

12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority No. 236–3 of August 28, 2000.

**Marie Therese Porter Royce,**

*Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2019–20773 Filed 9–24–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710–05–P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 3)]

### **Renewal of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to renew charter.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the Surface Transportation Board (Board) intends to renew the charter of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the charter is available on the Board's website at <https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/retac.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristen Nunnally, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 245–0312. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** RETAC was established by the Board on September 24, 2007, to provide advice and guidance to the Board, on a continuing basis, and to provide a forum for the discussion of emerging issues and concerns regarding the transportation by rail of energy resources, including, but not necessarily limited to, coal and biofuels (such as ethanol), and petroleum. RETAC functions solely as an advisory body and complies with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. app., and its implementing regulations.

RETAC consists of approximately 25 voting members, excluding the governmental representatives. The membership comprises a balanced representation of individuals experienced in issues affecting the transportation of energy resources, including no fewer than: 5 representatives from the Class I railroads; 3 representatives from Class II and III railroads; 3 representatives from

coal producers; 5 representatives from electric utilities (including at least one rural electric cooperative and one state- or municipally-owned utility); 4 representatives from biofuel feedstock growers or providers, and biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors; 2 representatives from private car owners, car lessors, or car manufacturers; and, 1 representative from the petroleum shipping industry. The Committee may also include up to 2 members with relevant experience but not necessarily affiliated with one of the aforementioned industries or sectors. All voting members of the Committee serve in a representative capacity on behalf of their respective industry or stakeholder group. The Board Members are *ex officio* (non-voting) members of RETAC. Representatives from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Transportation; and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may be invited to serve on the Committee in an advisory capacity as *ex officio* (non-voting) members.

RETAC meets at least twice a year, and meetings are open to the public, consistent with the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94–409 (1976).

Further information about RETAC is available on the Board's website (<https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/retac.html>) and at the General Services Administration's FACA database (<https://facadatabase.gov/>).

Decided: September 20, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Regena Smith-Bernard,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2019–20805 Filed 9–24–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915–01–P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. EP 290 (Sub-No. 5) (2019–4)]

### **Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

**SUMMARY:** The Board approves the fourth quarter 2019 Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. The fourth quarter 2019 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 1.075. The fourth quarter 2019 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.454. The fourth quarter 2019 RCAF–5 is 0.427.

**DATES:** *Applicable:* October 1, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pedro Ramirez at (202) 245–0333.

Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board's decision is posted at <http://www.stb.gov>. Copies of the decision may be purchased by contacting the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245–0238.

*Decided:* September 19, 2019.

By the Board, Board Members Begeman, Fuchs, and Oberman.

**Raina Contee,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2019–20794 Filed 9–24–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915–01–P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. EP 519 (Sub-No. 5)]

### **Renewal of National Grain Car Council**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to renew charter.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the Surface Transportation Board (Board) intends to renew the charter of the National Grain Car Council (NGCC).

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the charter is available on the Board's website at [https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/graincar\\_council.html](https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/graincar_council.html).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Small, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 245–0381. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 8778339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NGCC functions as a continuing working group to facilitate private-sector solutions and recommendations to the Board on matters affecting grain transportation. The NGCC functions solely as an advisory body and complies with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. app., and its implementing regulations.

The NGCC consists of approximately 42 members, excluding the governmental representatives. The membership comprises a balanced representation of individuals knowledgeable in the transportation of grain, including no fewer than 14 members from the Class I railroads (one marketing and one car management representative from each Class I), 7 representatives from Class II and III carriers, 14 representatives from grain shippers and receivers, and 7

representatives from private car owners and car manufacturers. The members of the Board are *ex officio* (non-voting) members of the NGCC, and the Vice Chairman of the Board is designated as Co-Chairman of the NGCC.

The NGCC meets at least annually, and meetings are open to the public, consistent with the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409 (1976).

Further information about the NGCC is available on the Board's website ([https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/graincar\\_council.html](https://www.stb.gov/stb/rail/graincar_council.html)) and at the General Services Administration's FACA database (<https://facadatabase.gov/>).

Decided: September 20, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Kenyatta Clay,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2019-20786 Filed 9-24-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0586]

### Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Clause 852.211-72, Technical Industry Standards

**AGENCY:** Office of Acquisition and Logistics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Office of Acquisition and Logistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before October 25, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov), or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer; 725 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20503 or send through electronic mail to [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0586" in any correspondence.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Danny S. Green, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk (OQPR), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 421-1354 or email [danny.green2@va.gov](mailto:danny.green2@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0586" in any correspondence.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** 44 U.S.C. 3501-21.

**Title:** Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Clause 852.211-72, Technical Industry Standards.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0586.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved information collection.

**Abstract:** This Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) submission seeks renewal with changes of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval No. 2900-0586 as follows: Due to the decreased number of respondents, the total annual burden hours decreased by 666, from 1,225 to 559. However, the average burden time per response has not changed.

VAAR clause 852.211-72, Technical Industry Standards, requires that items offered for sale to VA under the solicitation conform to certain technical industry standards, such as United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the USDA Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS) and that the contractor furnish evidence to VA that the items meet that requirement. The evidence is normally in the form of a tag or seal affixed to the item, such as a label on beef product. In most cases, this requires no additional effort on the part of the contractor, as the items come from the factory with the tags already in place, as part of the manufacturer's standard manufacturing operation. Occasionally, for items not already meeting standards or for items not previously tested, a contractor will have to furnish a certificate from an acceptable laboratory certifying that the items furnished have been tested in accordance with, and conform to, the specified standards. Only firms whose products have not previously been tested to ensure the products meet the industry standards required under the solicitation and contract will be required to submit a separate certificate. The information will be used to ensure that the items being purchased meet minimum safety standards and to protect VA employees, VA beneficiaries, and the public.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information

unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 84 FR 29285 on June 21, 2019.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 559

**Burden Hours.**

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 30 Minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** One per bid or offer received.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 1,118.

By direction of the Secretary:

**Danny S. Green,**

*Interim VA Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2019-20722 Filed 9-24-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Loan Guaranty: Assistance to Eligible Individuals in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing; Cost-of-Construction Index

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** VA announces that the aggregate amounts of assistance available under the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant program will increase by 5.51 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

**DATES:** The increases in aggregate amounts are effective October 1, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jason Latona, Chief, Specially Adapted Housing, Loan Guaranty Service (262C), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9201. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with 38 United States Code (U.S.C) 2102(e), 38 U.S.C. 2102A(b)(2), 38 U.S.C. 2102B(b)(2), and 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 36.4411, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announces for FY 2020 the aggregate amounts of assistance available to veterans and Servicemembers eligible for SAH program grants.

Section 2102(e)(2) authorizes the Secretary to increase the aggregate amounts of SAH assistance annually based on a residential home cost-of-construction index. Per 38 CFR 36.4411(a), the Secretary uses the