



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

December 28, 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:

The recently enacted Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act (PTCEI) and Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (collectively, the "Acts") amend certain portions of 49 U.S.C. § 20157 on positive train control (PTC) system implementation. Most notably, the Acts extend the implementation deadline originally established by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA) and require covered railroads to each submit a revised PTC Implementation Plan (PTCIP) with additional information to meet its new deadline.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is proposing to provide a revised PTCIP template to assist each railroad in complying with the new law. More specifically, each railroad may voluntarily opt to use FRA's proposed template to concisely organize and present certain quantitative (i.e. measurable) data on its PTC implementation efforts, and its projected timeframe for completing PTC implementation. Although some of this information may have been provided by each railroad in the past, the Acts now require submission of specific measurable data as part of each railroad's revised PTCIP. This information includes, but is not limited to:

- The calendar year(s) when wireless spectrum required for PTC operation will be acquired and available for use;
- The total amount of PTC hardware the railroad must install (broken down by each major hardware category);
- The total amount of PTC hardware the railroad must install by the end of each calendar year (broken down by each major hardware category);
- The total number of employees the railroad must train; and
- The total number of employees that will receive training by the end of each calendar year.

FRA believes that providing a template will serve as guidance to railroads by reducing confusion on the level of detail required. Further, the template will help to expedite the conveyance of this information and FRA's review for statutory and regulatory compliance, particularly for those railroads that may not have been tracking these details previously. FRA intends to provide the template on its website for all interested parties to use.

Each revised PTCIP is due January 27, 2016. Accordingly, as provided under 49 C.F.R. § 1320.13, 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, since they would be reasonably likely to disrupt the collection of information. Since each railroad is required to submit its revised PTCIP by January 27, 2016, FRA cannot wait the typical 90-day period for public comment. Therefore, FRA is requesting a seven day comment period and OMB approval as soon as possible (i.e., on or before January 4, 2016, seven days after publication of the required Federal Register Notice) for this collection of information.

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

Sincerely,

COREY W HILL

Digitally signed by COREY W HILL
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ou=DOT Headquarters,
ou=FRAHQ, cn=COREY W HILL
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Corey Hill
Acting Executive Director