

upgrade a portion of US 90 to a full "Control of Access" highway meeting current interstate standards. US 90 will become an extension of Interstate 49 (I-49). The proposed project passes through the municipalities of Patterson and Berwick as well as the unincorporated community of Bayou Vista, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. The approximate distance of the project is 9 miles.

The proposed improvements would provide sufficient capacity for hurricane evacuation routes, maintain access to abutting properties, and minimize adverse environmental and community impacts.

This portion of US 90 begins east of the Wax Lake Outlet Bridge and extends to the interchange with LA 182 in Berwick, St. Mary Parish.

Alternatives to be considered include: (1) Utilization of the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent practicable to incorporate a controlled access roadway with a one-way frontage road system; and (2) Utilization of the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent practicable to incorporate a controlled access roadway with a two-way frontage road system.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies and to private organizations, including groups of individuals who have expressed interest in the project in the past. There are no plans to hold a formal scoping meeting for the proposed action. At least one public informational meeting will be held in the project area that will be affected. In addition, a Public Hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the public informational meeting(s) and the Public Hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the Public Hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed, and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: October 31, 2000.

**William A. Sussmann,**

*Division Administrator, FHWA, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

**[Docket No. RSPA-2000-6944 (Notice No. 00-12)]**

### Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collections Requests (ICRs) abstracted below have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comments. The ICRs describe the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collections of information was published on August 21, 2000, (65 FR 50741). One comment was received regarding OMB Control No. 2137-0034, Hazardous Materials Shipping Papers & Emergency Response Information.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before December 13, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Boothe, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (DHM-10), Research and Special Programs Administration, Room 8422, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone (202) 366-8553.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Hazardous Materials Shipping Papers & Emergency Response Information.

*OMB Control Number:* 2137-0034.

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

*Abstract:* This information collection consolidates and describes the information collection provisions in parts 172, 174, 175, 176, and 177 of the HMR on the shipping paper and emergency response requirements for the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce. Shipping papers and emergency response information are

a basic communication tool used in the safe transportation of hazardous materials. They serve as a principal means of identifying hazardous materials during transportation, including emergencies, by providing the proper shipping name, hazard class, UN or NA identification number, packing group and quantity of each hazardous material being transported. Shipping papers also provide emergency response information for use in the mitigation of an incident, and an emergency response telephone number for use in the event of an emergency. The telephone number must be monitored at all times the hazardous material is in transportation, by a person who is either knowledgeable of the hazardous material being shipped and has comprehensive emergency response and incident mitigation information for that material, or has immediate access to a person who possesses such knowledge and information. Shipping papers also serve as a means of notifying transport workers that hazardous materials are present, so that the proper loading, unloading, handling and safety procedures may be followed.

One comment was received from the Hazardous Materials Advisory Council (HMAC) requesting clarification on the basis of the 6,500,000 burden hours for the preparation of shipping papers. HMAC cited a recent RSPA study completed in August 1998 that estimated there are 800,000 daily shipments of hazardous materials in commerce, most requiring the preparation of shipping papers. According to the August 1998 RSPA study, shipments are defined as equivalent to deliveries, and in most instances may be distinguished from the number of movements, trip segments, or other measures. The estimated number of movements associated with these shipments exceeds 1.2 million per day. Because most of the 800,000 daily shipments are accomplished with one shipping paper and some require multiple shipping papers, RSPA has estimated the annual number of shipments for shipping paper calculation purposes to be approximately 1 million shipments per day. The information collection estimates used by RSPA average out to 1 million/day x 5 days/week x 52 weeks or 260 million shipments per year. These estimates are averages based on the average time it takes all shippers to complete shipping paper. This includes shippers who prepare shipping papers once a year manually, as well as those shippers who ship hundreds of material daily using a permanent reusable

shipping paper, and shippers who use computer generated shipping papers that can be printed out in seconds. RSPA acknowledges that it may take more than 1 minute 30 seconds to prepare a number of shipping papers. However, other shipping papers can be prepared more quickly by using data programs, especially for shippers who continually ship the same hazardous materials.

**Affected Public:** Shippers and carriers of hazardous materials in intrastate, interstate, and foreign commerce.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 250,000.

**Estimated Number of Responses:** 260,000,000.

**Annual Estimated Burden Hours:** 6,500,000.

**Frequency of Collection:** Annually.

**Title:** Radioactive (RAM)

**Transportation Requirements.**

**OMB Control Number:** 2137-0510.

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

**Abstract:** This information collection consolidates and describes the information collection provisions in the HMR (49 CFR parts 171-180) involving the transportation of radioactive materials in commerce. Information collection requirements for RAM include: shipper notification to consignees of the dates of shipment of RAM; expected arrival; special loading/unloading instructions; verification that shippers using foreign-made packages hold a foreign competent authority certificate and verification that the terms of the certificate are being followed for RAM shipments being made into this country; and specific handling instructions from shippers to carriers for fissile RAM, bulk shipments of low specific activity RAM and packages of RAM which emit high levels of external radiation. These information collection requirements help to establish that proper packages are used for the type of radioactive material being transported; external radiation levels do not exceed prescribed limits; packages are handled appropriately and delivered in a timely manner, so as to ensure the safety of the

general public, transport workers, and emergency responders.

**Affected Public:** Shippers and carriers of radioactive materials in commerce.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 3,807.

**Estimated Number of Responses:** 21,319.

**Annual Estimated Burden Hours:** 14,480.

**Frequency of Collection:** Periodically.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for RSPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

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 most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 7, 2000.

**Edward T. Mazzullo,**

*Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-60-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

#### Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Delays in Processing of Exemption Applications

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** List of Applications Delayed more than 180 days.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5117(c), RSPA is publishing the following list of exemption applications that have been in process for 180 days or more. The reason(s) for delay and the expected completion date for action on each application is provided in association with each identified application.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** J. Suzanne Hedgepeth, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials, Exemptions and Approvals, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4535.

#### Key to "Reasons for Delay"

1. Awaiting additional information from applicant
2. Extensive public comment under review
3. Application is technically complex and is of significant impact or precedent-setting and requires extensive analysis
4. Staff review delayed by other priority issues or volume of exemption applications

#### Meaning of Application Number Suffixes

N—New application

M—Modification request

PM—Party to application with modification request

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 6, 2000.

**R. Ryan Posten,**

*Exemptions Program Officer, Office of Hazardous Materials, Exemptions and Approvals.*

## NEW EXCEPTION APPLICATIONS

Application No.	Applicant	Reason for delay	Estimated date of completion
11862-N ..	The BOC Group, Murray Hill, NJ .....	4	12/29/2000
11927-N ..	Alaska Marine Lines, Inc. Seattle, WA .....	4	12/29/2000
12125-N ..	Mayo Foundation, Rochester, MN .....	4	11/30/2000
12142-N ..	Aristech Chemical Corp., Pittsburgh, PA .....	4	12/29/2000
12158-N ..	Hickson Corporation, Conley, GA .....	4	12/29/2000
12181-N ..	Aristech, Pittsburgh, PA .....	4	12/29/2000
12248-N ..	Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp., High Point, NC .....	4	12/29/2000
12277-N ..	The Indian Sugar & General Engineering Corp. ISGE, Haryana, IX .....	1	11/30/2000