

1954 (concerning submarine cables), section 2(b) of Executive Order 11423 and section 3(b) of Executive Order 13337 authorizes the Secretary of State to issue such further rules and regulations and to prescribe such further procedures as may from time to time be deemed necessary or desirable for the exercise of the authority conferred by the Executive Orders.

As noted in the preamble to Executive Order 11423, it is desirable to provide a systematic method of evaluation in connection with the issuance of Presidential permits. Moreover, Executive Order 13212 instructs federal agencies to expedite their review of permits for energy related projects or take other actions as necessary to accelerate the completion of such projects, while maintaining safety, public health, and environmental protections. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Orders 11423 and 13337 and in furtherance of this foreign affairs function, the Department of State plans to assemble an interagency working group, consisting of relevant State Department personnel and personnel from other interested federal agencies, to develop guidance regarding a definition of "U.S. facilities at the borders of the United States for the exportation or importation of petroleum, petroleum products, coal, or other fuels" for purposes of Presidential permits issued under Executive Order 13337, and "construction, connection, operation, or maintenance, at the borders of the United States, of facilities for the exportation or importation of water or sewage to or from a foreign country" for purposes of Presidential permits under Executive Order 11423.

The Department intends to focus in particular on what portion of an international pipeline should be considered to constitute "facilities at the borders of the United States" for these purposes. The Department is also considering whether to apply this definition to all pending and future applications for Presidential permits under section 1(a) of Executive Order 13337 and section 1(a)(i)-(ii) of Executive Order 11423, both for new pipeline proposals and for modifications to or transfers of previously-permitted pipeline facilities. (In considering this change, the Department does not intend to issue a new or amended Presidential permit with respect to a previously-permitted pipeline facility, where the application is submitted solely for the purpose of limiting the definition of "U.S. facilities" in the existing permit).

Establishing a consistent definition is expected to aid permit applicants to

prepare appropriate documentation in support of applications for Presidential permits subject to section 1(a) of Executive Order 13337 and section 1(a)(i)-(ii) of Executive Order 11423. The scope of the definition would also have implications for the scope of the environmental review conducted by the Department in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et. seq.*), regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and the Department of State's implementing regulations (22 CFR Part 161; see, in particular 22 CFR 161.7(c)(1)).

The Department's final decision and guidelines, if any, on this issue will be published in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** The Department of State welcomes public comment and invites those who are interested in submitting comments relative to this issue to provide such comments on or before November 29, 2007 to Jeff Izzo, International Energy Commodity Policy, Room 4843, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, or e-mail to [izzojr@state.gov](mailto:izzojr@state.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Izzo, Office of International Energy and Commodity Policy (EEB/ESC/IEC/EPC), Room 4843, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, telephone 202-647-1291, facsimile 202-647-4037, e-mail [izzojr@state.gov](mailto:izzojr@state.gov).

Dated: October 23, 2007.

**Stephen J. Gallogly,**

*Director, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. E7-21324 Filed 10-29-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-07-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2007-29137]

#### Agency Information Collections; Extension of a Currently Approved Collection: Transportation of Hazardous Materials, Highway Routing

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FMCSA announces its plan to submit the Information Collection Request (ICR) described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval and invites public comment. The FMCSA requests

approval to extend an existing information collection entitled "Transportation of Hazardous Materials, Highway Routing," which requires States and Indian tribes to identify designated/restricted routes and restrictions or limitations affecting how motor carriers may transport certain hazardous materials on the highway.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before December 31, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments bearing the Department of Transportation (DOT) Docket Management System (DMS) Docket Number FMCSA Docket Number FMCSA-2007-29137 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery:* West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number for this Notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or Room W12-140 on the ground level of the West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. If you want acknowledgement that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or post card or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting on-line.

*Privacy Act:* Anyone may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or of the person signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2000 (65 FR

19477–19478; April 11, 2000). This information is also available at <http://Docketinfo.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James O. Simmons, Hazardous Materials Division, phone (202) 366–6121; FAX (202) 366–3921; or e-mail [james.simmons@dot.gov](mailto:james.simmons@dot.gov); Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, DOT, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Background:* The data for the Transportation of Hazardous Materials; Highway Routing designations are collected under authority of 49 U.S.C. 5112 and 5125. That authority places responsibility on the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to specify and regulate standards for establishing, maintaining, and enforcing routing designations.

Under 49 CFR 397.73, the Administrator has the authority to request that each State and Indian tribe, through its routing agency, provide information identifying hazardous materials routing designations within their jurisdictions. That information is collected and consolidated by the FMCSA and published annually in whole, or as updates, in the **Federal Register**.

*Title:* Transportation of Hazardous Materials, Highway Routing.

*OMB Control Number:* 2126–0014.

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

*Respondents:* The reporting burden is shared by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, and the Virgin Islands.

*Frequency:* There is one response annually from approximately 53 respondents.

*Estimated Average Burden per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 13 hours [53 respondents x 1 response x 15 minutes per response/60 minutes = 13.25 hours, rounded to 13 hours].

*Public Comments Invited:* You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the performance of FMCSA's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for the FMCSA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected

information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Issued On: October 24, 2007.

**Michael S. Griffith,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Research and Information Technology.*

[FR Doc. E7–21281 Filed 10–29–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Railroad Administration**

[Docket No. FRA–2000–7257; Notice No. 38]

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC); Working Group Activity Update**

**AGENCY:** The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Announcement of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) working group activities.

**SUMMARY:** FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's working group activities to reflect its current status.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Larry Woolverton, RSAC Coordinator, at: FRA; 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25; Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 493–6212, or Grady C. Cothen, Jr., FRA Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety, at: FRA; 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25; Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 493–6302.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports as of September 25, 2006 (71 FR 55823). The 32nd full Committee meeting was held June 26, 2007.

Since its first meeting in April 1996, the RSAC has accepted 24 tasks. The status for each of the tasks is provided below:

**Open Tasks**

*Task 96–4:* Reviewing the appropriateness of the agency's current policy regarding the applicability of existing and proposed regulations to tourist, excursion, scenic, and historic railroads. This task was accepted on April 2, 1996, and a working group was established. The working group monitored the steam locomotive regulation task. Planned future activities involve the review of other regulations for possible adaptation to the safety needs of tourist and historic railroads.

*Contact:* Grady Cothen, (202) 493–6302.

*Task 03–01:* Passenger Safety. This task was accepted on May 20, 2003, and a working group was established. Before embarking on substantive discussions about a specific task, the working group wrote a specific description of the task. The working group reports planned activity to the full Committee at each scheduled, full RSAC meeting, including milestones for the completion of projects and progress toward completion. At the first meeting held September 9–10, 2003, a consolidated list of issues were completed. At the second meeting held November 6–7, 2003, four task groups were established: Emergency preparedness, mechanical-general issues, mechanical-safety appliances, and track/vehicle interaction. The task groups met and reported on activities for working group consideration at the third meeting held May 11–12, 2004, and a fourth meeting was held October 26–27, 2004. The working group met March 21–22, 2006, and again on September 12–13, 2006, at which time the group agreed to establish a task force on general passenger safety. The working group met on April 17–18, 2007, and the next meeting is scheduled for December 11–12, 2007.

(Emergency Preparedness) At the working group meeting of March 9–10, 2005, the working group received and approved the consensus report of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force related to emergency egress and rescue access. These recommendations were presented to and approved by the full Committee on May 18, 2005. The working group met September 7–8, 2005, and additional, supplementary recommendations were presented to, and accepted by, the full RSAC on October 11, 2005. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was published on August 24, 2006, and was open for comments until October 23, 2006. The working group agreed upon recommendations for the resolution of final comments during the April 17–18, 2007, meeting. The recommendations were presented to, and approved by, the full RSAC Committee on June 26, 2007, and FRA is currently preparing the final rule. The next working group meeting is scheduled for October 17–18, 2007.

*Contact:* Brenda Moscoso, (202) 493–6282.

(General Mechanical) (Completed) Initial recommendations on mechanical issues (revisions to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 238) were approved by the full Committee on January 26, 2005. At the working group meeting of September 7–8, 2005, the