

sent in writing to Mr. David Valenstein at the address identified above. Comments can also be sent via the Internet at: FRAEIS@fra.dot.gov

### The Remaining Environmental Review Process

Comments received on the scope and methodology to be used in preparation of the EIS will be reviewed by FRA to develop the final scope of the environmental review. A draft EIS will be made available to the public for comment, presently scheduled for the late fall 1998. It is FRA's intention that the comment period for the draft EIS will occur during the comment period associated with the proposed rule so that interested agencies and the public can combine their comments and that the environmental issues can be fully considered as FRA develops the final rule. After reviewing comments on the draft EIS, FRA will prepare a final EIS that addresses these comments and incorporates any additional analyses and material deemed necessary. The final EIS will be made available for public review for not less than 30 days before FRA takes any final action on the proposed rule.

### Internet

This notice and all subsequent documents prepared as part of this environmental review will be available in the environmental pages of the FRA internet website, located at: <http://www.fra.dot.gov>

Issued in Washington, D.C. on: July 21, 1998.

**James T. McQueen,**

*Assistant Administrator for Railroad Development.*

[FR Doc. 98-19915 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 235 and 49 U.S.C. App. 26, the following railroads have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR Part 236 as detailed below.

#### Block Signal Application (BS-AP)-No. 3480

*Applicant:* Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, Mr. William G. Peterson, Director Signal Engineering 4515 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66106

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company seeks approval of the proposed discontinuance and removal of the traffic control system, on the single main track, between North River, Missouri, milepost 8.6 and Maxwell, Missouri, milepost 177.7, on the Illinois Division, Brookfield Subdivision, a distance of approximately 169 miles. The proposal includes the implementation of Track Warrant Control Rules as the method of operation, and conversion of the "Bevier Control Point" to a remote controlled interlocking.

The reason given for the proposed changes is that the severe reductions in train traffic can no longer justify the ongoing maintenance and operation of the signals.

#### BS-AP-No. 3481

*Applicant:* Union Pacific Railroad Company, Mr. Phil Abaray, Chief Engineer—Signal/Quality, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 1000, Omaha, Nebraska 68179-1000

Union Pacific Railroad Company seeks approval of the proposed discontinuance and removal of the single direction automatic block signal (ABS) system, on the No. 1 single yard track, between Brooklyn, milepost 767.9 and East Portland, milepost 770.3, on the Brooklyn Subdivision, near Portland Oregon. The proposal includes removal of six automatic block signals and the installation of a new "D" signal at milepost 765.4.

The reason given for the proposed changes is the installation of a bi-directional signal system, on the No. 2 main track between Brooklyn and East Portland, has eliminated the need for the single direction ABS system on the No. 1 yard track.

#### BS-AP-No. 3482

*Applicant:* CSX Transportation, Incorporated, Mr. R. M. Kadlick, Chief Engineer Train Control, 500 Water Street (S/C J-350), Jacksonville, Florida 32202

CSX Transportation, Incorporated seeks approval of the proposed modification of the traffic control system, on the two main tracks, at Beech Street, milepost BA-280.5, near Grafton, West Virginia, on the Mountain Subdivision, Cumberland Business Unit, consisting of the conversion of the

power-operated switch to hand operation, and removal of absolute controlled signals 29, 31, 33, 37, and 39.

The reason given for the proposed changes is to increase operating efficiency.

#### BS-AP-No. 3483

##### Applicants:

CSX Transportation, Incorporated, Mr. R. M. Kadlick, Chief Engineer Train Control, 500 Water Street (S/C J-350), Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Consolidated Rail Corporation, Mr. J. F. Noffsinger, Chief Engineer—C&S Assets, 2001 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101-1410

CSX Transportation, Incorporated and Consolidated Rail Corporation, jointly seek approval of the proposed discontinuance and removal of the automatic block signal system and interlocking, on the two main tracks, between milepost BIA-251.9 and milepost BIA-257.6, near Hammond, Indiana, on the Lake Subdivision, Chicago Service Lane. The method of operation will be by a Direct Traffic Control Block System. The proposal includes conversion of the power-operated switches at Whiting Interlocking to hand operation; removal of all existing associated signals; and installation of two eastward inoperative approach signals to "Hick."

The reason given for the proposed changes is to eliminate facilities no longer needed for present day operation.

#### Rules, Standards, and Instructions Application (RS&I-AP)-No. 1104

##### Applicants:

CSX Transportation, Incorporated, Mr. R. M. Kadlick, Chief Engineer Train Control, 500 Water Street (S/C J-350), Jacksonville, Florida 32202

National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Mr. Ron Scolaro, Vice President Operations, 60 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

CSX Transportation, Incorporated (CSXT) and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), jointly seek temporary relief from Section 236.566 of the Rules, Standards, and Instructions (49 CFR, Part 236), during the period of September 1, through October 1, 1998, to the extent that the CSXT and AMTRAK, as operating railroads for Virginia Railway Express (VRE), be permitted to operate VRE Manassas trains, without cab signals, in automatic cab signal territory, between Alexandria and "RO," Virginia,

approximately 6.1 miles, on CSXT's RF&P Subdivision, Baltimore Service Lane, associated with the conversion of the existing 60 Hertz cab signal system to the 100 Hertz operating cycle.

The justification for relief is that elimination of the only operating, 60 Hertz system of its kind in the country, and the resulting 100 Hertz operation, will provide more conformity with prevailing cab signals. Also, the requested relief is to minimize the impact to VRE's service during this transition, and permit the securing of needed material and modification of the VRE equipment.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, and contain a concise statement of the 8 interest of the Protestant in the proceeding. The original and two copies of the protest shall be filed with the Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 25, Washington, D.C. 20590 within 30 calendar days of the date of publication of this notice. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

FRA expects to be able to determine these matters without an oral hearing. However, if a specific request for an oral hearing is accompanied by a showing that the party is unable to adequately present his or her position by written statements, an application may be set for public hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 20, 1998.

**George A. Gavalla,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.*

[FR Doc. 98-19948 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

[IA-33-92]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information

collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, IA-33-92 (TD 8507), Information Reporting for Reimbursements of Interest on Qualified Mortgages (§ 1.6050H-2).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before September 25, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Information Reporting for Reimbursements of Interest on Qualified Mortgages.

**OMB Number:** 1545-1339.

**Regulation Project Number:** IA-33-92.

**Abstract:** Section 6050H of the Internal Revenue Code relates to the information reporting requirements for reimbursements of interest paid in connection with a qualified mortgage. This information is required by the Internal Revenue Service to encourage compliance with the tax laws relating to the deductibility of payments of mortgage interest. The information is used to determine whether mortgage interest reimbursements have been correctly reported on the tax return of the taxpayer who receives the reimbursement.

**Current Actions:** There is no change to this existing regulation.

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

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations.

The burden for the collection of information is reflected in the burden for Form 1098, Mortgage Interest Statement.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**Request for Comments:** Comments submitted in response to this notice will

be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: July 20, 1998.

**Garrick R. Shear,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-20025 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

[REG-209545-92]

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing notice of proposed rulemaking, REG-209545-92, Earnings and Profits of Foreign Corporations (§ 1.964-1(c)(1)(v)).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before September 25, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be