

manner. Validation involves the hazmat employer, the hazmat employee and the trainer and the training organization.

(9) A statement-of-work describing the amount of funding requested and the activities for which the funding will be used.

Review and selection process. A committee of Federal agency representatives with expertise in hazmat instructor training programs will evaluate the grant applications. Each grant application will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

- (1) Organization demonstrates quantified need for training (15%).
- (2) Degree to which the proposed training program meets the identified training needs (15%).
- (3) Number of instructors to be trained (15%).
- (4) Projected number of hazmat employees each instructor is expected to train (10%).
- (5) Projected impact of the training in reducing risk and enhancing hazmat transportation safety (15%).
- (6) Organization's prior experience in providing hazmat instructor and employee training and the facilities/mechanisms in place to conduct the training (10%).
- (7) Efficiency and cost associated with conducting the training (10%).
- (8) Ability to account for program expenditures and program outcomes (10%).

The PHMSA Administrator will have the final approval to evaluate and select applicants and award financial assistance. The agency may ask an applicant to modify its objectives, work plan, or budget and provide supplemental information prior to award. The Administrator's decision is final.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 7, 2008.

Theodore L. Willke,
Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. E8-7703 Filed 4-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. MC-F-21027]

Stagecoach Group PLC and Coach USA, Inc., et al.—Control—Megabus Northeast LLC

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice Tentatively Approving Finance Transaction.

SUMMARY: On March 13, 2008, Stagecoach Group PLC (Stagecoach) and its subsidiary, Coach USA, Inc. (Coach),

noncarriers, and various subsidiaries of each (collectively, applicants) filed an application under 49 U.S.C. 14303 to acquire control of the newly created Megabus Northeast LLC (Northeast), which is owned by co-applicant Independent Bus Company, Inc. (Independent), a motor passenger carrier and wholly owned subsidiary of Coach. Independent also wholly owns Megabus USA, LLC, a motor carrier of passengers. Applicants state that currently Northeast does not hold federally issued authority to operate as a motor common carrier of passengers. Applicants supplemented the application in a March 19, 2008 filing. This application is filed on the premise that Northeast actually obtains the authority it seeks. Persons wishing to oppose this application must follow the rules at 49 CFR 1182.5 and 1182.8. The Board has tentatively approved the transaction, and, if no opposing comments are timely filed, this notice will be the final Board action.

DATES: Comments must be filed by May 27, 2008. Applicants may file a reply by June 10, 2008. If no comments are filed by May 27, 2008, this notice is effective on that date.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to STB Docket No. MC-F-21027 to: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to Applicants' representative: David H. Coburn, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, 1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Farr (202) 245-0359 [Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Stagecoach is a public limited company organized under the laws of Scotland. It is one of the world's largest providers of passenger transportation services and had annual revenues for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2007, of over \$3 billion. Stagecoach and certain intermediate subsidiaries acquired control of Coach in September 1999.¹ Coach, a Delaware corporation, controls numerous federally regulated motor passenger carriers. The motor carriers controlled by Coach had gross operating revenues for the 12-month period ending with the date of this application greater than the \$2 million threshold required for Board jurisdiction.

Northeast is currently a noncarrier, but plans to seek authorization from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to operate as a motor common carrier of passengers. Once authorization is granted, Northeast will utilize a fleet of motorcoaches to provide scheduled express bus service over regular routes between New York and several cities in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states, including Washington and Boston. Applicants state that initially, Megabus USA may provide this service under its operating authority. Once Northeast obtains authority, Northeast would assume responsibility for conducting these operations in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states, and Megabus USA will continue to provide service outside the Northeast and Middle Atlantic regions.

Under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b), the Board must approve and authorize a transaction found to be consistent with the public interest, taking into consideration at least: (1) The effect of the transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public; (2) the total fixed charges that result; and (3) the interest of affected carrier employees.

Applicants have submitted information, as required by 49 CFR 1182.2, including the information to demonstrate that the proposed transaction is consistent with the public interest under 49 U.S.C. 14303(b). Applicants state that the proposed transaction will not adversely impact the adequacy of transportation services available to the public, the fixed charges incurred by Northeast, or the interests of any motor carrier employees. Additional information, including a copy of the application, may be obtained from the Applicants' representative.

On the basis of the application, and if Northeast does in fact obtain the authority as described above, we find that the proposed acquisition is consistent with the public interest and should be authorized. If any opposing comments are timely filed, this finding will be deemed vacated, and unless a final decision can be made on the record as developed, a procedural schedule will be adopted to reconsider the application. See 49 CFR 1182.6(c). If no opposing comments are filed by the expiration of the comment period, this notice will take effect automatically and will be the final Board action.

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

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

¹ See *Stagecoach Holdings PLC—Control—Coach USA, Inc., et al.*, STB Docket No. MC-F-29048 (STB served July 22, 1999).

1. The proposed finance transaction is approved and authorized, subject to the filing of opposing comments.

2. If timely opposing comments are filed, the findings made in this notice will be deemed as having been vacated.

3. This notice will be effective on May 27, 2008, unless timely opposing comments are filed.

4. A copy of this notice will be served on: (1) The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; (2) the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20530; and (3) the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the General Counsel, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

Decided: April 7, 2008.

By the Board, Chairman Nottingham, Vice Chairman Mulvey, and Commissioner Buttrey.

Anne K. Quinlan,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-7764 Filed 4-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0161]

Agency Information Collection (Medical Expense Report) Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), 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; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 12, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through <http://www.Regulations.gov> or to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0161" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-7485, FAX (202) 273-0443 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0161."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Medical Expense Report, VA Form 21-8416.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0161.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21-8416 is completed by claimants in receipt of or claiming income-based benefits to report medical expenses paid. Unreimbursed medical expenses may be excluded as countable income in determining a claimant's entitlement to income-based benefits and the rate payable.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on January 22, 2008, at page 3808.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 96,400 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 48,200.

Dated: April 4, 2008.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. E8-7746 Filed 4-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0075]

Agency Information Collection (Statement in Support of Claim) Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), 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; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 12, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through <http://www.Regulations.gov> or to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0075" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-7485, FAX (202) 273-0443 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0075."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Statement in Support of Claim, VA Form 21-4138.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0075.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Statements submitted by or on behalf of a claimant must contain a certification by the respondent that the information provided to VA is true and correct in support of various types of benefit claims processed by VA. VA Form 21-4138 is to be used to collect the statement in support of such claims.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on January 23, 2008, at pages 4047-4048.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 188,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 752,000.

Dated: April 4, 2008.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. E8-7747 Filed 4-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P