

SUPPORTING STATEMENT – Water Carrier Tariffs

A. Justification:

1. Why the collection is necessary. The Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) and the Department of Transportation share general jurisdiction over domestic (as opposed to international) transportation by water carriage. For common carriage service by water in noncontiguous domestic trade (i.e., domestic (as opposed to international) shipments moving to or from Alaska, Hawaii, or the U.S. territories or possessions (Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands)), water carriers are required to publish their rates in tariffs and file them at the STB. 49 U.S.C. § 13702(b); 49 C.F.R. § 1312. A tariff provides a list of prices and fees that the carrier charges to the shipping public.

2. How the collection will be used. Information in this collection is used by the public to get information about prices and fees charged by water carriers that provide freight transportation in noncontiguous domestic trade.

3. Extent of automated information collection. This collection may be submitted electronically.

4. Identification of duplication. No other Federal agency collects the information reported in water carrier tariffs.

5. Effects on small business. The Board concludes that this collection does not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities. It takes no more than 45 minutes to file the required copy of the tariff with the Board

6. Impact of less frequent collections. Failure of non-contiguous domestic water carriers to file these tariffs as required would impact the ability of the Board to fulfill its statutory mandate.

7. Special circumstances. No special circumstances described in question 7 apply to this collection.

8. Compliance with 5 C.F.R. § 1320.8. As required, the Board published a notice providing a 60-day comment period regarding this collection. See 77 Fed. Reg. 64376 (10/19/12). No comments were received. A 30-day notice is being published concurrently with this submission to Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

9. Payments or gifts to respondents. The Board does not provide any payment or gift to

respondents.

10. Assurance of confidentiality. All information collected through this report is available to the public.

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information. This collection contains no information of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimation of burden hours for respondents. The following information pertains to the estimate of burden hours associated with this collection:

(1) Number of respondents: Approximately 25.

(2) Frequency of response: On occasion, for an annual total of 1917 tariffs filed.

(3) Annual hour burden per respondent and total for all respondents: 1,438 hours (1917 filings X .75 hour (estimated time per filing)). The information filed consists of an existing document.

13. Other costs to respondents: There are no non-hour costs associated with this collection. This collection may be filed electronically.

14. Estimated costs to the Board: \$40,427 (based on most recent Board cost-study setting fees and total fees collected in 2012).

15. Changes in burden hours. This is an existing collection without a control number.

16. Plans for tabulation and publication: There are no plans to tabulate or publish this collection.

17. Display of expiration date for OMB approval. No exception is sought. The control number and expiration date for this collection will be published in the Federal Register.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement. Not applicable

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods:

Not applicable