

how FHWA planning and research funds will be utilized by the State highway agencies and if the proposed work is eligible for Federal participation.

The content and frequency of submission of progress and financial reports specified in 23 CFR part 420 are as specified in OMB Circular A-102 and the companion common grant management regulations.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 29,120 hours.

2. *Title:* Structure Inventory and Appraisal Sheet.

OMB Number: 2125-0501.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Form(s): N/A.

Affected Public: Transportation agencies of the 50 States and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Abstract: The collection of the bridge information contained on the Structure Inventory and Appraisal Sheet is necessary to satisfy the requirements of 23 United States Code 144 and 151, and the Code of Federal Regulations, 23 Highways—part 650, subpart C—National Bridge Inspection Standards and subpart D—Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program. Because of a December 1967 catastrophic bridge failure, the Congress enacted the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) which require the inspection of the condition of bridges, and the reporting of the findings of the inspections at regular intervals for all bridges located on public roads.

The collected NBIS bridge information is used as a basis for setting priorities for the replacement or rehabilitation of bridges under the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP) and for apportioning HBRRP funds to the States for bridge replacement or rehabilitation. In addition, the information is used for strategic national defense needs and for preparing the report to Congress on the status of the Nation's highway bridges and funding under the HBRRP.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The estimated total annual burden is 540,000 hours.

3. *Title:* Transportation of Hazardous Materials; Highway Routing.

OMB Number: 2125-0554.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Form(s): N/A.

Affected Public: The reporting burden is shared by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American

Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, and the Virgin Islands.

Abstract: Public comment is requested regarding the burden associated with this collection of information. The data for the Transportation of Hazardous Materials; Highway Routing designations are collected under authority of 49 U.S.C. 5112 and 5125, which places the responsibility on the Secretary of Transportation to specify and regulate standards for establishing, maintaining, and enforcing routing designations. The Federal Highway Administrator has the authority, as required in 49 CFR 397.73, to request that each State and Indian tribe, through its routing agency, provide information identifying hazardous materials routing designations within their respective jurisdictions. This information will be consolidated by the FHWA and published annually in whole or as updates in the **Federal Register**.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: The annual reporting burden is estimated to be 13 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention FHWA Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publishing in the **Federal Register**.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 4, 1998.

Phillip A. Leach,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 98-6217 Filed 3-10-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-98-3393]

Notice of Request for Renewal of an Existing Information Collection; Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, Driver's Record of Duty Status

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3051, 3506(c)(2)(A)), the FHWA is requesting public comment on its intent to ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reapprove the soon to expire information collection that documents information on commercial motor vehicle drivers hours of service.

DATES: Submit on or before May 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Signed, written comments must refer to the docket number appearing at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Deborah M. Freund or Mr. David R. Miller, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards, (202) 366-4009, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability

Internet users may access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. You may download an electronic copy of this document using a modem and suitable communications software from the **Federal Register** electronic bulletin board service (telephone number: 202-512-1661). Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://>

/www.nara.gov/nara/fedreg and the Government Printing Office's database at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/su—docs>.

Title: Driver's Record of Duty Status.
OMB Number: 2125-0016.

Background: For the last 60 years, the FHWA, and its predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), have required motor carriers operating in interstate commerce to require their drivers to limit the driver's hours of service. This is to ensure the drivers do not operate CMVs while fatigued and possibly cause crashes. The principal method used to track the driver's hours of service has been to record the hours worked, driven, and at rest on paper Records of Duty Status, commonly known as log books. See 49 U.S.C. 31502 and 49 CFR part 395.

The record shows how long a driver has been on duty and driving, and how long the driver has had rest in a sleeper berth and time off duty. This record helps motor carriers know how much longer the driver may legally operate vehicles before the law assumes the driver is fatigued, as determined by research done in the late 1930's and regulations adopted at that time. The motor carriers would then know when the drivers must stop driving to obtain rest. The regulations require drivers to show local law enforcement officials and Federal agents the driver's true and accurate record of the drivers' duty activities, to the closest 15 minutes, within each 24-hour period. This record also helps law enforcement officials determine whether the driver may likely be operating a motor vehicle while fatigued. See 49 CFR 395.8.

The ICC and the FHWA have general statutory authority to require such records. The records have never been expressly mandated by statute. In 1952, the ICC adopted rules to allow motor carriers to record some drivers' hours of service on time cards or time sheets in place of log books. This exception was available to drivers operating within a 50-mile radius of the driver's garage or terminal where the driver reports for work. See 49 CFR 395.1(e). This exception was made a separate information collection entitled "Time Records" and has been assigned OMB No. 2125-0196. Within the last 20 years, there was a change that allowed drivers/carriers to use their own forms rather than the format prescribed by the FHWA's predecessor motor carriers organization, the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety. In 1980, the FHWA expanded the 50-mile radius to a 100 mile radius. In this same rulemaking, the FHWA began to require motor carriers to maintain and retain

documents the carriers obtained or received, in the normal course of business, supporting the validity of the record of duty status. See 49 CFR 395.8(k)(2).

In 1982, the FHWA reduced the retention period for the log book and the supporting documents from one year to 6 months. See 49 CFR 395.8(k)(2). For the first 51 years, the ICC and later the FHWA only allowed motor carriers and drivers to prepare paper log books. In 1988, the FHWA adopted rules to allow motor carriers to choose to use automatic on-board recording devices in place of the paper log book. Again, this was done at the FHWA's discretion and not by an express mandate by statute. See 49 CFR 395.15.

In 1994, new information collection requirements for records of duty status were mandated by section 113 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Authorization Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-311, 108 Stat. 1676). This statute requires each written or electronic document being used as a supporting document to include either the driver's name or vehicle number. This would require motor carriers to ensure the driver's name or vehicle number is also on each document used to verify driver record of duty status. The statute also requires the supporting document must be kept for at least six months. The FHWA has not yet published a proposal requiring the mandated information collection. The FHWA will publish an NPRM for the mandated information related to the driver's record of duty status documents, and will request a modification to this information collection at that time.

In 1995, section 408 of the ICC Termination Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, 958) required the FHWA to issue an ANPRM addressing the FHWA's current hours of service regulations. The FHWA published this ANPRM on November 5, 1996 (61 FR 57252). This rulemaking may substantially modify the information collection burdens contained in this information collection. The FHWA expects to publish an NPRM in this action (RIN 2125-AD93) in the winter, 1999.

Respondents: Motor carriers and drivers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Per Record: 16,978,607 hours.

The FHWA has separated this total into the following three subtotals:

Records of Duty Status (Paper Log Books)—15,671,303 hours

Automatic On-board Recording Devices—1,076,100 hours

100 Air-mile Radius Drivers—The FHWA proposes to append the 100 air-

mile radius driver time record account, OMB No. 2125-0196, into the OMB No. 2125-0016 account. This would add an additional 231,204 hours. The computations on how the FHWA arrived at these numbers may be found in the docket.

Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of these information collections. The FHWA considers comments by the public on this proposed collection of information in the following four ways: (1) Evaluating whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the FHWA, including whether the information will have a practical use; (2) evaluating the accuracy of the FHWA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) enhancing the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimizing the burden of collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 31136, 31141, and 31502 and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: March 4, 1998.

George Moore,

Associate Administrator for Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33551]

Kansas Southwestern Railway Company, L.L.C.; Acquisition Exemption; Union Pacific Railroad Company

Kansas Southwestern Railway Company, L.L.C. (KSW), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire and operate approximately 287.83 miles of rail line in Kansas owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP). The lines involved in the acquisition transaction consist of: (1) UP's Hutchinson Branch from MP-572.677 on the east leg of the wye and 1,213 feet of the west leg of the wye at Geneseo, KS, to MP-486.003 of the northeast leg of the wye and 984 feet of the southwest leg of the wye at Wichita, KS; (2) UP's Hardtner Branch from MP-485.938 at