



FR-4915-01-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

30-Day Notice of Intent to Seek Extension of Approval of Collection: Statutory Licensing Authority

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice of its intent to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of approval for the information collection required from those seeking statutory licensing authority, as described below. The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the Federal Register on April 17, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 21495). That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by June 29, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be identified as “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board: Statutory Licensing Authority.” Written comments for the proposed information collection should be submitted via www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. This information collection can be accessed by selecting “Currently under Review - Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. As an alternative, written comments may be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Michael J. McManus, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer: by email at

oira_submission@omb.eop.gov; by fax at (202) 395-1743; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20503.

Please also direct comments to Chris Oehrle, PRA Officer, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 and to PRA@stb.gov. For further information regarding this collection, contact Michael Higgins, Deputy Director, Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs (OPAGAC), and Compliance, at (202) 245-0284 or michael.higgins@stb.gov. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are requested concerning: (1) the accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Title: Statutory Licensing Authority

OMB Control Number: 2140-0023

STB Form Number: None

Type of Review: Extension without change

Respondents: Rail carriers and non-carriers seeking statutory licensing or consolidation authority, an exemption from filing an application for such authority, or interchange

commitments

Number of Respondents: 80

Estimated Time Per Response:

Estimated Hours per Response

Type of filing	Number of hours per response under 49 U.S.C. 10901-03 and 11323-26
Applications	524
Petitions*	58
Notices*	19
Interchange commitments	8

Frequency: On occasion

Average Annual Number of Responses for FY 2017-2019

Type of filing	Average number of filings per year under 49 U.S.C. 10901-03 and 11323-26
Applications	3
Petitions*	12
Notices*	103
Interchange commitments	4

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): 4,257 (sum of estimated hours per response x number of responses for each type of filing)

Total Annual Burden Hours

Type of filing	Hours per response	Annual number of filings	Total annual burden hours
Applications	524	3	1,572
Petitions*	58	12	696
Notices*	19	103	1,957
Interchange commitments	8	4	32
Total annual burden hours			4,257

* Under section 10502, petitions for exemption and notices of exemption are permitted in lieu of an application.

Total “Non-hour Burden” Cost: Because Board collections are submitted electronically to the Board, there is no cost for filing with the Board. However, for some filings, respondents are sometimes required to send consultation letters to various other governmental agencies. Copies of these letters are part of an environmental and historic report that must be filed with this collection (unless waived by the Board). Because some of these other agencies may require hard copy letters, there may be some limited mailing costs, which staff estimates in total to be approximately \$1,750.

Needs and Uses: As mandated by Congress, persons seeking to construct, acquire or operate a line of railroad and railroads seeking to abandon or to discontinue operations over a line of railroad or, in the case of two or more railroads, to consolidate their interests through merger or a common-control arrangement are required to file an application for prior approval and authority with the Board. See 49 U.S.C. 10901–03, 11323–26. Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, persons may seek an exemption from many of the application requirements of sections 10901–03 and 11323–26 by filing with the Board a petition for exemption or notice of exemption in lieu of an application. The collection by the Board of these applications, petitions, and notices (including collection of disclosures of rail interchange commitments under 49 CFR 1121.3(d), 1150.33(h), 1150.43(h), and 1180.4(g)(4)) enables the Board to meet its statutory duty to regulate the referenced rail transactions. In cases in which the requests for authority involve agreements with interchange commitments that may limit the future interchange of traffic with third parties, certain information must be disclosed to the Board about those commitments. 49 CFR 1121.3(d), 1150.33(h), 1150.43(h), 1180.4(g)(4). The collection of this information facilitates the case-specific review of interchange commitments and enables

the Board's monitoring of their usage generally.

Under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: May 26, 2020.

Kenyatta Clay,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2020-11589 Filed: 5/28/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/29/2020]