



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**APR 21 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 April 17, 2015, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) jointly issued a Notice of Safety Advisory (Safety Advisory 2015-02 or Joint Advisory) reminding railroads operating trains transporting large amounts of flammable liquids and offerors of the flammable liquids transported on such trains that certain information may be required by FRA and PHMSA personnel during the course of an investigation immediately following an accident. The Joint Advisory also recommends that railroads and offerors, upon request of FRA or PHMSA during the course of an investigation, provide certain additional information to the agencies (e.g., the specification of tank cars in the train, relevant attributes of the individual tank cars in the train, testing results used to classify the hazardous materials being transported). This additional information is necessary for the agencies to better understand and assess the relevant facts and circumstances involved in an accident. The Joint Advisory (and FRA Notice requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Emergency Clearance Processing for the associated information collection) will be published in the Federal Register.

The Joint Advisory is one of the U.S. Department of Transportation's latest steps to improve the safety of the rail transportation of flammable liquids, particularly the rail transport of petroleum crude oil and ethanol.<sup>1</sup> The Joint Advisory works in concert with FRA's Emergency Order No. 30 and FRA's Safety Advisory 2015-01 (also issued on April 17, 2015) to address the increased risk associated with the growing demand for rail transportation of flammable liquids throughout the United States, and particularly the growing demand for the rail transportation of crude oil and ethanol.

The collection of information the Joint Advisory includes relates to the additional information (discussed above) that FRA and PHMSA recommend railroads and offerors of flammable liquids for rail transportation provide to the agencies upon request during the course of an accident investigation. Nothing in the Joint Advisory limits or otherwise affects

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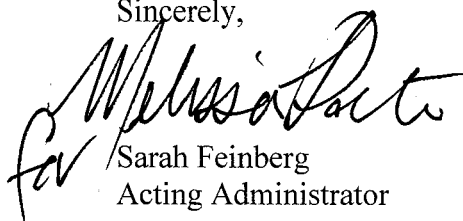
<sup>1</sup> Both petroleum crude oil and ethanol are Class 3 flammable liquids, the transportation of which is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

either FRA's or PHMSA's authority to investigate accidents and require the production of records and other documents, inspect equipment and packages, and otherwise gather all evidence relevant to any safety-related rail transportation issue as authorized by statute.

As provided under Title 5 CFR § 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 Joint Advisory takes effect immediately upon issuance. FRA and PHMSA cannot wait the normal 90- to 180-day period for routine OMB review and approval.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Feinberg". To the left of the signature, the letters "for" are written vertically in a cursive style.

Sarah Feinberg  
Acting Administrator