

TOTAL ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS—Continued

Type of filing	Hours per response	Annual number of filings	Total annual burden hours
Petitions * .....	58	12	696
Notices * .....	19	103	1,957
Interchange commitments .....	8	4	32
Total annual burden hours .....			4,257

\* Under section 10502, petitions for exemption and notices of exemption are permitted in lieu of an application.

*Total “Non-Hour Burden” Cost:* None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

*Needs and Uses:* As mandated by Congress, persons seeking to construct, acquire or operate a line of railroad and railroads seeking to abandon or to discontinue operations over a line of railroad or, in the case of two or more railroads, to consolidate their interests through merger or a common-control arrangement are required to file an application for prior approval and authority with the Board. See 49 U.S.C. 10901–03, 11323–26. Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, persons may seek an exemption from many of the application requirements of sections 10901–03 and 11323–26 by filing with the Board a petition for exemption or notice of exemption in lieu of an application. The collection by the Board of these applications, petitions, and notices (including collection of disclosures of rail interchange commitments under 49 CFR 1121.3(d), 1150.33(h), 1150.43(h), and 1180.4(g)(4)) enables the Board to meet its statutory duty to regulate the referenced rail transactions. In some cases, the actions for which authority is sought may create agreements with interchange commitments. If the interchange commitments limit the future interchange of traffic with third parties, then certain information must be disclosed to the Board about those commitments. 49 CFR 1121.3(d), 1150.33(h), 1150.43(h), 1180.4(g)(4). The collection of this information facilitates the case-specific review of interchange commitments and enables the Board’s monitoring of their usage generally.

Under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), federal agencies are required to provide, prior to an agency’s submitting a collection to OMB for

approval, a 60-day notice and comment period through publication in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: April 14, 2020.  
**Jeffrey Herzig,**  
*Clearance Clerk.*  
 [FR Doc. 2020–08162 Filed 4–16–20; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4915–01–P**

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**60-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Extension of Approval: Report of Fuel Cost, Consumption, and Surcharge Revenue**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.  
**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice of its intent to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of the collection of the Report of Fuel Cost, Consumption, and Surcharge Revenue, as described below.

**DATES:** Comments on this information collection should be submitted by June 16, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all comments to Chris Oehrle, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001, or to [PRA@stb.gov](mailto:PRA@stb.gov). When submitting comments, please refer to “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Rail Service Data.” For further information regarding this collection, contact Michael Higgins, Deputy Director, Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at (202) 245–0284 or at [Michael.Higgins@stb.gov](mailto:Michael.Higgins@stb.gov). Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Comments are requested concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board’s burden

estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board’s request for OMB approval.

**Description of Collection**

*Title:* Report of Fuel Cost, Consumption, and Surcharge Revenue.  
*OMB Control Number:* 2140–0014.  
*STB Form Number:* None.  
*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Respondents:* Class I [large] railroads.  
*Number of Respondents:* Seven.  
*Estimated Time per Response:* One hour.

*Frequency:* Quarterly.  
*Total Burden Hours* (annually including all respondents): 28.  
*Total “Non-Hour Burden” Cost:* None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

*Needs and Uses:* Under 49 U.S.C. 10702, the Board has the authority to address the reasonableness of a rail carrier’s practices. This information collection permits the Board to monitor the current fuel surcharge practices of the Class I carriers. Failure to collect this information would impede the Board’s ability to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. The Board has authority to collect information about rail costs and revenues under 49 U.S.C. 11144 and 11145.

Under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third

parties, or the public. Under 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), federal agencies are required to provide, prior to an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 60-day notice and comment period through publication in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: April 14, 2020.

**Jeffrey Herzig,**  
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2020-08163 Filed 4-16-20; 8:45 am]

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. USTR-2020-0001]

### Determination on the Exclusion of Bifacial Solar Panels From the Safeguard Measure on Solar Products

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On January 23, 2018, the President imposed a safeguard measure on imports of certain solar products pursuant to a Section 201 investigation. On February 14, 2018, the U.S. Trade Representative established procedures for interested persons to request product-specific exclusions from application of the safeguard measure and to comment on the submitted requests. Based on the requests and comments received, the U.S. Trade Representative granted certain requests on June 13, 2019, including a request to exclude from the safeguard measure bifacial solar panels that consist only of bifacial solar cells. On January 27, 2020, the U.S. Trade Representative established procedures to consider whether to maintain, withdraw, or take some other action with respect to the exclusion of bifacial solar panels from the safeguard measure. Based on an evaluation of the comments received, and responses to those comments, and in consultation with the Secretaries of Commerce and Energy, the U.S. Trade Representative has determined that the bifacial solar panel exclusion is undermining the objectives of the safeguard measure. Accordingly, the U.S. Trade Representative will request that the U.S. Court of International Trade lift the order preliminarily enjoining the withdrawal from entering into effect.

**DATES:** Withdrawal of the exclusion for bifacial solar panels from application of the safeguard measure will apply to

imported panels if the Court lifts the preliminary injunction but in no case earlier than May 18, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Victor Mroczka, Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs, at [vmroczka@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:vmroczka@ustr.eop.gov) or (202) 395-9450, or Dax Terrill, Office of General Counsel, at [Dax.Terrill@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:Dax.Terrill@ustr.eop.gov) or (202) 395-4739.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background

On January 23, 2018, the President issued Proclamation 9693 (83 FR 3541) to impose a safeguard measure under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251) with respect to certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells and other products containing these cells. The Proclamation directed the U.S. Trade Representative to establish procedures for interested persons to request product-specific exclusions from the safeguard measure. It also authorized the U.S. Trade Representative, after consultation with the Secretaries of Commerce and Energy, to exclude products upon publication of a notice in the **Federal Register** modifying the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS).

On February 14, 2018, the U.S. Trade Representative established procedures to request a product exclusion and opened a public docket. *See* 83 FR 6670 (February 2018 notice). Under the February 2018 notice, requests for exclusion were to identify the particular product in terms of its physical characteristics (such as dimensions, wattage, material composition, or other distinguishing characteristics) that differentiate it from other products subject to the safeguard measure. The February 2018 notice provided that the U.S. Trade Representative would not consider requests identifying the product at issue in terms of the identity of the producer, importer, or ultimate consumer; the country of origin; or trademarks or tradenames. The notice also confirmed that the U.S. Trade Representative only would grant exclusions that did not undermine the objectives of the safeguard measure. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) received 48 product exclusion requests and 213 comments responding to the various requests. The exclusion requests generally fell into seven categories, one of which concerned bifacial solar panels.

On September 19, 2018, and June 13, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative granted certain product exclusion requests and modified the HTSUS

accordingly. *See* 83 FR 47393 and 84 FR 27684. The notice published on June 13, 2019 (June 2019 notice) excluded from application of the safeguard measure "bifacial solar panels that absorb light and generate electricity on each side of the panel and that consist of only bifacial solar cells that absorb light and generate electricity on each side of the cells."

On October 9, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative concluded, based on an evaluation of newly available information and after consultation with the Secretaries of Commerce and Energy, that maintaining the exclusion would undermine the objectives of the safeguard measure. Accordingly, the U.S. Trade Representative published a notice withdrawing the exclusion of bifacial solar panels, effective as of October 28, 2019. *See* 84 FR 54244.

On October 21, 2019, Invenergy Renewables LLC (Invenergy) filed a complaint with the U.S. Court of International Trade alleging that USTR failed to provide notice and comment required under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*, before withdrawing the exclusion of bifacial solar panels. Invenergy filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to prevent the withdrawal from entering into effect. The Court issued a preliminary injunction on December 5, 2019, enjoining the U.S. Trade Representative from withdrawing the exclusion on bifacial solar panels from the safeguard measure.

On January 27, 2020 (85 FR 4756), the U.S. Trade Representative issued a notice (January 2020 notice) noting concerns that:

1. The bifacial solar panel exclusion will result in significant increases in imports of bifacial solar panels and therefore will undermine the objectives of the safeguard measure.

2. The precise definition of bifacial solar panels excluded from the safeguard measure may require clarification.

3. The exclusion in the June 2019 notice is broader than the category of products described in the exclusion requests submitted as of March 16, 2018.

The U.S. Trade Representative established procedures and opened a public docket to seek comment on whether to maintain the exclusion of bifacial solar panels from the safeguard measure, withdraw the exclusion, or take some other action with respect to this exclusion. The January 2020 notice confirmed that the U.S. Trade Representative would request the Court to lift the injunction if he determined that it would be appropriate to