

operation of unnecessary hardware and reduce delays to trains caused by failures of the signals.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Fax:** 202-493-2251.
- **Mail:** Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by February 11, 2021 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable. Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2020-28557 Filed 12-23-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2020-0027-N-31]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On September 11, 2020, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 27, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find the particular ICR by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Hodan Wells, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Railroad Safety, Regulatory Analysis Division, Federal Railroad Administration, telephone: (202) 493-0440, email: Hodan.wells@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8

through 1320.12. On September 11, 2020, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. See 85 FR 56286. FRA received no comments in response to this notice.

Before OMB decides whether to approve the proposed collection of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)-(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Railroad Operating Rules.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0035.

Abstract: The collection of information associated with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 217 and 218, *Railroad Operating Rules and Practices*, requires railroads to file with FRA copies of their operating rules, timetables, timetable special instructions, and subsequent amendments. The regulations also require railroads to retain copies of these documents at their systems headquarters and make these documents available to FRA upon request.

Through these requirements, FRA learns of operating rules and practices for trains and instructions railroads provide their employees on operating practices.

Type of Request: Extension with change (revised estimates) of a currently approved collection.
Affected Public: Businesses.
Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: 765 railroads.
Frequency of Submission: On occasion.
*Reporting Burden:*¹

CFR section ²	Respondent universe	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Total cost equivalent ³
217.7(a)—Operating rules; filing and record-keeping—Filing of code of operating rules, timetables, and timetable special instructions by Class Is, Class IIs, Amtrak, and commuter railroads with FRA.	2 new railroads	2 documents	1 hour	2	\$154
—(b) Amendments to code of operating rules, timetables, and timetable special instructions by Class Is, Class IIs, Amtrak, and commuter railroads with FRA.	53 railroads	312 revised documents.	20 minutes	104	8,008
—(c) Class III and other railroads—Copy of code of operating rules, timetables, and timetable special instructions at system headquarters.	2 new railroads	2 documents	1 hour	2	154
—(c) Class III and other railroads—Amendments to code of operating rules, timetables, and timetable special instructions at system headquarters.	798 railroads	1,596 copies	15 minutes	399	30,723
217.9(b)(2)—Program of operational tests and inspections; recordkeeping—Written records documenting qualification of each railroad testing officer.	765 railroads	4,732 records	2 minutes	158	12,166
—(c) Written program of operational tests and inspections.	2 new railroads	2 programs	10 hours	20	2,300
—(d)(1) Records of operational tests/inspections.	765 railroads	9,120,000 test records and updates.	5 minutes	760,000	58,520,000
—(d)(2) Railroad copy of current program operational tests/inspections—Amendments.	53 railroads	159 program revisions.	70 minutes	186	14,322
—(e)(1)(i) Written quarterly review of operational tests/inspections by RRs other than passenger RRs.	7 Class I railroads + Amtrak.	32 reviews	2 hours	64	4,928
—(e)(1)(ii) 6-month review of operational tests/inspections/naming of officer.	7 Class I railroads	14 reviews	2 hours	28	2,156
—(e)(2) 6-month review by passenger railroads designated officers of operational testing and inspection data.	35 Amtrak + passenger railroads.	70 reviews	2 hours	140	10,780
—(e)(3) Records of periodic reviews	50 railroads	116 records	1 minute	2	154
—(f)–(g) Annual summary of operational tests and inspections.	50 railroads	50 summary records	1 hour	50	3,850
—(h)(1)(i) RR amended program of operational tests/inspections.	765 railroads	6 revised programs	30 minutes	3	231
—(h)(1)(ii) FRA disapproval of RR program of operational tests/inspections and RR written response in support of program.	765 railroads	6 supporting documents.	1 hour	6	462
217.11(a)—RR periodic instruction of employees on operating rules—New railroads.	2 new railroads	2 written programs	8 hours	16	1,232
217.11(b)—RR copy of program amendments for periodic instruction of employees.	765 railroads	110 modified written programs.	30 minutes	55	4,235
218.95(a)(5)–(b)—Instruction, training, examination—Employee completed test records.	765 railroads	85,600 employee records.	1 minute	1,427	109,879

¹ FRA provides a revised PRA table that includes updated burdens associated with §§ 217.11, 218.95, and 218.97. The estimates have been updated after an internal review.

² **Note:** The current inventory estimates a total burden of 4,791,614 hours while the requesting inventory estimates a total burden of 763,236 hours.

There is no change in the method of the collection. However, FRA determined some of the estimates were double counted and/or outdated, while other estimates were not PRA requirements, thus leading to the increased figures in the current inventory, which were decreased accordingly in this notice. Also, totals may not add due to rounding.

³ The dollar equivalent cost is derived from the Surface Transportation Board's Full Year Wage A&B data series using the appropriate employee group hourly wage rate that includes a 75-percent overhead charge. The hourly wage rate used is \$77 per hour (\$44.27 * 1.75 = \$77).

CFR section ²	Respondent universe	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Total cost equivalent ³
—(c)(1)(i) Amended RR program of instruction, testing, examination.	765 railroads	5 amended programs	30 minutes	3	231
218.97(b)(4)—RR copy of good faith challenge procedures.	765 railroads	4,732 copies to new employees.	6 minutes	473	36,421
218.97(c)(1) and (4)—RR employee good faith challenge of RR directive.	10 workers	10 good faith challenges.	15 minutes	3	231
—(c)(5) RR resolution of employee good faith challenge.	2 new railroads	5 responses	15 minutes	1	77
—(d)(1) RR officer immediate review of unresolved good faith challenge.	2 new railroads	3 reviews	30 minutes	2	154
—(d)(2) RR officer explanation to employee that Federal law may protect against employer retaliation for refusal to carry out work if employee refusal is a lawful, good faith act.	2 new railroads	3 answers	15 minutes	1	77
—(d)(3) Employee written/electronic protest of employer final decision.	2 new railroads	3 written protests	15 minutes	1	77
—(d)(3) Employee copy of protest	2 new railroads	3 copies	1 minute	0.1	8
—(d)(4) Employer further review of good faith challenge after employee written request.	2 new railroads	2 further reviews	15 minutes	0.5	39
—(d)(4) RR verification decision to employee in writing.	2 new railroads	2 decisions	15 minutes	0.5	39
—(e) Recordkeeping and record retention—Employer's copy of written procedures at division headquarters.	765 railroads	765 copies	5 minutes	64	4,928
218.99(a)—Shoving or pushing movement—RR operating rule complying with section's requirements.	2 new railroads	2 rule modifications ...	1 hour	2	154
218.101(a)–(c)—Leaving equipment in the clear—Operating rule that complies with this section.	2 new railroads	2 rule modifications ...	30 minutes	1	77
218.103(a)(1)—Hand-Operated Switches—Operating Rule that Complies with this section.	2 new railroads	2 rule modifications ...	30 minutes	1	77
Total	765 railroads	9,348,371 responses	N/A	763,236	58,770,040

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 9,348,371.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 763,236 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$58,770,040.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that a respondent is not required to respond to, conduct, or sponsor a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Brett A. Jortland,

Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2020-28472 Filed 12-23-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2020-0095]

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System

Under part 235 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), this document provides the public notice that on December 4, 2020, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval to discontinue or modify a signal system. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2020-0095.

Applicant: Norfolk Southern Corporation, T.A. Phillips, Senior Director—C&S Engineering, 1200 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Specifically, NS requests permission to discontinue a traffic control system (TCS) from milepost (MP) V 327 (PD Junction) to V 381.8 (Maben) on the Princeton-Deepwater line of the Pocahontas Division. This area includes control points (CPs) at Ambrose, Beggs,

Princeton, Rock, Weyanoke, Clark Gap, Algoquin, Herndon, Alpoca, CP No. 1 Crossover, Elmore, Gulf Junction, Virwest, Maben, and nine automatic signals. An operative approach signal will be placed at MP V 329.4 in approach to the CP PD Junction. All slide fences within the application limits will also be retired. The main track between MP V 327 and MP V 381.8 will be converted to NS Rule 171 operation. The signaled sidings within the application limits will be made non-controlled, other than main track.

NS states that operations in this area no longer require a TCS.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA,