

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Carolyn R. Hayward-Williams,**

*Director, Office of Railroad Systems and Technology.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA-2022-0161]

#### Pipeline Safety: Informational Public Meeting Addressing Multiple Safety Topics Including Methane Emission Reduction, Safety Bulletins, and NTSB Recommendations

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of an informational public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces an informational public meeting to address multiple safety topics including progress on reduction of methane emissions, energy transformation, safety bulletins, and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommendations. PHMSA will also webcast the in-person public meeting in Houston, Texas, which is scheduled for December 13–15, 2022.

**DATES:** The informational public meeting will be held on December 13–15, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., CT at the Westin Galleria, in Houston, Texas. Members of the public who wish to attend this meeting are asked to register no later than December 7, 2022. Individuals requiring accommodations, such as sign language interpretation or other aids, are asked to notify Jessica Appel by email at [Jessica.Appel.ctr@dot.gov](mailto:Jessica.Appel.ctr@dot.gov) no later than November 30, 2022. PHMSA will also webcast this meeting. For additional information, please see the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The informational public meeting will be held at: Westin Galleria Houston, 5060 West Alabama Street, Houston, Texas. The agenda and instructions on how to attend are available on the meeting website at <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=161>.

Presentations from the informational public meeting will be available on the meeting website no later than 5 business days following the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Linda Daugherty by email at [Linda.Daugherty@dot.gov](mailto:Linda.Daugherty@dot.gov).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Background

The mission of PHMSA is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy products and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. PHMSA's mission includes prevention of the release of natural gas which releases methane into the atmosphere. PHMSA is aggressively pursuing the DOT Strategic Goals of Safety, Climate & Sustainability, and Transformation in efforts to be profiled during the informational public meeting. PHMSA will discuss with the public and industry how it is improving safety by issuing advisory bulletins based on lessons learned from events like the geohazard related failure which threatened the community of Satartia, Mississippi, and the crude oil spill following an anchor strike on an offshore pipeline near Long Beach, California. PHMSA will also discuss recent learnings related to hard spot analyses and challenges presented by pipeline flow reversals. The meeting will highlight technology transformations to combat climate change and keep aging pipeline infrastructure safe for use in transporting energy of the future.

Additionally, the NTSB recently recommended that PHMSA revise its regulations for potential impact radius (PIR) calculations and this meeting will provide the Agency an opportunity to gather input from both industry and public stakeholders. Ensuring PIR calculations fully consider the potential impacts to congested urban areas is particularly important and supports efforts to ensure equitable safety protections for all people.

The informational public meeting will continue a dialogue on the Agency's climate and energy transformation efforts, such as reducing methane emissions, and PHMSA's current role regarding carbon dioxide and hydrogen pipelines. PHMSA anticipates further discussion on these important matters in 2023.

The overall purpose of the informational public meeting is to share important safety information with the public and industry as well as gather input to inform future rulemaking decisions.

### II. Informational Public Meeting Details and Agenda

The informational public meeting will take place in-person December 13–15, 2022, in Houston, Texas. During the meeting, PHMSA will review a variety of topics and invite participant input.

Following opening remarks, the webinar will address the following topics: (1) Recent and Potential Safety Advisories (Geohazard/Land Movement, Maritime Issues, Hard Spots, Flow Reversals); (2) The Future: Technology and New Regulatory Requirements (Technology Transfer: Innovative Tools That Can Be Used by Industry and PHMSA's New Regulation Implementation Process); (3) Failure Investigation Forum (Overview of Recent Accidents/Incidents and Common Enforcement Items Found During Incidents); (4) Potential Impact Radius (Discussion of Incident and NTSB Recommendation); and (5) The Future: Climate and Energy Transformation (Reducing Methane Emissions, Hydrogen and Hydrogen Blending, Carbon Dioxide/Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage.)

### III. Public Participation

The informational meeting will be open to the public. Members of the public who wish to attend are requested to register on the meeting website and include their names and organization affiliation (see **ADDRESSES**). PHMSA is committed to providing all participants with equal access to these meetings. If you need special accommodations, please contact Jessica Appel by email at [Jessica.Appel.ctr@dot.gov](mailto:Jessica.Appel.ctr@dot.gov).

PHMSA is not always able to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** quickly enough to provide timely notification regarding last minute changes that impact a previously announced meeting. Therefore, individuals should check the meeting website listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice regarding any possible changes.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 23, 2022, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

**Alan K. Mayberry,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Publication of the Tier 2 Tax Rates

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Publication of the tier 2 tax rates for calendar year 2023 as required by section 3241(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tier 2 taxes on railroad employees, employers, and employee representatives are one source of

funding for benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act.

**DATES:** The tier 2 tax rates for calendar year 2023 apply to compensation paid in calendar year 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathleen Edmondson,  
CC:EEE:EOET:ET1, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, Telephone Number (202) 317-6798 (not a toll-free number). **TIER 2 TAX RATES:** The tier 2 tax rate for 2023 under section 3201(b) on employees is 4.9 percent of compensation. The tier 2 tax rate for 2023 under section 3221(b) on employers is 13.1 percent of compensation. The tier 2 tax rate for 2023 under section 3211(b) on employee representatives is 13.1 percent of compensation.

**Rachel D. Levy,**

*Associate Chief Counsel (Employee Benefits, Exempt Organizations and Employment Taxes).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0860]

### Agency Information Collection

#### Activity: Reimbursement of Qualifying Adoption Expenses for Certain Veterans

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Veterans Health Administration (VHA), 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. **DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 30, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or to Janel Keyes, Office of Regulations, Appeals, and Policy (10BRAP),

Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to [Janel.Keyes@va.gov](mailto:Janel.Keyes@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0860” 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), 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266-4688 or email [maribel.aponte@va.gov](mailto:maribel.aponte@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0860” 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.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

**Authority:** Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

**Title:** Reimbursement of Qualifying Adoption Expenses for Certain Veterans, VA Form 10-10152.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0860.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** The VA’s authority to provide reimbursement of qualifying adoption expenses for certain covered Veterans is found in Section 236 of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018, Public Law 115-141 (March 23, 2018) (the “2018 Act”) and Section 235 of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019, Public Law 115-244 (September 21, 2018) (the “2019 Act”), which renewed and extended in nearly identical form Section 260 of the prior authorizing “2017 Act,” Public Law 114-223. VA has eliminated the section in the regulations that specifies an expiration date in order to accommodate

Congressional renewal and extension of this authority under subsequent appropriations law.

Veterans with a service-connected disability that results in their inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatments are authorized to receive reimbursement for certain adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after September 29, 2016 (the date the 2017 Act was enacted). To implement this benefit, VA uses VA Form 10-10152, paralleling DD 2675, which requires any Veteran requesting reimbursement of qualifying adoption expenses to submit the same types of evidence as required under similar DoD policy. VA Form 10-10152 was previously approved by OMB through the PRA clearance process, and VA now seeks a three-year extension of that approval of this information collection.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 480 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 6 hours.

**Frequency of Response:** Once annually.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 80.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Maribel Aponte,**

*VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0662]

### Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Civil Rights Discrimination Complaint

**AGENCY:** Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness (HRA/OSP), Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness, Diversity & Inclusion, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.