

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
FOR REQUEST OF OMB APPROVAL  
UNDER THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT AND 5 C.F.R. § 1320**

The Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) requests a three-year extension of approval of the Board's collection of the Report of Fuel Cost, Consumption, and Surcharge Revenue.

**A. Justification:**

1. Why the collection is necessary. The Surface Transportation Board is, by statute, responsible for the economic regulation of common carrier freight railroads and certain other carriers operating in the United States. Under 49 U.S.C. § 10702, the Board has the authority to address the reasonableness of a rail carrier's practices. The Board has authority under 49 U.S.C. § 11144 to prescribe the form of records required to be prepared or compiled by regulated rail carriers, and to inspect and copy any record of such a carrier. Moreover, the Board has specific authority under 49 U.S.C. § 11145(a)(1) to require regulated rail carriers to file annual, periodic, and special reports containing answers to questions asked by the Board. In Rail Fuel Surcharges, EP 661 (Sub-No. 1) (STB served Aug. 14, 2007), the Board adopted this requirement to "permit the Board to monitor the current fuel surcharge practices of Class I carriers" in order to "provide an overall picture of the use of fuel surcharges" and "bring some transparency to the use of fuel surcharges by rail carriers." See 49 C.F.R. § 1243.3.

2. How the collection will be used. The Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) requires all Class I railroads (defined as carriers having revenues more than 250 million dollars in 1991 dollars) to report quarterly the following: (1) total fuel cost; (2) gallons of fuel consumed; (3) increased or decreased cost of fuel over the previous quarter; (4) total revenue from fuel surcharges; and (5) total revenue from fuel surcharges on regulated traffic only. This information collection permits the Board to monitor the current fuel surcharge practices of the Class I carriers.

3. Extent of automated information collection. These documents may be faxed or e-filed by carriers.

4. Identification of duplication. The information requested does not duplicate any other information available to the Board or the public.

5. Effects on small business. There is no impact on small businesses. This collection is

required to be filed only by Class I railroads (currently 7), all of which have revenues more than 250 million dollars (in 1991 dollars) adjusted for inflation.

6. Impact of less frequent collections. This information is collected quarterly. Fuel prices can fluctuate frequently. Therefore, a quarterly collection of this information is needed to provide current and relevant information to the Board.

7. Special circumstances. No special circumstances 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 82 Fed. Reg. 13,041 (Mar. 8, 2017). No comments were received. A 30-day notice was published concurrently with this submission to Office of Management and Budget (OMB). See 82 Fed. Reg. 23698 (May 23, 2017).

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

10. Assurance of confidentiality. No confidential information is being collected in this information collection. The collected information is posted on the Board's website.

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information. No sensitive information is requested.

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: Seven.

(2) Frequency of response: Quarterly.

(3) Annual hour burden per respondent and total for all respondents: It is estimated that it takes each respondent one hour each quarter to complete and submit the fuel cost report. Annually, this is four hours per respondent and 28 hours for all respondents.

13. Other costs to respondents: None identified. Filings may be submitted electronically to the Board.

14. Estimated costs to the Board: Staff estimates an annual burden to the agency of 16 labor hours. This entails 12 hours' labor for receipt and posting to the Board's website of an estimated 28 reports, which is performed by the Board's support staff (GS-12 level) at \$38.20 per hour (with a fully distributed cost to the Board per hour of \$49.74), and an additional 4 hours

for review by professional staff (GS-15 level) at a cost of \$63.14 per hour (with a fully distributed cost to the Board per hour of \$82.21). Therefore, the estimated annualized cost to the Board is \$925.67.

15. Changes in burden hours. This is an existing collection, which is being adjusted to update the burdens and costs based on current estimates.

16. Plans for tabulation and publication: The collected information is posted on the Board's website.

17. Display of expiration date for OMB approval. The control number and expiration date for this collection will appear on the form.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement. Not applicable.

**B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods:**

Not applicable.