

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Brett A. Jortland,
Acting Chief Counsel.

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BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2020–0004–N–2]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On December 30, 2019, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 15, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the ICR to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: FRA Desk Officer. Comments may also be sent via email to OMB at the following address: [oir_submissions@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir-submissions@omb.eop.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Hodan Wells, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Railroad Safety, Regulatory Analysis Division, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493–0440) or Ms. Kim Toone, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Information Technology, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493–6132).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on

information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On December 30, 2019, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting public comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. See 84 FR 72128. FRA has received no comments in response to this notice.

Before OMB decides whether to approve this proposed collection of information, it must provide 30-days' notice for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)–(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Railroad Police Officers.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0537.

Abstract: FRA regulations in 49 CFR part 207 require railroads to notify States of all designated police officers who perform duties outside of their respective jurisdictions. This is necessary to verify proper police authority.

Type of Request: Extension with change (revised estimates) of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: 746 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 110.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 11 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$836.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Brett A. Jortland,
Acting Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2020–05273 Filed 3–13–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2020–0004–N–3]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On December 30, 2019, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 15, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the ICR to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: FRA Desk Officer. Comments may also be sent via email to OMB at the following address: [oir_submissions@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir-submissions@omb.eop.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Hodan Wells, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Railroad Safety, Regulatory Analysis Division, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC

20590 (telephone: (202) 493-0440); or Ms. Kim Toone, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Information Technology, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6132).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Under the PRA

The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On December 30, 2019, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting public comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. See 84 FR 72121.

The 60-day comment period closed on February 28, 2020, and FRA received three sets of comments. First, on December 30, 2019, via email, J.P. Morgan's Equity Research Division (Airfreight & Surface Transportation) inquired about whether FRA will make railroads' Statutory Notifications of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) publicly available. The statutory mandate does not require FRA to publicly release the Statutory Notifications of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) that railroads submit under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4). However, if FRA decides in the future to publicly release any failure-related information, FRA would be limited to a certain extent by any requests for confidentiality that railroads may submit pursuant to 49 CFR 209.11.¹

Second, by email and letter dated February 28, 2020, on behalf of itself and its member railroads, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) submitted comments regarding FRA's proposed changes to the Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) and the Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166), and FRA's new proposed form, the Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177), implementing the temporary reporting requirement under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4).

¹ The statutory mandate specifically requires FRA to publicly release railroads' Annual PTC Progress Reports (Form FRA F 6180.166). See 49 U.S.C. 20157(c)(3). FRA also voluntarily publishes railroads' Quarterly PTC Progress Reports (Form FRA F 6180.165) on FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/train-control/ptc/ptc-annual-and-quarterly-reports>. In addition, each quarter, FRA posts detailed infographics depicting railroads' self-reported progress toward fully implementing FRA-certified and interoperable PTC systems at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/ptc>.

Third, by two letters dated February 28, 2020, on behalf of itself and its member organizations, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) submitted comments regarding FRA's new proposed form, the Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177).²

FRA notes that AAR's and APTA's written comments are generally similar in substance to several Class I railroads' and passenger railroads' verbal comments during FRA's most recent PTC collaboration session on February 5, 2020. In the respective sections regarding each form below, FRA summarizes and responds to AAR's and APTA's comments, including identifying the modifications FRA is amenable to making to each proposed form based on the industry's comments.

Before OMB decides whether to approve this proposed collection of information, it must provide 30-days' notice for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)-(c); 5 CFR 1320.10(b), 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). OMB believes the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR at 44983. Therefore, respondents should submit any additional comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

² FRA acknowledges that APTA submitted two separate letters, both dated February 28, 2020, to Docket No. FRA-2019-0004-N-20 on www.regulations.gov. The letters are mostly identical in substance, except one of the letters contains an additional section with four questions at the end of the letter.

II. Proposed Revisions to the Quarterly and Annual PTC Progress Report Forms

On September 24, 2018, OMB approved the Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) and the Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166) for a period of 18 months, expiring on March 31, 2020. The current Quarterly PTC Progress Report Form and Annual PTC Progress Report Form, as approved through March 31, 2020, can be accessed and downloaded in FRA's eLibrary at: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/details/L17365> and <https://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/details/L17366>, respectively.³

Railroads' submission of Quarterly PTC Progress Reports (Form FRA F 6180.165) and Annual PTC Progress Reports (Form FRA F 6180.166)—consistent with the reporting requirements under the Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015 (PTCEI Act)—enables FRA to effectively monitor railroads' progress toward fully implementing FRA-certified and interoperable PTC systems on the approximately 57,709 route miles subject to the statutory mandate. Moreover, this reporting framework enables FRA to provide the public and Congress with data-driven status updates regularly, which will be especially important throughout 2020, as the statutory deadline for most mandated railroads to fully implement PTC systems is December 31, 2020. Please see Section II of FRA's 60-day notice for additional background about the mandatory Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) and Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166), under 49 U.S.C. 20157(c)(1) and (2). 84 FR 72121-23 (Dec. 30, 2019).⁴ FRA will request OMB's re-approval of both forms, with the three types of changes described below.

³ The current, OMB-approved versions of the forms considered prior comments from AAR on behalf of itself and its member railroads; APTA on behalf of the Northeast Illinois Commuter Rail System (Metra), the Utah Transit Authority, the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon, and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority; and industry stakeholders during FRA's public meeting on April 19, 2016. FRA published minutes from the public meeting on www.regulations.gov under Docket No. FRA 2016-0002-N-17. For a summary of past oral and written comments and FRA's responses to the comments, please see 81 FR 28140 (May 9, 2016); 81 FR 65702 (Sept. 23, 2016); and 83 FR 39152 (Aug. 8, 2018).

⁴ As stated on the cover page of the Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165), "A railroad must submit quarterly reports until a PTC system is fully implemented on all required main lines under 49 U.S.C. 20157 and 49 CFR part 236, subpart I, including a quarterly report for the quarter in which the railroad completes full PTC system implementation." See 49 U.S.C. 20157(c)(2).

A. Changes To Simplify Both Progress-Related Reporting Forms

Per the industry's and OMB's previous recommendations, FRA has considered ways in which it can phase out certain requirements of the Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) and Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166), while railroads continue to fully implement their PTC systems on the required main lines. Although many of the specific reporting requirements are statutorily required under 49 U.S.C. 20157(c)(1)(A)–(G), FRA is amenable to making certain sections of both forms optional for most railroads, at this stage.

In the 60-day **Federal Register** notice, FRA initially proposed to make the following three sections of both the Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) and the Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166) optional for most railroads: Section 2 (“Update on Spectrum”); Section 3.1 (“Locomotive Status”), except the software-related narrative section; and Section 3.3 (“Infrastructure/Wayside Status”). 84 FR at 72123. In AAR's comments, dated February 28, 2020, AAR requested that FRA also make the following additional sections optional: Section 3.2 (“Infrastructure/Back Office Status”); Section 4 (“Installation/Track Segment Progress”); Section 5 (“Update on Employee Training”); and multiple rows in Section 1 (“Summary”) to the extent the information in those rows “will not significantly change.”

Based on AAR's comments, in addition to the sections FRA initially identified in the 60-day notice, FRA also agrees to make the following sections optional for certain railroads, for the reasons set forth below: Section 3.2 (“Infrastructure/Back Office Status”); Section 4 (“Installation/Track Segment Progress”); and Section 5 (“Update on Employee Training”). In addition, FRA agrees to remove the row labeled “Radio Towers Fully Installed and Equipped” from Section 1 (“Summary”) of both progress-related reporting forms.

However, contrary to AAR's comments, the high-level information railroads provide in Section 1 (“Summary”) is not limited to hardware-specific information, as that section also encompasses railroads' progress with respect to programming PTC system software and taking other steps necessary to ensure the PTC system is operable. Also, AAR comments that it should be optional to provide spectrum-specific information in Section 1 (“Summary”); however, there are no fields related to spectrum in the summary section of either the

Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) or the Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166).

FRA believes that the revised Section 1 (“Summary”) ⁵ is necessary for FRA to understand railroads' high-level progress and accurately convey railroads' status in FRA's quarterly updates on its website and during FRA's regular briefings to the pertinent Congressional committees. FRA believes that it has sufficiently balanced the industry's request to phase out progress-related reporting requirements, where possible, and FRA's need to closely monitor railroads' progress toward fully implementing FRA-certified and interoperable PTC systems on all required main lines, especially during this period leading up to the statutory December 31, 2020, deadline.

In summary, based on the industry's comments and feedback, FRA now proposes making the following sections of the Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) and Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166) optional for most railroads: Section 2 (“Update on Spectrum”); Section 3.1 (“Locomotive Status”), except the software-related narrative section; Section 3.2 (“Infrastructure/Back Office Status”); Section 3.3 (“Infrastructure/Wayside Status”); and Section 5 (“Update on Employee Training”). Specifically, FRA proposes that those sections would be optional for any railroad that previously demonstrated to FRA it had finished acquiring all necessary spectrum, installing all PTC system hardware for the implementation of its PTC system, and/or training the employees required to receive PTC training under 49 CFR 236.1041 through 236.1049, consistent with the governing FRA-approved PTCIP. This would encompass nearly all railroads subject to the statutory mandate that are still in the process of fully implementing their PTC systems—including the railroads currently field testing their PTC systems, conducting revenue service demonstration (RSD) or extending RSD to additional main lines, and conducting interoperability testing with their PTC-required tenant railroads—given that railroads generally needed to finish acquiring spectrum, installing all PTC system hardware, and training necessary employees by December 31, 2018, to qualify for and obtain FRA's approval of an alternative schedule and sequence by law. *See* 49 U.S.C. 20157(a)(3)(B).

The only railroads for which the above sections—Sections 2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3,

⁵ Removing only the row labeled, “Radio Towers Fully Installed and Equipped.”

and 5—would remain mandatory are those railroads that are still in the spectrum acquisition, hardware installation, or employee training phases, which is the case for certain railroads that, for example: (A) Commenced regularly scheduled intercity passenger or commuter rail service after December 31, 2018, and therefore did not need to qualify for or obtain FRA's approval of an alternative schedule; (B) are in the process of constructing new main lines subject to the statutory mandate; or (C) have one or more lines that are subject to a temporary main line track exception and must still implement a PTC system. In those three cases, FRA would still need to obtain updates regarding such railroads' progress toward acquiring all necessary spectrum, installing all necessary PTC system hardware, and training its applicable employees as required under 49 CFR 236.1041 to 236.1049.

In addition, based on AAR's comments, FRA also now proposes to make Section 4 (“Installation/Track Segment Progress”) optional but *only* for a railroad that reports in Section 1 (“Summary”) of the applicable Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) or Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166) that its PTC system is governing operations, including RSD, on *all* PTC-mandated route miles as of that reporting period. Section 4 (“Installation/Track Segment Progress”) remains mandatory for all other railroads subject to the statutory mandate.

B. Improvement to the Drop-Down Menu in Sections 4 and 6 of Both Progress-related Reporting Forms

In Section 4 (entitled “Installation/Track Segment Progress”) of both the quarterly form and the annual form, FRA proposes adding a new option to the drop-down menus. Currently, the options include only: “Not Started,” “Installing,” “Field Testing,” “Revenue Service Demonstration,” and “Operational/Complete.” Given that some railroads are beyond the installation phase, but not yet at the field testing phase on multiple track segments, FRA proposes to add a new option to the drop-down menu, specifically labeled, “Pre-field Testing.” That way, such railroads will not need to select “Installing” or “Field Testing,” neither of which would accurately represent the actual status of a railroad's specific track segment. This minor revision to the forms will help ensure clearer and more accurate reporting, without imposing an additional

reporting burden. For consistency with Section 4, FRA also proposes to update the corresponding drop-down menu in Section 6 (entitled “Update on Interoperability Progress”) of both forms to include the same options: “Not Started,” “Installing,” “Pre-field Testing,” “Field Testing,” “Revenue Service Demonstration,”⁶ and “Operational/Complete.” FRA received no comments on this proposed change.

C. Clarification in Section 6 of Both Progress-Related Reporting Forms

In Section 6 (entitled “Update on Interoperability Progress”) of both the quarterly form and the annual form, FRA proposes revising the heading of the last column in the table to state, “Current Tenant Interoperability Status,” instead of “Current Tenant Implementation Status,” to help ensure proper interpretation. For example, at least one commuter railroad has improperly listed the status of a Class I tenant railroad’s progress toward fully implementing a PTC system on the Class I railroad’s own main lines (so as a host railroad), instead of the Class I railroad’s status specifically as a tenant railroad on that commuter railroad’s required main lines. FRA expects that this minor revision might make this heading clearer. FRA received no comments on this proposed change.

III. Proposal for a New Mandatory Form—Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177)

Please see FRA’s 60-day **Federal Register** notice about the default reporting requirement under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4) requiring railroads to notify FRA any time a railroad operating an FRA-certified PTC system “fails to initialize, cuts out, or malfunctions,” and FRA’s authority to establish an alternative reporting deadline (instead of within 7 days of each occurrence) and an alternative reporting location (instead of submitting the notifications to the appropriate FRA region).⁷ See 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4); 49 CFR 1.89; see also 84 FR 72121, 72123–26 (Dec. 30, 2019). On February 28, 2020, AAR submitted written comments stating, “AAR appreciates and supports FRA’s proposal to modify, as permitted under

⁶ Previously, the relevant part of the drop-down menu allowed a host railroad to indicate only that a tenant railroad was generally conducting “testing,” without specifying the stage of testing.

⁷ By law, this temporary reporting requirement under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4) sunsets on approximately December 31, 2021—or more specifically, one year after the last Class I railroad obtains PTC System Certification from FRA and finishes fully implementing an FRA-certified and interoperable PTC system on all its required main lines. See 49 U.S.C. 20157(j).

49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4), the frequency and location of reporting in order to simplify and ease the burdens of carriers during the applicable Early Adopter period.”

FRA did not receive any comments requesting changes to its proposed two-tiered or bifurcated reporting frequency for this temporary reporting requirement, where the reporting frequency depends on whether or not the host railroad has fully implemented an FRA-certified and interoperable PTC system on all its required route miles.⁸ For detailed information regarding the applicable reporting frequency and deadlines, please see Section IV of FRA’s 60-day notice. 84 FR at 72124–26. AAR’s comments, dated February 28, 2020, also generally express support for the fact that FRA’s web-based form for the Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) will enable railroads to upload bulk data using a comma-separated values (CSV) file (e.g., FRA’s template Excel spreadsheet saved as a CSV file). AAR states that it “supports this flexibility, which would reduce the railroads’ reporting burden by avoiding the necessity of having to copy the data from a spreadsheet onto FRA’s form.”⁹

Consistent with 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4), FRA’s proposed Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) would require the host railroad to identify the number of times each type of PTC system failure identified in the statutory mandate occurred during the reporting period:

⁸ One of AAR’s comments, however, asserts that 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4) “only addresses reporting by carriers operating a fully certified and implemented PTC system.” That interpretation is not supported by the plain language of the statute. See 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4); see also 84 FR 72121, 72124 (Dec. 30, 2019). Consistent with the statutory canons of construction, FRA interprets the word “implemented” consistently throughout the provisions in the statutory mandate, including 49 U.S.C. 20157(a)(3)(B)(vi) and 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4). For example, acknowledging the incremental nature of implementation, the PTCEI Act required Class I railroads and Amtrak to demonstrate they “implemented a [PTC] system or initiated revenue service demonstration on the majority of [its PTC-mandated] territories” by December 31, 2018, to qualify for an alternative schedule and sequence with a final deadline not later than December 31, 2020. 49 U.S.C. 20157(a)(3)(B)(vi) (emphasis added).

⁹ With respect to the reporting burden of Form FRA F 6180.177, AAR comments, “Eventually it might take only one hour, but undoubtedly it will take a railroad more than one hour to develop a reporting system.” However, FRA notes that the default statutory reporting requirement has generally been in effect since October 29, 2015. In addition, many Class I railroads and passenger railroads have demonstrated they already have a reporting system in place and are actively tracking PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions to understand the reliability and performance of their PTC systems and/or generally ensure compliance with 49 CFR part 236, subpart I.

Any failure to initialize, any cut out, and any malfunction, as defined below. During FRA’s industry meetings to date, railroads have requested clarification regarding the meaning and scope of these statutory terms.

Given that the statutory mandate requires railroads to notify FRA any time an FRA-certified PTC system “fails to initialize, cuts out, or malfunctions,” FRA interprets these terms reasonably broadly and in accordance with their plain language meaning, to encompass the following, for purposes of this temporary reporting requirement:

- **Failure to Initialize:** Any instance when a PTC system fails to activate on a locomotive or train, unless the PTC system successfully activates during a subsequent attempt in the same location or before entering PTC territory. For the types of PTC systems that do not “initialize” by design, a failed departure test is considered a “failure to initialize” for purposes of this reporting requirement, unless the PTC system successfully passes the departure test during a subsequent attempt in the same location or before entering PTC territory.

- **Cut Out:** Any cut out of a PTC system, subsystem, or component en route, including when the PTC system cuts out on its own or a person cuts out the system, unless the cut out was necessary to exit PTC-governed territory and enter non-PTC territory.

- **Malfunction:** Any instance when a PTC system, subsystem, or component fails to perform the functions mandated under 49 U.S.C. 20157(i)(5), 49 CFR part 236, subpart I, or the applicable host railroad’s PTC Safety Plan.

FRA revised its proposed definitions to incorporate AAR’s and APTA’s feedback in their respective letters, dated February 28, 2020, about the definitions FRA initially proposed in the 60-day notice. See 84 FR 72121, 72125 (Dec. 30, 2019). AAR generally stated that certain definitions were ambiguous, so FRA refined its proposed definitions to be more precise yet still sufficiently broad to apply to all types of PTC systems and align with the plain language and scope identified in 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4).

For example, consistent with AAR’s and APTA’s comments, FRA eliminated the reference to “initial terminal” from its proposed definition of “failure to initialize,” given AAR’s comment that “there is only one initial terminal but there could be multiple crew changes and multiple initialization opportunities,” and APTA’s comment that “an initial terminal may be different for freight, intercity or commuter operations.” See 84 FR at 72125. Also, FRA’s proposed definition

of “failure to initialize” set forth above is consistent with AAR’s understanding that “a number of unsuccessful attempts to initialize a particular train by the crew would constitute one initialization failure.”

In addition, AAR’s comments acknowledged that unlike the Interoperable Electronic Train Management System, certain PTC systems, including the Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System II and Incremental Train Control System, do not actually initialize, so FRA provided examples of how this statutory term may apply to other types of PTC systems in its revised definition, as listed above.

In APTA’s letter, dated February 28, 2020, APTA requests that the scope of the term “cut out” should include only instances when the *onboard* PTC apparatus is *manually* disabled. FRA disagrees and notes that the relevant statutory provision, 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4), is not limited only to the onboard PTC subsystem or manual cut outs. FRA acknowledges that APTA’s use of the word “disabling” in its comments is generally consistent with FRA’s use of the phrase “cut out,” but FRA proposes to use the phrase “cut out” as it is a term of art.

Also, in its February 28, 2020, letter, AAR “urges FRA to delete the phrase ‘could prevent’” from the definition of “malfunction” that FRA previously proposed in its 60-day notice, as AAR argues that such a phrase could cause confusion. See 84 FR at 72125. Similarly, APTA’s February 28, 2020, comments request that FRA delete the phrase “or could prevent,” on the basis that it could be considered subjective. Accordingly, FRA has eliminated that phrase and proposes the definition set forth above (*i.e.*, any instance when a PTC system, subsystem, or component fails to perform the functions mandated under 49 U.S.C. 20157(i)(5), 49 CFR part 236, subpart I, or the applicable host railroad’s PTC Safety Plan (PTCSP)), which FRA believes is clearer and consistent with the statutory provision. Also, for clarity and precision, FRA expanded its proposed definition of “malfunction” to refer to the applicable host railroad’s PTCSP, in addition to 49 U.S.C. 20157(i)(5) and 49 CFR part 236, subpart I. That approach is also consistent with APTA’s observation, in its comments, that a PTC system must perform in accordance with the governing PTC Development Plan (PTCDP) and PTCSP.¹⁰ As railroads are

¹⁰ FRA, however, disagrees with APTA’s comments that suggest “an unintended enforcement” or “an unintended speed enforcement” are not malfunctions, if the “event is

aware, FRA’s regulations generally require a PTC system to be “fully operative and functioning in accordance with the applicable PTCSP,” except in limited circumstances. See, *e.g.*, 49 CFR 236.1006(a)–(b), 236.1009(d)(3).

Furthermore, in FRA’s 60-day notice, FRA requested comments about its proposal to require host railroads to identify and categorize the number of PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions by state and subdivision.¹¹ See 84 FR at 72125. AAR’s comments, dated February 28, 2020, argue that “[p]roviding data by state or region would be unduly burdensome and is not necessary to achieve FRA’s objective. Railroads do not keep data by state or region. . . . Railroads should report failures by subdivision alone, consistent with other reporting requirements.” Based on AAR’s request and justification, FRA modified its proposed web-based form (Form FRA F 6180.177) to require host railroads to identify the number of PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions by subdivision¹² only (and not by state), which FRA believes will still enable FRA to closely monitor trends in PTC system reliability throughout the country and focus its resources, for example, on any areas where such failures are occurring at a high rate.

Also, based on railroads’ input at industry meetings, FRA proposed in its 60-day notice that a Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) would additionally require a host railroad to list a percentage or rate, demonstrating how the occurrences of PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions compare to all operations on that host railroad’s PTC-governed main lines.¹³ See 84 FR at 72125. Several

consistent with the railroad’s PTCSP.” Class I railroads have explained that an unintended braking event could lead to a derailment or another unsafe situation, and such unintended enforcement by the PTC system would indicate that the PTC system malfunctioned in some way.

¹¹ FRA’s 60-day notice acknowledged that absent a breakdown by state and/or subdivision, FRA would require host railroads to identify the number of PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions *per* FRA region, at a minimum. FRA explained that such an approach would retain the same minimum level of geographical information about where such PTC system failures are occurring, as explicitly required under the default reporting requirement under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4).

¹² Or any other categorization a host railroad uses in its timetables, including district, territory, main line, branch, or corridor. FRA recognizes that this specific type of information (*i.e.*, a breakdown by subdivision) is not required under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4), and FRA would be collecting such information under its general authority under 49 CFR 236.1009(h).

¹³ FRA recognizes that this specific type of information is not required under 49 U.S.C.

railroads previously commented that, without such a percentage or context, the frequency of these failures might otherwise seem high, and a percentage would help convey the actual rate of such failures. In its February 28, 2020, comments, AAR specifically suggests that to “keep the report of PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions in perspective, particularly if comparing individual railroads, it would be useful to normalize results between railroads.” Similarly, in APTA’s letter dated February 28, 2020, APTA requests that FRA identify the applicable denominator(s) to utilize when calculating the rate of PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions.

APTA recommends that the quotient of mean-time/distance-between-failure would be an appropriate measure, if the intent of the percentage field is to monitor a PTC system’s reliability. While FRA agrees that this specific data point is valuable, FRA believes that more tailored denominators would be useful for purposes of the three types of PTC system failures referenced in 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4)—*i.e.*, failures to initialize, cut outs, and malfunctions. However, railroads can also provide any additional data or metrics, including the quotient of mean-time/distance-between-failure, in the narrative section of the web-based form.

AAR’s comments recommend two distinct denominators for the three types of PTC system failures identified in 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4). FRA agrees with AAR that the appropriate denominator with respect to initialization failures would be “the number of scheduled attempts at initialization.” In the proposed Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177), FRA now provides a field for host railroads to provide the total number of scheduled attempts at PTC system initialization during the applicable reporting period. As AAR recommends, FRA will calculate the percentage or rate by dividing the host railroad’s number of failures to initialize, as defined above, by the total number of scheduled attempts at PTC system initialization during the reporting period.

With respect to PTC system cut outs and malfunctions, AAR recommends that the appropriate denominator would be “the number of train miles operated with PTC active” and, for arithmetic

20157(j)(4), and FRA would be collecting such information under its general authority under 49 CFR 236.1009(h).

purposes, suggests expressing the number in thousands of train miles. In its comments, AAR also notes that “AAR’s members would be amenable to including in the report data on PTC train miles.” FRA will include a field in the web-based form for host railroads to provide that raw denominator (*i.e.*, the total number of PTC-required train miles), and FRA will calculate the rate of cut outs and malfunctions, utilizing that raw denominator. FRA believes that providing fields for railroads to enter such raw denominators, instead of percentages or rates, will help ensure FRA accurately interprets railroads’ data, especially when comparing multiple railroads’ data or a single railroad’s data to its own prior notifications of PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions.

In addition, at industry meetings to date, multiple railroads expressed that FRA should not require tenant railroads to submit this failure-related information directly to FRA, but via their host railroads. Accordingly, FRA’s 60-day notice proposed that only host railroads subject to the statutory mandate (currently 36 host railroads) would submit the Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177), and these notifications would encompass both a host railroad’s and its tenant railroad(s)’ PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions. *See* 84 FR at 72125–26.

In AAR’s comments, dated February 28, 2020, AAR generally expressed opposition to providing “tenant data” and noted that this requirement may be “burdensome, likely requiring host railroads to devote significant employee time to getting that information from their tenants.” Specifically, AAR commented, “If FRA is going to require hosts to report tenant data, the agency must impose a clear and direct requirement on tenants to report the desired information to their host railroad.” In its comments, APTA also acknowledges that a host railroad would need to obtain “all necessary logs” from its tenant railroads to accurately complete the Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177). FRA notes that an existing regulatory provision, 49 CFR 236.1029(b)(4), would already require a tenant railroad to report a PTC system failure or cut out to “a designated railroad officer of the host railroad as soon as safe and practicable.” Also, FRA is aware that several host railroads, including Class I railroads and passenger railroads, already regularly monitor and track tenant railroads’ PTC system initialization failures, cut outs,

and malfunctions via automatically generated reports and/or via connected PTC system back offices.

Furthermore, AAR specifically “urges FRA to exclude tenant information when reporting percentages,” as obtaining “tenant information on the number of miles operated with PTC active would likely be a particularly burdensome and frustrating exercise for host railroads. Finally, any reporting of tenant data by host railroads should be on a subdivision basis.” Based on AAR’s feedback, FRA proposes to eliminate the percentage column from the section of the proposed Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) regarding tenant railroads’ PTC system initialization failures, cut outs, and malfunctions. Acknowledging AAR’s specific concern and APTA’s general comments, FRA will instead provide a field for a host railroad to identify the total number of trains that each PTC-required tenant railroad operated on the host railroad’s PTC-governed main lines during the reporting period, instead of requiring a host railroad to provide a tenant railroad’s PTC train miles. Several host railroads have previously acknowledged that they can readily access and compile such high-level data, including the number of train movements during the applicable reporting period, for each PTC-required tenant railroad.

In APTA’s letter, dated February 28, 2020, APTA also inquired about whether the web-based Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) will be “used for reporting post certification (Annual and Critical anomalies).” The reporting requirement under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4)—as implemented by FRA’s proposed Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177)—applies only to *FRA-certified* PTC systems and is effective only until approximately December 31, 2021.¹⁴ Furthermore, while FRA is open to considering developing a web-based form for purposes of 49 CFR 236.1029(h), *Annual report of system failures*, that permanent regulatory reporting requirement is separate and distinct from FRA’s proposed Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177), which is intended to implement only the

temporary reporting requirement under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4).

Finally, 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4) explicitly requires a railroad to provide in the notification “a description of the safety measures the affected railroad . . . has in place,” so the web-based Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177) contains a field for a host railroad to enter such information. FRA received no comments on this aspect of the proposed form.

IV. Overview of Information Collection

FRA will submit this ICR to OMB for regular clearance as required by the PRA.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Title: Positive Train Control and Other Signal Systems (including the Quarterly Positive Train Control Progress Report, the Annual Positive Train Control Progress Report, and the Statutory Notification of Positive Train Control System Failures).¹⁵

OMB Control Number: 2130–0553.
Form(s): FRA F 6180.165, FRA F 6180.166, and FRA F 6180.177.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion (depending on the specific reporting requirement).

Respondent Universe: 35 railroads¹⁶ (including 32 host railroads and 3 tenant-only commuter railroads) for the Quarterly PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.165) and Annual PTC Progress Report (Form FRA F 6180.166); 36 host railroads for the Statutory Notification of PTC System Failures (Form FRA F 6180.177); and varies for other information collections under OMB Control No. 2130–0553.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 4,568,393.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 68,373 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$5,533,356.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

¹⁵ FRA makes a technical correction to the title of OMB Control Number 2130–0553.

¹⁴ As noted above, the temporary reporting requirement under 49 U.S.C. 20157(j)(4) sunsets on approximately December 31, 2021—or more specifically, one year after the last Class I railroad obtains PTC System Certification from FRA and finishes fully implementing an FRA-certified and interoperable PTC system on all its required main lines. *See* 49 U.S.C. 20157(j).

¹⁶ Currently, 42 railroads are directly subject to the statutory mandate to implement a PTC system. However, only 35 railroads are currently subject to these progress-related reporting requirements, given that by law, such reporting requirements no longer apply to the 4 host railroads that fully implemented PTC systems as of December 31, 2018, and 3 other tenant-only commuter railroads that fully implemented their PTC systems to date.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520; 49 U.S.C. 20157)

Brett A. Jortland,

Acting Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2020–05289 Filed 3–13–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2018–0114]

Deepwater Port License Application: Texas Gulf Terminals Inc.

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of application withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) announce the cancellation of all actions related to the processing of a license application for the proposed Texas Gulf Terminals Inc. (TGTI) deepwater port. The action announced here also includes cancellation of all activities related to the deepwater port application review and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement that was announced on Friday, August 10, 2018, in **Federal Register** Volume 83 Number 39813 (Notice of Intent; Notice of Public Meeting; Request for Comments). The action is taken in response to the applicant's decision to withdraw the application.

DATES: The cancellation of all actions related to this deepwater port license application was effective March 6, 2020.

ADDRESSES: The public docket for the TGTI deepwater port license application is maintained by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management Facility, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. The docket may be viewed electronically at www.regulations.gov under the docket number for this project, which is MARAD–2018–0114. The Federal Docket Management Facility's telephone number is 202–366–9317 or 202–366–9826, the fax number is 202–493–2251.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roddy Bachman, USCG, telephone: 202–372–1451, email: Roddy.C.Bachman@uscg.mil; or Ms. Yvette Fields, MARAD, telephone: 202–366–0926, email: Yvette.Fields@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 28, 2020, MARAD received notification from the applicant, TGTI, of the withdrawal of its application to own, construct, and operate an oil export deepwater port facility, located

approximately 12.7 nautical miles off the coast of Corpus Christi, Texas in a water depth of approximately 93 feet. Consequently, MARAD has terminated all activities pertaining to TGTI's deepwater port license application. All agency records and documents related to the TGTI deepwater port license application will be preserved and retained by MARAD and USCG. Further information pertaining to this application may be found in the public docket (see **ADDRESSES**).

(Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*, 49 CFR 1.93(h)).

Dated: March 11, 2020.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2020–05343 Filed 3–13–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2020–0019]

Request for Comments on the Approval of a Previously Approved Information Collection: Approval of Underwriters for Marine Hull Insurance

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments on our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. The information is needed in order for Maritime Administration officials to evaluate the underwriters and determine their suitability for providing marine hull insurance on Maritime Administration vessels. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 15, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments [identified by Docket No. MARAD–2020–0019] through one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search using the above DOT docket number and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9

a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Department's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for the Department to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Yarrington, 202–366–1915, Director, Office of Marine Insurance, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Approval of Underwriters for Marine Hull Insurance.

OMB Control Number: 2133–0517.

Type of Request: Renewal of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: This collection of information involves the approval of marine hull underwriters to insure Maritime Administration program vessels. Foreign and domestic applicants will be required to submit financial data upon which Maritime Administration approval would be based.

Respondents: Marine insurance brokers and underwriters of marine insurance.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 66.

Estimated Number of Responses: 66.

Estimated Hours per Response: 1.35 hours.

Annual Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 49.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

(Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.93.)

* * * * *

Dated: March 11, 2020.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2020–05320 Filed 3–13–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P