



U.S. Department
of Transportation


**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 28, 2017

To: Chad Lallemand,
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

From: Sarah L. Inderbitzin 
Acting Chief Counsel

Subject: OMB Emergency Clearance for Collection of Information under
Paperwork Reduction Act for Safety Integration Plans

Summary

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeks emergency clearance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a 30-day extension of OMB control number 2130-0557.

Discussion

FRA seeks approval for emergency processing of this submission of authorization to collect information from railroads essential to safely integrating the rail operations of a Class I or II railroad with another Class I railroad under 49 CFR part 244 (Safety Integration Plans).

Past mergers involving major railroads had faced significant challenges in a wide array of areas. These included harmonizing information systems; training employees responsible for moving trains; modifying operational practices and procedures; implementing personnel policies directed toward safety; determining appropriate staffing requirements; and providing adequate rail facilities, infrastructure, and rolling stock and equipment. Because these railroads transport large volumes of freight, often hauling hazardous materials, and because of the size and complexity of the issues involved in amalgamating

railroad operations, FRA concluded that careful safety planning is critical to ensure that safety is maintained and the business transaction is implemented in an orderly and effective manner.

FRA's authorization to collect this type of information in safety integration plans under OMB control number 2130-0557 expires on February 28, 2017. Due to the change in presidential administrations, FRA was unable to publish a Federal Register notice in a timely manner to provide a 30-day comment period upon renewal of this control number. FRA will forward the 30-day notice to the Office of the Federal Register on March 1. FRA seeks an emergency 30-day extension of OMB control number 2130-0557 so that the agency has an opportunity to submit a renewal for this information collection request without the disruption caused by an expired OMB control number.

Accordingly, FRA is seeking emergency clearance for this information collection request pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.13. The information collection is needed prior to the time periods established in 5 CFR part 1320 and is essential to FRA's mission of providing a safe railroad system. The agency cannot comply with the normal Paperwork Reduction Act clearance procedures because doing so would disrupt the collection of information currently conducted under OMB control number 2130-0557 as this control number will expire prior to publication of the 30-day Federal Register notice. This would adversely affect FRA's ability to address safety issues involving the amalgamation of large, complex railroad operations to reduce the number and severity of accident/incidents, corresponding injuries and fatalities, and property damage and potential environmental harm.

To ensure FRA has the continued ability to require railroads to follow requirements essential to railroad safety, it is imperative FRA receive a 30-day extension from OMB for OMB control number 2130-0557.