

revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on April 5, 2002, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,<sup>1</sup> formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),<sup>2</sup> and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by March 18, 2002. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by March 26, 2002 with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Thomas R. Ogoreuc, 135 Jamison Lane, Monroeville, PA 15146.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

DM&IR has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by March 11, 2002. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1552. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), DM&IR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned its line. If consummation has not been effected by DM&IR's filing of a notice of consummation by March 6, 2003, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

<sup>1</sup> The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

<sup>2</sup> Each offer of financial assistance must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1000. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV".

Decided: February 25, 2002.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 27, 2002.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before April 5, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

#### Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

*OMB Number:* 1545-1570.

*Regulation Project Number:* REG-120168-97 (Final).

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Preparer Due Diligence Requirements for Determining Earned Income Credit Eligibility.

*Description:* Income tax return preparers who satisfy the due diligence requirements in this regulation will avoid the imposition of the penalty under section 6695(g) of the Internal Revenue Code for returns or claims for refund due after December 31, 1997. The due diligence requirements include soliciting the information necessary to determine a taxpayer's eligibility for, and amount of, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the retention of this information.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers:* 100,000.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper:* 5 hours, 4 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden:* 507,136 hours.

*Clearance Officer:* George Freeland, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5577, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

*OMB Reviewer:* Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Mary A. Able,**

*Departmental Reports, Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0379]

### Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to verify the actual number of hours worked by a work-study claimant.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before May 6, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: [irmnkess@vba.va.gov](mailto:irmnkess@vba.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0379" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each