

limitations are readily accessible and known both to TSR and to FRA.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by January 31, 2019 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Robert C. Lauby,**  
*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,*  
*Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27214 Filed 12-14-18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2018-0108]

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that on December 4, 2018, the San Pedro Valley Railroad (SPVR) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR 229.23(a). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2018-0108.

Specifically, SPVR seeks relief from 49 CFR 229.23(a), which requires that railroads perform periodic inspections “only where adequate facilities are available,” and that “a locomotive shall be positioned so that a person may safely inspect the entire underneath portion of the locomotive.” SPVR explains the railroad operates a small, rural switching operation with one locomotive in Willcox, AZ, and does not have an inspection pit. SPVR states that quarterly periodic inspections do not justify a costly inspection pit, which would entail extensive excavation, require a pumping system to remove storm water, and would create a safety hazard to the public. Finally, SPVR states it has been performing periodic inspections without the use of a pit for several years without accident or incident.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA,

in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
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Communications received by January 31, 2019 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Robert C. Lauby,**  
*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,*  
*Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27211 Filed 12-14-18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD-2018-0184]

#### Agency Request for Approval of a New Information Collection: Mariner Survey

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments

about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for a new information collection. The collection involves a biennial survey of appropriately credentialed U.S. merchant mariners to determine their availability and willingness to serve on U.S. government-owned sealift ships or commercial ships in the event of a war, armed conflict, national emergency, or maritime mobilization need (hereinafter collectively called "National Need"). The information to be collected will be used by MARAD and is necessary to assess the emergency preparedness of the nation's sealift fleet.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by February 15, 2019. MARAD will consider comments filed after this date to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Docket No. MARAD-2018-0184 through one of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search by using the docket number (provided above). Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the electronic docket site.

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery:* Room PL-401 of the Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and docket number.

*Note:* All comments received, including any personal information, will be posted without change to the docket and is accessible via <http://www.regulations.gov>. Input submitted online via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) is not immediately posted to the site. It may take several business days before your submission is posted.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 of the Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Federal Docket Management Facility's telephone number is 202-366-9826 or 202-366-9317, the fax number is 202-493-2251.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may contact Nuns Jain, Maritime Administration, at 202-385-0115 or by electronic mail at [Nuns.Jain@dot.gov](mailto:Nuns.Jain@dot.gov). You may send mail to Nuns Jain at Maritime Administration, Building 19, Suite 300, 7737 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, Virginia 23505. If you have questions on viewing the Docket, call Docket Operations, telephone: 202-366-9826 or 202-366-9317.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Collection:* Mariner Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-NEW.

*Form Number:* TBD.

*Type of Review:* New information collection.

*Background:* The Mariner Survey project will conduct a biennial survey of appropriately credentialed U.S. merchant mariners to determine their availability and willingness to serve on

short notice on U.S. government-owned sealift ships or commercial ships during a period of National Need. Responses will be primarily collected via an online survey, with a mail survey option.

*Respondents:* Appropriately credentialed U.S. Merchant Mariners.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Total Estimated Number of Responses:* 6,545.

*Frequency:* Every two years.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 3,273.

*Public Comments Invited:* You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Department's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for the Department to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

(Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.93.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: December 12, 2018.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27210 Filed 12-14-18; 8:45 am]

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