

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

[Docket No. PHMSA–2011–0136]

**Pipeline Safety: Information Collection Activities**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, PHMSA published a notice with request for comments in the **Federal Register** on June 9, 2011 (76 FR 33808) on an information collection under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No. 2137–0622, titled “Pipeline Safety: Public Awareness Program” and received no comments. PHMSA is now forwarding the information collection request to the OMB and providing an additional 30 days for comments.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments to OMB on or before September 14, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Desk Officer for the U.S. Department of Transportation, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Angela Dow by telephone at 202–366–1246, by fax at 202–366–4566, or by mail at U.S. Department of Transportation, PHMSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., PHP–30, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

**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 an information collection request that PHMSA will be submitting to OMB for renewal and extension. The information collection expires October 31, 2011, and is identified under Control No. 2137–0622, titled: “Pipeline Safety: Public Awareness Program.” The following information is provided for this information collection: (1) Title of the information collection; (2) OMB control number; (3) Type of request; (4) Abstract of the information collection activity; (5) Description of affected public; (6) Estimate of total annual

reporting and recordkeeping burden; and (7) Frequency of collection. PHMSA will request a three-year term of approval for this information collection activity. PHMSA requests comments on the following information collection:

*Title:* Pipeline Safety: Public Awareness Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 2137–0622.

*Type of Request:* Renewal of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations require each operator to develop and implement a written continuing public education program that follows the guidance provided in the American Petroleum Institute’s Recommended Practice RP 1162. Upon request, operators must submit their completed programs to PHMSA or, in the case of an intrastate pipeline facility operator, the appropriate state agency. The operator’s program documentation and evaluation results must also be available for periodic review by appropriate regulatory agencies (49 CFR 192.616 and 195.440).

*Affected Public:* Operators of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.

*Estimated number of responses:* 22,500.

*Estimated annual burden hours:* 517,480 hours.

*Frequency of collection:* Annual.

Comments are invited on:

(a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) 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;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways 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.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 9, 2011.

**Linda Daugherty,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy and Programs, Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 2011–20657 Filed 8–12–11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–60–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Research and Innovative Technology Administration****Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics; Notice of Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Research and Innovative, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

This notice announces, pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Pub. L. 72–363; 5 U.S.C. app. 2), a meeting of the Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics (ACTS). The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. E.S.T. in the Oklahoma City Room at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Washington, DC. Section 5601(o) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU) directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish an Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., App. 2) to advise the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on the quality, reliability, consistency, objectivity, and relevance of transportation statistics and analyses collected, supported, or disseminated by the Bureau and the Department. The following is a summary of the draft meeting agenda: (1) USDOT welcome and introduction of Council Members; (2) Overview of prior meeting; (3) Discussion of the FY 2012 budget; (4) Discussion of private sources of transportation data; (5) Council Members review and discussion of statistical programs; (6) future Council activities and (7) Public Comments and Closing Remarks. Participation is open to the public. Members of the public who wish to participate must notify Courtney Freiberg at [Courtney.Freiberg@dot.gov](mailto:Courtney.Freiberg@dot.gov), not later than September 15, 2011. Members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting with the approval of Steven K. Smith, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Noncommittee members wishing to present oral statements or obtain information should contact Courtney Freiberg via e-mail no later than September 15, 2011.

Questions about the agenda or written comments may be e-mailed or submitted by U.S. Mail to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of

Transportation Statistics, *Attention:* Courtney Freiberg, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room # E34-429, Washington, DC 20590, *Courtney.Freiberg@dot.gov*, or faxed to (202) 366-3640. BTS requests that written comments be received by September 15, 2011. Access to the DOT Headquarters building is controlled therefore all persons who plan to attend the meeting must notify Mrs. Courtney Freiberg at 202-366-1270 prior to September 15, 2011. Individuals attending the meeting must report to the main DOT entrance on New Jersey Avenue, SE. for admission to the building. Attendance is open to the public, but limited space is available. Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Mrs. Freiberg at 202-366-1270 at least seven calendar days prior to the meeting.

Notice of this meeting is provided in accordance with the FACA and the General Services Administration regulations (41 CFR part 102-3) covering management of Federal advisory committees.

Issued in Washington, DC, on the 1st day of August 2011.

**Steven K. Smith,**

*Deputy Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 2011-20674 Filed 8-12-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-HY-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Pilot Program of Enhanced Contract Care Authority for Veterans in Highly Rural Areas

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing § 403 of Public Law (Pub. L.) 110-387, “Veterans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008,” which requires VA to establish a pilot program to contract with non-VA health care providers to provide health services to highly rural veterans. This program will assist veterans who often have great

difficulty obtaining VA health care due to physical distance to VA facilities.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This notice is effective August 15, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Patricia Suh, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-7157. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 308 of Public Law 111-163, the “Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010,” amended the “Veterans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008,” Public Law 110-387, § 403, which had required VA to establish a pilot program under which we provide covered health services to eligible veterans through qualifying non-VA health care providers. Based on the amendments made by § 308, VA can immediately implement the pilot program. This notice will describe how VA will implement the program.

Pursuant to the authorizing legislation, VA will contract with medical professionals to provide care to covered veterans, as defined by § 403(b), as amended. Under § 403(b), a covered veteran is any enrolled veteran as of the date of the commencement of the pilot program or eligible under section 1710(e)(3) of Title 38, who resides in a location that is “more than 60 minutes driving distance from the nearest Department health care facility providing primary care services, if the veteran is seeking such services; more than 120 minutes driving distance from the nearest Department health care facility providing acute hospital care, if the veteran is seeking such care; or more than 240 minutes driving distance from the nearest Department health care facility providing tertiary care, if the veteran is seeking such care.”

Under § 403(d), VA must determine whether a particular entity or individual is qualified to furnish health care through the pilot program. VA will determine that an entity or individual is qualified to provide care through the pilot program using the contracting process. Contracts under the pilot program will specify that the entity or individual must meet specified, appropriate credentialing, patient safety, and quality requirements and standards

identified in the solicitation package. These requirements and standards will be as similar as possible to the requirements and standards generally used by VA when VA contracts for non-VA care. This is consistent with the legislation, which requires VA to use contracts in order to arrange for the provision of care through the pilot program. See Public Law 110-387, § 403(f).

Section 403(a)(4) of Public Law 110-387 establishes specific criteria for the selection of five Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) in which VA is authorized to conduct the pilot program. These specific, congressionally mandated criteria eliminate from consideration all but the following five VISNs: VISNs 1, 6, 15, 18, and 19.

Pursuant to Public Law 110-387, § 403(e), veteran participation in the program will be voluntary. The law requires VA to permit veterans to elect to receive covered services through this program “in such form \* \* \* as the Secretary shall specify.” We have determined that all that is necessary is the veteran’s consent because VA will already be in possession of sufficient information to administer the pilot program for a specific veteran based on the veteran’s eligibility for VA health care. Veterans who wish to participate will need to provide a signed consent form which can be obtained by contacting VA health care facilities within VISNs 1, 6, 15, 18, and 19.

### Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the **Federal Register** for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. John R. Gingrich, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on September 23, 2010, for publication.

Dated: August 10, 2011.

**William F. Russo,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2011-20675 Filed 8-12-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**