

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

[U.S. DOT Docket Number NHTSA-2005-23272]

Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.**ACTION:** Request for public comment on proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatement of previously approved collections. This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 27, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Comments must refer to the docket notice numbers cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted to Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Please identify the proposed collection of information for which a comment is provided, by referencing its OMB clearance Number. It is requested, but not required, that 2 copies of the comment be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Complete copies of each request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Mr. Donovan Green, Office of Crash Avoidance Standards, 400 Seventh Street, SW., DC 20590. Mr. Green's telephone number is (202) 493-0248. His FAX number is (202) 493-2739. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in

such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collections of information:

Title: Tire Identification and Recordkeeping.

OMB Control Number: 2127-0050.

Requested Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from the approval date.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Tire and rim manufacturers, new tire dealers and distributors, and consumers.

Form Number: This collection of information uses no standard forms.

Abstract: Each tire manufacturer and rim manufacturer must label their tire or rim with the applicable safety information. These labeling requirements ensure that tires are mounted on the appropriate rims; and that the rims and tires are mounted on the vehicles for which they are intended. It is estimated that this rule affects 10 million respondents annually. This group consists of approximately 8 tire manufacturers, 12,000 new tire dealers and distributors, and 10 million consumers who choose to register their tire purchases with the manufacturers.

Estimated Annual Burden: 245,000 hours.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000,000.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection;

ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued on: December 22, 2005.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. E5-7968 Filed 12-27-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

[Docket No. RSPA-2005-20036 (Notice No. 05-10)]

Information Collection Activities**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Information Collection Requests (ICR) abstracted below have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comments. The ICRs describe the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. A **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collections of information was published on September 21, 2005 [70 FR 55450]. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 27, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Boothe or T. Glenn Foster, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (PHH-11), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Room 8430, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone (202) 366-8553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1320.8(d), Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations requires PHMSA to provide interested members of the public and affected agencies an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping requests. This notice identifies information collection requests that PHMSA will be submitting to OMB for renewal and extension. These information collections are contained in 49 CFR parts 110 and 130 and the Hazardous Materials

Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR parts 171–180). PHMSA has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current reporting levels or adjustments based on changes in proposed or final rules published since the information collections were last approved. The following information is provided for each information collection: (1) Title of the information collection, including former title if a change is being made; (2) OMB control number; (3) summary of the information collection activity; (4) description of affected public; (5) estimate of total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden; and (6) frequency of collection. PHMSA will request a three-year term of approval for each information collection activity and, when approved by OMB, publish notice of the approval in the **Federal Register**.

PHMSA requests comments on the following information collections:

Title: Rulemaking, Special Permits, and Preemption Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0051.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: This collection of information applies to rulemaking procedures regarding the HMR. Specific areas covered in this information collection include part 105, subpart A and subpart B, “Hazardous Materials Program Definitions and General Procedures;” part 106, subpart B, “Participating in the Rulemaking Process;” part 107, subpart B, “Special Permits;” and part 107, subpart C, “Preemption.” The Federal hazardous materials transportation law directs the Secretary of Transportation to prescribe regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials in commerce. We are authorized to accept petitions for rulemaking and appeals, as well as applications for special permits, preemption determinations and waivers of preemption. The types of information collected include:

(1) *Petitions for Rulemaking:* Any person may petition the Office of Hazardous Materials Standards to add, amend, or delete a regulation in Parts 110, 130, 171 through 180, or may petition the Office of the Chief Counsel to add, amend, or delete a regulation in Parts 105, 106 or 107.

(2) *Appeals:* Except as provided in § 106.40(e), any person may submit an appeal to our actions in accordance with the Appeals procedures found in §§ 106.110 through 106.130.

(3) *Application for Special Permits:* Any person applying for a special permit must include the citation of the specific regulation from which the applicant seeks relief; specification of the proposed mode or modes of

transportation; detailed description of the proposed special permit (e.g., alternative packaging, test procedure or activity), including as appropriate, written descriptions, drawings, flow charts, plans and other supporting documents, etc.

(4) *Application for Preemption Determination:* Any person directly affected by any requirement of a State, political subdivision, or Indian tribe may apply to the Associate Administrator for a determination whether that requirement is preempted under 49 U.S.C. 5125, or regulations issued thereunder. The application must include the text of the State or political subdivision or Indian tribe requirement for which the determination is sought; specify each requirement of the Federal hazardous material transportation law or the regulations issued thereunder with which the applicant seeks the State, political subdivision or Indian tribe requirement to be compared; explanation of why the applicant believes the State or political subdivision or Indian tribe requirement should or should not be preempted under the standards of section 5125 (see also 49 CFR 107.202); and how the applicant is affected by the State or political subdivision or Indian tribe requirements.

(5) *Waivers of Preemption:* With the exception of requirements preempted under 49 U.S.C. 5125(c), any person may apply to the Associate Administrator for a waiver of preemption with respect to any requirement that: (1) The State or political subdivision thereof or an Indian tribe acknowledges is preempted under the Federal hazardous material transportation law or the regulations issued thereunder, or (2) that has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be so preempted. The Associate Administrator may waive preemption with respect to such requirement upon a determination that such requirement affords an equal or greater level of protection to the public than is afforded by the requirement of the Federal hazardous material transportation law or the regulations issued thereunder and does not unreasonably burden commerce.

The information collected under these application procedures is used in the review process by PHMSA in determining the merits of the petitions for rulemakings and for reconsideration of rulemakings, as well as applications for special permits, preemption determinations and waivers of preemption to the HMR. The procedures governing these petitions for rulemaking and for reconsideration of rulemakings

are covered in subpart B of part 106. Applications for special permits, preemption determinations and waivers of preemption are covered under subparts B and C of part 107. Rulemaking procedures enable PHMSA to determine if a rule change is necessary, is consistent with public interest, and maintains a level of safety equal to or superior to that of current regulations. Special Permit procedures provide the information required for analytical purposes to determine if the requested relief provides for a comparable level of safety as provided by the HMR. Preemption procedures provide information for PHMSA to determine whether a requirement of a State, political subdivision, or Indian tribe is preempted under 49 U.S.C. 5125, or regulations issued thereunder, or whether a waiver of preemption should be issued.

Affected Public: Shippers, carriers, packaging manufacturers, and other affected entities.

Recordkeeping:

Number of Respondents: 3,304.

Total Annual Responses: 4,294.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,219.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Title: Radioactive (RAM)

Transportation Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0510.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: This information collection consolidates and describes the information collection provisions in the HMR involving the transportation of radioactive materials in commerce. Information collection requirements for RAM include: Shipper notification to consignees of the dates of shipment of RAM; expected arrival; special loading/unloading instructions; verification that shippers using foreign-made packages hold a foreign competent authority certificate and verification that the terms of the certificate are being followed for RAM shipments being made into this country; and specific handling instructions from shippers to carriers for fissile RAM, bulk shipments of low specific activity RAM and packages of RAM that emit high levels of external radiation. These information collection requirements help to establish that proper packaging are used for the type of radioactive material being transported; external radiation levels do not exceed prescribed limits; and packages are handled appropriately and delivered in a timely manner, so as to ensure the safety of the general public, transport workers, and emergency responders.

Affected Public: Shippers and carriers of radioactive materials in commerce.

Recordkeeping:

Number of Respondents: 3817.
Total Annual Responses: 21,519.
Total Annual Burden Hours: 15,270.
Frequency of Collection: On occasion.
Title: Hazardous Materials Security

Plans.

OMB Control Number: 2137-0612.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: To assure public safety, shippers and carriers must take reasonable measures to plan and implement procedures to prevent unauthorized persons from taking control of, or attacking, hazardous materials shipments. Part 172 of the HMR requires persons who offer or transport certain hazardous materials to develop and implement written plans to enhance the security of hazardous materials shipments. The security plan requirement applies to shipments of: (1) A highway route-controlled quantity of a Class 7 (radioactive) material; (2) more than 25 kg (55 lbs) of a Division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 (explosive) material; (3) more than 1 L (1.06 qt) per package of a material poisonous by inhalation in hazard zone A; (4) a shipment of hazardous materials in a bulk packaging with a capacity equal to or greater than 13,248 L (3,500 gal) for liquids or gases, or greater than 13.24 cubic meters (468 cubic feet) for solids; (5) a shipment that requires placarding; and (6) select agents. Select agents are infectious substances identified by CDC as materials with the potential to have serious consequences for human health and safety if used illegitimately. A security plan will enable shippers and carriers to reduce the possibility that a hazardous materials shipment will be used as a weapon of opportunity by a terrorist or criminal.

Affected Public: Shippers and carriers of hazardous materials in commerce.

Recordkeeping:

Number of Respondents: 42,000.
Total Annual Responses: 42,200.
Total Annual Burden Hours: 247,250.
Frequency of Collection: On occasion.
Title: Subsidiary Hazard Class and

Number/Type of Packagings.

OMB Control Number: 2137-0613.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Section 5103 of the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Law (Federal hazmat law; 49 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*) authorizes the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to prescribe safety and security regulations for the transportation of hazardous materials in interstate, intrastate, and foreign commerce. The HMR require that shipping papers and emergency

response information accompany each shipment of hazardous materials in commerce. The Subcommittee on Surface Transportation recommended that additional Federal requirements mandating retention of shipping papers be imposed in order to facilitate documentation of violations by the law enforcement community. Subsequently, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Authorization Act of 1994 (HMTAA), Public Law 103-311, amended the HMR to require shippers and carriers to retain copies of each shipping paper for one year. In August, 2005, the Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005 (the Act; Title VII of Pub. L. 109-59, 119 Stat. 1144 (August 10, 2005)) amended Federal hazmat law by revising certain terminology, definitions, and requirements. The Act amends § 5110 of Federal hazmat law to require shippers to retain a copy of a shipping paper for a period of two years after the shipping paper is provided to a carrier and to require carriers to retain a copy of a shipping paper for a period of one year after the date the shipping paper is received from the shipper. Shippers and carriers of a hazardous waste must continue to retain a shipping paper for 3 years after the material is accepted by the initial carrier. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) require retention of shipping papers for three years or more for certain hazardous materials shippers and carriers. Since most companies (common carriers) already retain these records to meet these other Federal or State requirements, the current requirements incorporated into the HMR under HM-240, did not significantly impact their paperwork burden. Permanent shipping papers are authorized to reduce the burden on those entities that ship the same materials on a continuous basis.

Shipping papers and emergency response information are basic hazard communication tools relative to the transportation of hazardous materials. The definition of a shipping paper in § 171.8 of the HMR includes a shipping order, bill of lading, manifest, or other shipping document serving a similar purpose and containing the information required by §§ 172.202, 172.203, and 172.204. A shipping paper with emergency response information must accompany most hazardous materials shipments and be readily available at all times during transportation. It serves as the principal source of information regarding the presence of hazardous materials, identification, quantity, and emergency response procedures.

Shipping papers also serve as the source of information for compliance with other requirements, such as the placement of rail cars containing different hazardous materials in trains, prevent the loading of poisons with foodstuffs, the separation of incompatible hazardous materials, and the limitation of radioactive materials that may be transported in a vehicle or aircraft. Shipping papers and emergency response information serve as a means of notifying transport workers that hazardous materials are present. Most importantly, shipping papers serve as a principal means of identifying hazardous materials during transportation emergencies. Firefighters, police, and other emergency response personnel are trained to obtain the DOT shipping papers and emergency response information when responding to hazardous materials transportation emergencies. The availability of accurate information concerning hazardous materials being transported significantly improves response efforts in these types of emergencies.

It is necessary that hazardous materials and emergency response information be displayed on shipping papers in a uniform manner to ensure accuracy and consistency. DOT regulations require that when hazardous materials and materials not subject to the HMR are described on the same shipping paper, the hazardous materials entries required by § 172.202 and those additional entries that may be required by § 172.203 must be entered first, or entered in a color that clearly contrasts with any description on the shipping paper of materials not subject to the requirements, or highlighted, or identified by the entry with an "x" in an HM column opposite the hazardous material entry. The subsidiary hazard class or subsidiary division number(s) must also be entered in parentheses following the primary hazard class or division number on shipping papers under § 172.202. In addition, the number and type of packagings must also be indicated on shipping papers such as drums, boxes, jerricans, etc. as part of the basic shipping description.

Affected Public: Shippers and carriers of hazardous materials in commerce.

Recordkeeping:

Number of Respondents: 250,000.
Total Annual Responses: 6,337,500.
Total Annual Burden Hours: 17,604.
Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimates, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for PHMSA, 725

17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 22, 2005.

Susan Gorsky,

Acting Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards.

[FR Doc. 05-24518 Filed 12-27-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34784]

Koch Forest Products, Inc. and Koch Industries, Inc.—Acquisition of Control Exemption—Gloster Southern Railroad Company and Blue Rapids Railway Company

Koch Industries, Inc. (Koch Industries), and its wholly owned subsidiary Koch Forest Products, Inc. (Koch Forest), both noncarriers (together, Applicants), have filed a verified notice of exemption to acquire control of the following two Class III railroads: (1) Gloster Southern Railroad Company (GSR) and Blue Rapids Railway Company (BRR).¹

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after December 15, 2005.

Koch Forest Products states that: (1) The rail lines operated by GSR, BRR and OAR do not connect with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; (2) the transaction is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would

connect the railroads with each other or any railroad in their corporate family; and (3) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Therefore, the transaction is exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. *See* 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here, because all of the carriers involved are Class III carriers.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34784, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on David H. Coburn, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, 1330 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20036.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: December 19, 2005.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-24403 Filed 12-27-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 435X); STB Docket No. AB-987X]

BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Rock Island and Whiteside Counties, IL; Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Rock Island and Whiteside Counties, IL

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) and Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation (ICE) have jointly filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service* for BNSF to

abandon, and for ICE to discontinue service over, approximately 5.09 miles of railroad between milepost 20.31 and milepost 25.40, near Albany, in Rock Island and Whiteside Counties, IL. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 61230, 61242, and 61252.

BNSF and ICE have certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements of 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to these exemptions, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment or discontinuance shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial 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, these exemptions will be effective on January 26, 2006, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do 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 1152.29 must be filed by January 6, 2006. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by January 17, 2006, with: Surface Transportation

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 (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemptions' 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 exemptions' effective date.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,200. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

¹ Koch Forest will acquire the two railroads pursuant to its acquiring all of the outstanding stock of Georgia-Pacific Corporation (Georgia-Pacific). Following this transaction, Koch Forest will be merged into Georgia-Pacific and Georgia-Pacific, GSR, and BRR will then become indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of Koch Industries. Koch Industries, through its wholly owned subsidiary Koch Cellulose, LLC, also controls the Old Augusta Railroad Company (OAR), a Class III railroad.