

not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29³ must be filed by January 16, 1997. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 27, 1997, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: Thomas F. McFarland, Jr., Attorney for Ludington & Northern Railway, Inc., McFarland & Herman, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1330, Chicago, IL 60606-2902.

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

L&N has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by January 10, 1997. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 3219, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser, Chief of SEA, at (202) 927-6248. 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.

Decided: December 30, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-181 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

¹ 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 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.

² See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

³ The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests as long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

[Dept. Circ. 570, 1996 Rev., Supp. No. 4]

Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds, American Interstate Insurance Company

A Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety on Federal Bonds is hereby issued to the following company under Sections 9304 to 9308, Title 31, of the United States Code. Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 1996 Revision, on page 34283 to reflect this addition:

American Interstate Insurance Company. BUSINESS ADDRESS: 1807 Highway 190 West, DeRidder, Louisiana, 70634-6005. PHONE: (318) 463-9052. UNDERWRITING LIMITATION b/: \$2,578,000. SURETY LICENSES c/: AR, GA, IN, KY, LA, ME, MN, MS, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WI, WY. INCORPORATED IN: Louisiana.

Certificates of Authority expire on June 30 each year, unless revoked prior to that date. The Certificates are subject to subsequent annual renewal as long as the companies remain qualified (31 CFR, Part 223). A list of qualified companies is published annually as of July 1 in Treasury Department Circular 570, with details as to underwriting limitations, areas in which licensed to transact surety business and other information.

The Circular may be viewed and downloaded through the Internet (<http://www.ustreas.gov/treasury/bureaus/finman/c570.html>) or through our computerized public bulletin board system (FMS Inside Line) at (202) 874-6887. A hard copy may be purchased from the Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC, telephone (202) 512-1800. When ordering the Circular from GPO, use the following stock number: 048-000499-7.

Questions concerning this Notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Funds Management Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6F04, Hyattsville, MD 20782, telephone (202) 874-7116.

Dated: December 23, 1996.

Charles F. Schwan III,
Director, Funds Management Division,
Financial Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-95 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

Internal Revenue Service

[IA-17-90]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, IA-17-90 (TD 8571), Reporting Requirements for Recipients of Points Paid on Residential Mortgages (§§ 1.6050H-1 and 1.6050H-2).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 7, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reporting Requirements for Recipients of Points Paid on Residential Mortgages.

OMB Number: 1545-1380.

Regulation Project Number: IA-17-90

Abstract: These regulations require the reporting of certain information relating to payments of mortgage interest. Taxpayers must separately state on Form 1098 the amount of points and the amount of interest (other than points) received during the taxable year on a single mortgage and must provide to the payer of the points a separate statement setting forth the information being reported to the IRS.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of OMB approval.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 37,644.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 7 hrs. 31 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 283,056.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: December 23, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-94 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Performance Review Board Members

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice is issued to revise the membership of the United States Information Agency (USIA) Performance Review Board.

DATES: Upon publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Kathleen Kelly (Co-Executive Secretary), Supervisory Personnel Management Specialist, Office of Personnel, International Broadcasting Bureau, U.S. Information Agency, 330

Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Tel: (202) 619-2102; or

Ms. Patricia H. Noble (Co-Executive Secretary), Chief, Civil Service Division, Office of Human Resources, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Tel: (202) 619-4617.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Section 4314(c) (1) through (5) of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (P.L. 95454), the following list supersedes the U.S. Information Agency Notice (60 FR 203, October 20, 1995).

Chairperson: Associate Director for Management Henry Howard, Jr. (Presidential Appointee)

Deputy Chairperson: Acting Associate Director for International Broadcasting Bureau Eva Jane Fritzman

Career SES Members:

Hattie Baldwin, Director, Office of Civil Rights

Alfred Davidson, Deputy of Network Operations, Office of Engineering

Sidney Davis, Director of Programs, Voice of American Programs

James Hulen, Director, Office of Strategic Planning

Rick Ruth, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Director

Stanley Silverman, Director, Office of the Comptroller

Alterante Career SES Members:

Daniel Campbell, Director, Office of Technology

Earl Klitenic, Director of Business Development

Ronald Linz, Deputy for Systems Engineering

This supersedes the previous U.S. Information Agency Notice (60 FR 203 October 20, 1995)

Dated: December 30, 1996.

Henry Howard, Jr.,

Associate Director for Management, U.S. Information Agency.

[FR Doc. 97-179 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Agency Information Collection:

Submission for OMB Review;

Comment Request

AGENCY: Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the

following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0042.

Title and Form Number: Statement of Accredited Representative in Appealed Case, VA Form 646.

Type of Review: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Need and Uses: The form is used by an accredited representative of a veterans' service organization to present argument to the BVA on behalf of an appellant whom the service organization represents. Further, it aids the VA in assuring that rights to representation have been honored by establishing that the record has been made available to the representative for review and presentation of argument.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Annual Burden: 40,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 40,000.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this submission may be obtained from Ron Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8015.

Comments and recommendations concerning this submission should be directed to VA's OMB Desk Officer, Allison Eydt, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-4650. DO NOT send requests for benefits to this address.

DATES: Comments on the information collection should be directed to the OMB Desk Officer on or before February 5, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4), (202) 273-8015.

Dated: December 17, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-190 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

Associated Health Professions Review Subcommittee of the Special Medical Advisory Group; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a meeting of the