

exemption will be effective on November 23, 2004, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by November 1, 2004. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 12, 2004, with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001.

Soo Line states that the line is the stub end of a grain branch line leased to Northern Plains Railroad, Inc. (NPRR). *See Northern Plains Railroad, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Certain Lines of Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a Canadian Pacific Railway*, STB Docket No. 33324 (STB served Jan. 9, 1997). Although Soo Line states that NPRR has approved its abandonment proposal, Soo Line may not consummate the abandonment authority granted here unless and until NPRR files with the Board to discontinue its lease and operation rights on the line, NPRR obtains discontinuance authority, and NPRR exercises that authority. *See Thompson v. Texas Mexican Ry.*, 328 U.S. 134 (1946).

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to Soo Line's representative: Annie Littlefield, Leonard, Street and Deinard Professional Association, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

Soo Line has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 29, 2004. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board,

Washington, DC 20423–0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565–1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), Soo Line shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by Soo Line's filing of a notice of consummation by October 22, 2005, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

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

Decided: October 18, 2004.

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

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04–23721 Filed 10–21–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury and its Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, as part of their continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). Currently, we are seeking comments on TTB's Recordkeeping Requirement Number 5150/1 titled “Usual and Customary Business Records Relating to Denatured Spirits.”

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before December 21, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments to Sandra Turner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, at any of these addresses:

- P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044–4412;
- 202–927–8525 (facsimile); or
- formcomments@ttb.gov (e-mail).

Please reference the information collection's title, form or recordkeeping requirement number, and OMB number (if any) in your comment. If you submit your comment via facsimile, send no more than five 8.5 x 11 inch pages in order to ensure electronic access to our equipment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain additional information, copies of the information collection and its instructions, or copies of any comments received, contact Sandra Turner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044–4412; or telephone 202–927–8210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Usual and Customary Business Records Relating to Denatured Spirits.

OMB Number: 1513–0062.

TTB Recordkeeping Requirement Number: 5150/1.

Abstract: Denatured spirits are used for nonbeverage industrial purposes in the manufacture of personal household products. The records are maintained at the premises of the regulated individual and are routinely inspected by TTB personnel during field tax compliance examinations. These examinations are necessary to verify that all specially denatured spirits can be accounted for and are being used only for purposes authorized by laws and regulations. By ensuring that spirits have not been diverted to beverage use, tax revenue and public safety are protected. There is no additional recordkeeping imposed on the respondent as these requirements are usual and customary business records.

Current Actions: There are no changes to this information collection and it is being submitted for extension purposes only.

Type of Review: Extension.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,111.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: One (1).

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be included or summarized in our request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of this information collection.

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. *See Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100, but which will increase to \$1,200, effective October 31, 2004. *See Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2004 Update*, STB Ex Parte No. 542 (Sub-No. 11) (STB served Oct. 1, 2004).

All comments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Please do not include any confidential or inappropriate material in your comments.

We invite comments on: (a) Whether this information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the information collection's burden; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (d) ways to minimize the information collection's burden 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 the requested information.

Dated: September 27, 2004.

William H. Foster,

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division.

[FR Doc. 04-23688 Filed 10-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-31-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[REG-104072-97]

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, REG-104072-97 (TD 8853), *Recharacterizing Financing Arrangements Involving Fast-Pay Stock* (§ 1.7701(l)-3).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 21, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Joe Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or

copies of the regulation should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at (202) 622-6665, or at Internal Revenue Service, room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or through the Internet, at Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Recharacterizing Financing Arrangements Involving Fast-Pay Stock.
OMB Number: 1545-1642.

Regulation Project Number: REG-104072-97.

Abstract: Section 1.7701(l)-3 recharacterizes fast-pay arrangements. Certain participants in such arrangements must file a statement that includes the name of the corporation that issued the fast-pay stock, and (to the extent the filing taxpayer knows or has reason to know) the terms of the fast-pay stock, the date on which it was issued, and the names and taxpayer identification numbers of any shareholders of any class of stock that is not traded on an established securities market.

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

Type of Review: Extension of OMB approval.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

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: October 18, 2004.

Joe Durbala,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-23749 Filed 10-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[REG-209830-96]

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, REG-209830-96 (TD 8779), *Estate and Gift Tax Marital Deduction*.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 21, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Paul Finger, Internal Revenue Service, room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at (202) 622-6665, or at Internal Revenue Service, room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or through the Internet, at Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Estate and Gift Tax Marital Deduction.

OMB Number: 1545-1612.