

and the Tesla Roadster uses the Elise's safety system.

*Economic hardship.* Publicly available information and also the financial documents submitted to NHTSA by the petitioner indicate that the Tesla Roadster project will result in financial losses unless Tesla Motors obtains a temporary exemption. Over the period 2003–2006, Tesla Motors has had net operational losses totaling over \$43 million. As of the time of the application, Tesla Motors has invested substantially on the design and development of the Tesla Roadster.

The company has stated that Lotus could not acquire or develop an advanced air bag system for the Elise, on which the advanced air bag system was to be designed, and furthermore that Tesla Motors does not have the technical or financial resources to independently develop an advanced air bag system. As it does not have the ability to independently build or acquire an advanced air bag system, Tesla states that without an exemption, it will have to cancel its pending development of an electric-powered sedan, and would ultimately have to terminate its operations.

*Good faith efforts to comply.* As stated above, Tesla Motors relies on the inability of Lotus to design or acquire an advanced air bag system, despite a good faith effort to do so, as a basis for Tesla Motors' efforts to comply. Tesla Motors initially planned to produce vehicles that were fully compliant with all FMVSS requirements, but after it had committed to using the design and manufacturing facility of the Lotus Elise, Lotus determined that that vehicle could not be supplied with a compliant advanced air bag system. Tesla Motors bases its petition on Lotus's good faith efforts to comply with the requirements in its September 28, 2005 petition for exemption (Docket NHTSA–2006–25324–3). Tesla Motors states that it does not have the technical or financial resources to develop an advanced air bag system independent of Lotus, and will, therefore, need a similar exemption in order to produce Roadster models for the U.S. market. Tesla Motors makes no further comments on its own independent efforts beyond this statement.

*Tesla Motors argues that an exemption would be in the public interest.* The petitioner put forth several arguments in favor of a finding that the requested exemption is consistent with the public interest and would not have a significant adverse impact on safety. Specifically, Tesla Motors argued that the vehicle will have a variant of the bonded aluminum chassis structure of

the Lotus Elise, dual standard air bags, and pre-tensioning, load-limiting seat belts. Furthermore, the company emphasized that the Tesla Roadster will comply with all other applicable FMVSSs.

Moreover, the petitioner stated that the requested exemption will have a negligible impact on motor vehicle safety because of the limited number of vehicles sold. Furthermore, Tesla stated that it is unlikely that young children would be passengers in the Roadster, so an exemption from the advanced air bag requirements that are designed to protect children will not create a significant safety issue. In addition, as with the Lotus Elise, the front passenger seat in the Roadster is fixed in its rearmost position, thereby reducing air bag risks to children and other passengers.

Tesla Motors asserted that granting the exemption will benefit U.S. employment, companies, and citizens. Affected individuals include both Tesla Motors' current employees as well as those who are likely to be involved in selling and servicing the Roadster and other future Tesla Motors models. Furthermore, Tesla Motors states that it has plans to open a manufacturing facility in the United States in 2009, with approximately 300 employees, a venture that will likely not go forward if the petition is denied.

#### **V. Issuance of Notice of Final Action**

We are providing a 30-day comment period. After considering public comments and other available information, we will publish a notice of final action on the application in the **Federal Register**.

Issued on: July 25, 2007.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.*

[FR Doc. E7–14694 Filed 7–30–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–59–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Surface Transportation Board**

**[STB Docket No. AB–6 (Sub-No. 460X)]**

#### **BNSF Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Webster County, NE**

On July 11, 2007, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) filed with the Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon an 8.41-mile line of railroad, extending from milepost 193.60 to milepost 202.01, near Red Cloud, in Webster County, NE. The line

traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 68952 and 68970, and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in BNSF's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by October 29, 2007.

Any OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a \$1,300 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than August 20, 2007. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$200 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB–6 (Sub-No. 460X), and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001; and (2) Sidney Strickland, Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC, 3050 K Street, NW., Suite 101, Washington, DC 20007. Replies to the petition are due on or before August 20, 2007.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 245–0230 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152.

Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 245–0305. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within

60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

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

Decided: July 25, 2007.

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

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-14695 Filed 7-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The OCC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the renewal of an information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OCC is soliciting comment concerning an information collection titled, "Interagency Statement on Complex Structured Finance Transactions." The OCC also gives notice that it has sent the information collection to OMB for review and approval.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before August 30, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Communications Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Public Information Room, Mailstop 1-5, Attention: 1557-0229, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219. In addition, comments may be sent by fax to (202) 874-4448, or by electronic mail to [regs.comments@occ.treas.gov](mailto:regs.comments@occ.treas.gov). You may personally inspect and photocopy comments at the OCC's Public Information Room, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC. For security reasons, the OCC requires that visitors make an appointment to inspect comments. You

may do so by calling (202) 874-5043. Upon arrival, visitors will be required to present valid government-issued photo identification and submit to security screening in order to inspect and photocopy comments.

Additionally, you should send a copy of your comments to OCC Desk Officer, 1557-0229, by mail to U.S. Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., #10235, Washington, DC 20503, or by fax to (202) 395-6974.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may request additional information or a copy of the collection and supporting documentation submitted to OMB by contacting: Mary Gottlieb, (202) 874-5090, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Interagency Statement on Complex Structured Finance Transactions.

*OMB Control No.:* 1557-0229.

*Type of Review:* Regular review.

*Description:* The statement describes the types of internal controls and risk management procedures that the agencies (OCC, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Securities and Exchange Commission) believe are particularly effective in assisting financial institutions to identify and address the reputational, legal, and other risks associated with complex structured finance transactions.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit.

*Burden Estimates:*

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 21.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 21.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 525 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Comments:* The OCC issued a 60-day **Federal Register** notice on May 21, 2007. 72 FR 28553. Comments continue to be invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has 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 on respondents, including through the use of automated collection

techniques or other forms of information technology; and

(e) Estimates of capital or startup costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: July 26, 2007.

**Stuart Feldstein,**

Assistant Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

[FR Doc. 07-3733 Filed 7-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-33-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations has scheduled a meeting for September 21, 2007, in Room 542 at 1800 G Street, NW., Washington, DC from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Panel is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, through the Under Secretary for Health, on issues related to a comprehensive philosophical framework to enhance VA's partnerships with medical schools and affiliated institutions.

The panelists will review VA's current affiliations with medical schools and will receive background presentations and issue papers on various topics that are relevant to the Panel's deliberations.

Interested persons may attend and present oral statements to the Panel. Oral presentations will be limited to five minutes or less, depending on the number of participants. Interested parties may also provide written comments for review by the Panel prior to the meeting or at any time, by e-mail to [Gloria.Holland@va.gov](mailto:Gloria.Holland@va.gov) or by mail to Gloria J. Holland, Ph.D. Special Assistant for Policy and Planning to the Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., (14), Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: July 25, 2007.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**E. Philip Riggan,**

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 07-3714 Filed 7-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M