

submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by September 7, 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/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety
Chief Safety Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2021-0006-N-9]

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), 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 May 17, 2021, 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 September 1, 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 this particular ICR by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kim Toone, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: Kim.Toone@dot.gov or telephone: (202) 493-6132.

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 May 17, 2021, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. See 86 FR 26771. FRA received no comments in response to this 60-day 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 1320.10(b); 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: Grants Management Requirements for Federal Railroad Administration. Grants Awards and Cooperative Agreements.

OMB Control Number: 2130-0615.

Abstract: This ICR is a revision of a currently approved collection, Grant Management Requirements for Federal Railroad Administration. Specifically, FRA is revising FRA Form 217 (Categorical Exclusion Worksheet) with this submission. All other forms associated with this collection, which OMB re-approved on January 7, 2021, remain unchanged. The forms for which FRA seeks renewal of its currently approved collection are listed below.

Form(s): All FRA forms (Fs) are located at FRA's public website; all Standard Forms (SFs) are located at Grants.gov. The FRA forms are: 30 (FRA Assurance and Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements), 31 (Grant Adjustment Require Form), 32 (Service Outcome Agreement Annual Reporting), 33 (Final Performance Report), 34 (Quarterly Progress Report), 35 (Application Form), 217 (Categorical Exclusion Worksheet), 229 (NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supplier Scouting—FRA Item Opportunity Synopsis), 251 (Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire), and 252 (Payment Summary Spreadsheet). The SFs are: 270 (Request for Advance or Reimbursement), 424 (Application for Federal Assistance), 424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs), 424B (Assurance for Non-Construction Programs), 424C (Budget Information for Construction Programs), 424D (Assurances for Construction Programs), 425 (Federal Financial Report), and LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities).

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Generally includes States and local governments and railroads.

Frequency of Submission: Varied; on occasion/monthly.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 6,570.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 20,184.50 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$827,362.66.

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 unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Brett A. Jortland,

Acting Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2021–16429 Filed 7–30–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2019–0099]

Petition for Approval Extension: Norfolk Southern Railway Company

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

ACTION: Notice of petition for extension of approval of track inspection test program.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that on July 19, 2021, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to extend an existing temporary suspension of some visual track inspections to allow for a continuation of a previously approved Test Program designed to test track inspection technologies (*i.e.*, an autonomous track geometry measurement system) and new operational approaches to track inspections (*i.e.*, combinations of autonomous inspection and traditional visual inspections).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yu-Jiang Zhang, Staff Director, Track and Structures Division, at (202) 493–6460 or yujiang.zhang@dot.gov; or Aaron Moore, Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, at (202) 493–7009 or aaron.moore@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 27, 2020, FRA conditionally approved the Test Program and NS's petition under 49 CFR 211.51 to suspend §§ 213.233(b)(3) and 213.233(c) as applied to operations under the Test Program. A copy of the Test Program, FRA's conditional approval of the Test Program, and a previously published **Federal Register** notice explaining FRA's rationale for approving the Test Program and related suspension are available for review in the docket.¹

As approved, the Test Program included three separate phases over 12 months as outlined in Exhibit C of the

Program.² Accordingly, NS began the Test Program on March 16, 2020. However, FRA has approved extending the Test Program twice as requested by NS. Thus, the Test Program is currently set to expire on September 31, 2021.

On March 22, 2021, NS submitted a waiver petition³ to permit a reduced frequency of manual track inspections where an automated track geometry measurement system (ATGMS) is used at specific frequencies. The petition, which is similar to and based on information collected by Norfolk Southern during the Test Program, is pending FRA review.

NS is requesting to extend the Test Program until FRA issues a decision on the pending waiver petition or December 31, 2021, whichever is later. In support of its request, NS states that it will continue to comply with all other conditions and requirements of FRA's January 27, 2020, approval letter.

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

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments.

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.

Communications received by September 7, 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/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activity: 35% Exemption Request From 85/15 Reporting Requirement

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration, 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 new collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before October 1, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–NEW” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 1717 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266–4688 or email maribel.aponte@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–NEW” in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0003> (Test Program); <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0001> (FRA's approval decision); <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0004> (FRA's published notice of approval).

² See <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0003>.

³ <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2021-0044-0001>.