

ADDRESSES: Comments must refer to the docket notice numbers cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted to Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Please identify the proposed collection of information for which a comment is provided, by referencing its OMB clearance Number. It is requested, but not required, that 2 copies of the comment be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Complete copies of each request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Delmas Johnson, NHTSA 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 5312, NPO-200, Washington, DC 20590. Mrs. Johnson's telephone number is (202) 366-1788. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including 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.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collections of information:

Title: Generic Clearance for Customer and External Stakeholder Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 2127-0579.

Affected Public: Individuals or households are primary survey respondents. Businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, Federal agencies, and State, local or tribal governments are other possible survey respondents.

Abstract: Executive Order 12862, mandates that agencies survey their customers to identify the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing services. Other requirements include the Governmental Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 which promotes a new focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction. NHTSA will use surveys of the public and other external stakeholders to gather data as one input to decision-making on how to better meet the goal of improving safety on the nation's highways. The data gathered on public expectations, NHTSA's products and services, along with specific information on motor vehicle crash related issues, will be used by the agency to better structure its processes and products, forecast safety trends and achieve the agency's goals.

Estimated Annual Burden: 13,468.

Number of Responses: 131,334.

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.

Delmas Maxwell Johnson,

Associate Administrator for Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34508]

Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis—Lease and Operation Exemption—CSX Transportation, Inc.

The Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis, Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern Railroad Division (CFER), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to lease and operate, pursuant to an agreement with CSX

Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), approximately 273 miles of rail line as follows: (1) The Fort Wayne line between Adams, IN, milepost QF 314.0, and Crestline, OH, milepost QF 191.3; (2) the Fort Wayne Secondary between Tolleston, IN, milepost QF 441.8, and Adams, IN, milepost QF 314.0; (3) the Decatur Second between Adams, IN, milepost QFD 86.6, and Decatur, IN, milepost QFD 70.4; and (4) the Spore Industrial Track between Bucyrus, OH, milepost QFS 69.32, and Spore, OH, milepost QFS 62.85. In addition, CFER will acquire incidental trackage rights over New York Central Lines LLC's (NYC) Fort Wayne Secondary, operated by CSXT, between approximate milepost PC 441.0 near Tolleston, IN, and the connection of NYC's East-West Line, operated by CSXT, with lines of Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Company (IHB) at IHB milepost 7.0 approximately at Calumet Park, IL, via: (1) NYC's Fort Wayne Secondary between milepost 441.0 and connection of Fort Wayne Secondary with CSXT's Porter Branch at Porter Branch milepost 255.1 at Tolleston; (2) Porter Branch between milepost 255.1 and connection of Porter Branch with CSXT's East-West Line at Porter Branch milepost 259.5 at CP Ivanhoe, IN; and (3) East-West Line between milepost 255.1 and the connection of the East-West Line with IHB-owned trackage at approximately IHB milepost 7.0 at Calumet Park, IL, a total distance of approximately 12.2 miles.¹

Because CFER's projected annual revenues will exceed \$5 million, CFER certified to the Board on May 20, 2004, that it sent the required notice of the transaction on May 18, 2004, to the national offices of all labor unions representing employees on the line and posted a copy of the notice at the workplace of the CSXT employees on the affected lines on May 18, 2004. See 49 CFR 1150.42(e).² The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on August 1, 2004.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption

¹ CFER indicates that it is negotiating an agreement with CSXT for CFER's lease and operation of the line.

² On June 30, 2004, CFER requested a waiver of the Board's 60-day advance notice requirements at 49 CFR 1150.42(e) as to four employees of Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) in Pittsburgh, PA, who dispatch the line and who may be affected by this transaction. The Board granted this waiver request in a decision served July 15, 2004, so that the transaction could go forward without waiting until 60 days after certification that notice had been posted for the NS dispatchers, but directed that notice of the transaction be posted no later than July 19, 2004, at the workplace of the four NS dispatchers. In a letter filed on July 19, 2004, NS certified that such notice was posted on that date.

is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34508, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on: Gary A. Laakso, Vice President Regulatory Counsel, Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis, 5300 Broken Sound Blvd., NW., Boca Raton, FL 33487, and Louis E. Gitomer, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "<http://www.stb.dot.gov>."

Decided: July 26, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-17325 Filed 7-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee act) that a meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review board will be held on August 30-September 2, 2004, at the Sofitel Hotel, 806 15th Street, NW., Washington, DC. The sessions are scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. each day.

The purpose of the Board is to review rehabilitation research and development applications for scientific and technical merit and to make recommendations to the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, regarding their funding.

The meeting will be open to the public for the August 30 and September 1 sessions from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. for the discussion of administrative matters, the general status of the program and the administrative details of the review process. The meeting will be closed on August 30-September 2 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for the Board's review of research and development applications.

This review involves oral comments, discussion of site visits, staff and

consultant critiques of proposed research protocols, and similar analytical documents that necessitate the consideration of the personal qualifications, performance and competence of individual research investigators. Disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Disclosure would also reveal research proposals and research underway which could lead to the loss of these projects to third parties and thereby frustrate future agency research efforts.

Thus, the closing is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), and (c)(9)(B) and the determination of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs under sections 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463 as amended by section 5(c) of Pub. L. 94-409.

Those who plan to attend the open session should contact Ms. Victoria Mongiardo, Program Analyst, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (122P), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20420, at (202) 254-0054.

Dated: July 22, 2004.

E. Philip Riggan

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-17414 Filed 7-29-04; 8:45 am]

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