



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

MAR 19 2015

Mr. Howard Shelanski
Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Administrator Shelanski:

On March 12, 2015, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued a Railworthiness Directive (Directive) under the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 171–180, directing owners of railroad tank cars used to transport hazardous materials and configured with certain valves marketed and sold by McKenzie Valve and Machining (McKenzie) to identify, inspect, and replace the valves. The Directive will be published in the Federal Register. The Directive is based on FRA's finding that the continued use of tank cars to transport hazardous materials while equipped with these valves marketed and sold by McKenzie presents an unsafe operating condition.

FRA Railworthiness Directives are rare and the Directive itself describes the safety problem the valves present. The collection of information included under this Directive is aimed at ensuring that tank car owners identify any tank cars in their fleets equipped with the subject valves, inspect, and replace the valves as necessary. As explained in the Directive, these valves are not approved for use on railroad tank cars and due to their physical configuration, the normal operation of the valves damage the ball and seals of the valves, compromising the valve's ability to retain a leak-free seal. The Directive is intended to ensure tank car owners take immediate action to prevent the continued use of tank cars equipped with the identified valves.

As provided under 5 CFR Section 1320.13, *Emergency Processing*, FRA is requesting emergency processing for this new collection of information as specified in the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations. FRA cannot reasonably comply with normal clearance procedures because the use of normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to disrupt the collection of information. The Directive takes effect immediately upon issuance. FRA cannot wait the normal 90- to 180-day period for routine Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approval. Under the Directive, tank car owners must take immediate action to identify, inspect, and replace the valves. Therefore, FRA is requesting OMB approval of this collection of information as soon as possible.

Upon OMB approval of its emergency clearance request, FRA will follow the normal clearance procedures for the information collection associated with the Directive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah E. Feinberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sarah Feinberg
Acting Administrator