform future agency planning and decision making related to the HLP. The PEIS will also evaluate the HLP, which assists hundreds of thousands of Veterans each year across the United States and its territories, to ensure that VA appropriately considers the human environmental elements and effects specified in 40 CFR 1508.8 (*i.e.,* ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative) in carrying out the various elements and aspects of the program. This PEIS is unique in that it addresses an existing program, and VA has no specific or immediate need to change its operational structure or procedures to address environmental impacts. Furthermore, the making of loan guaranties, direct loans, and grants do not typically, in and of themselves, result in direct environmental impacts. Environmental impacts, if they occur, would be the result of private citizen actions (*e.g.,* construction of a house funded by VA-guaranteed loan financing) related to a specific property. In this case, the primary environmental impacts of concern for VA would be the potential indirect impacts from homeowner actions and the potentially significant cumulative impacts of small incremental actions on local and regional resources.

As part of the scoping process, VA encourages federal, state, tribal, and local entities; non-profit organizations; businesses; interested parties; and the general public to provide input on any areas of environmental concern relevant to the HLP, and suggestions regarding potential environmental impacts that should be evaluated. VA will consult with such parties during VA's preparation of the PEIS.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on July 10, 2018, for publication.

Dated: July 10, 2018.

Jeffrey M. Martin,

Impact Analyst, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2018–15073 Filed 7–13–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0609]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Survey of Veteran Enrollees' Health and Use of Health Care

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each renewal of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before September 14, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at *www.Regulations.gov* or to Brian McCarthy, Office of Regulatory and Administrative Affairs (10B4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to *Brian.McCarthy4@va.gov.* Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0609'' in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian McCarthy at (202) 615–9241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the