

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. 670 (Sub-No. 2)]

Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancy**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.**ACTION:** Notice of vacancy on federal advisory committee and solicitation of nominations.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) hereby gives notice of one vacancy on its Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) for a representative of the electric utility industry. The Board is soliciting suggestions from the public for candidates to fill the vacancy.

DATES: Suggestions for candidates for membership on RETAC are due April 5, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Suggestions may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in paper format. Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the E-Filing link on the Board's website, at www.stb.gov. Any person submitting a filing in paper format should send the original and 10 copies to: Surface Transportation Board, Attn: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2), 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristen Nunnally at 202-245-0312. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board exercises broad authority over transportation by rail carriers, including rates and services (49 U.S.C. 10701-10747, 11101-11124), construction, acquisition, operation, and abandonment of railroad lines (49 U.S.C. 10901-10907), and consolidation, merger, or common control arrangements between railroads (49 U.S.C. 10902, 11323-11327).

The Board established RETAC in 2007 as a federal advisory committee consisting of a balanced cross-section of energy and rail industry stakeholders to provide independent, candid policy advice to the Board and to foster open, effective communication among the affected interests on issues such as rail performance, capacity constraints, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, railroads, and users of energy resources. RETAC operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2, 1-16).

RETAC's membership is balanced and representative of interested and affected parties, consisting of not less than: Five representatives from the Class I railroads; three representatives from Class II and III railroads; three representatives from coal producers; five representatives from electric utilities (including at least one rural electric cooperative and one state- or municipally-owned utility); four representatives from biofuel refiners, processors, or distributors, or biofuel feedstock growers or providers; one representative of the petroleum shipping industry; and, two representatives from private car owners, car lessors, or car manufacturers. RETAC may also include up to two members with relevant experience but not necessarily affiliated with one of the aforementioned industries or sectors. (The at-large seats are currently occupied by representatives of rail labor and the downstream petroleum production industry.) Members are selected by the Chairman of the Board with the concurrence of a majority of the Board. The Chairman may invite representatives from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Transportation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to serve on RETAC in advisory capacities as *ex officio* (non-voting) members. The members of the Board serve as *ex officio* members of the Committee.

RETAC meets at least twice per year. Meetings are typically held at the Board's headquarters in Washington, DC, but may be held in other locations. Members of RETAC serve without compensation and without reimbursement of travel expenses. Further information about RETAC is available on the RETAC page of the Board's website at www.stb.gov/stb/rail/retac.html.

The Board is soliciting nominations from the public for candidates to fill one vacancy on RETAC for a representative of the electric utility industry for a three-year term ending September 30, 2022. According to revised guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, it is permissible for federally registered lobbyists to serve on advisory committees, such as RETAC, as long as they do so in a representative capacity, rather than an individual capacity. See *Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Fed. Advisory Comms., Bds., & Comm'ns*, 79 FR 47,482 (Aug. 13, 2014). Members of RETAC are appointed to serve in a representative capacity.

Nominations for candidates to fill the vacancy should be submitted in letter form and should include: (1) The name

of the candidate; (2) the interest the candidate will represent; (3) a summary of the candidate's experience and qualifications for the position; (4) a representation that the candidate is willing to serve as a member of RETAC; and, (5) a statement that the candidate agrees to serve in a representative capacity. Suggestions for candidates for membership on RETAC should be filed with the Board by April 5, 2019. Please note that submissions will be posted on the Board's website under Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2).

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1321; 49 U.S.C. 11101; 49 U.S.C. 11121.

Decided: February 28, 2019.

By the Board, Allison C. Davis, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Tammy Lowery,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2019-03981 Filed 3-5-19; 8:45 am]

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

[Docket No. NHTSA-2017-0020; Notice 2]

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Grant of petition.

SUMMARY: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (Volkswagen), has determined that certain model year (MY) 2012-2017 Volkswagen motor vehicles do not fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 126, *Electronic Stability Control Systems for Light Vehicles*. Volkswagen filed a noncompliance report dated March 1, 2017, and later revised it on December 21, 2017. Volkswagen also petitioned NHTSA on March 2, 2017, and amended the petition on December 21, 2017, for a decision that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. This document announces the grant of this petition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vince Williams, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA, telephone (202) 366-2319, facsimile (202) 366-3081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview: Volkswagen, has determined that certain MY 2012-2017 Volkswagen motor vehicles do not fully comply with paragraph S5.3.3 of

FMVSS No. 126, *Electronic Stability Control Systems for Light Vehicles* (49 CFR 571.126). Volkswagen filed a noncompliance report dated March 1, 2017, and later revised it on December 21, 2017, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, *Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports*. Volkswagen also petitioned NHTSA on March 2, 2017, and amended the petition on December 21, 2017, for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) and 49 CFR part 556.

Notice of receipt of the petition was published with a 30-day public comment period, on May 18, 2017, in the **Federal Register** (82 FR 22869). No comments were received. To view the petition and all supporting documents, log onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) website at: <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Then follow the online search instructions to locate docket number "NHTSA-2017-0020."

II. Vehicles Involved: Approximately 53,911 MY 2013-2017 Volkswagen CC motor vehicles, manufactured between January 19, 2012, and November 28, 2016, and approximately 176,547 MY 2012-2017 Volkswagen Tiguan motor vehicles, manufactured between January 9, 2012, and February 28, 2017, are potentially involved.

Volkswagen revised its noncompliance report and amended its petition on December 21, 2017, to include approximately 12,541 MY 2015-2017 Audi Q3 motor vehicles, manufactured between April 16, 2014, and June 25, 2015, thus, bringing the new total of potentially affected vehicles to 242,999.

III. Noncompliance: Volkswagen explains that during an electronic stability control (ESC) malfunction in the subject vehicles, the ESC system malfunction telltale illuminates as required by FMVSS No. 126 unless the steering angle sensor is the source of the malfunction. In the instance of a steering angle sensor malfunction, the ESC system malfunction telltale does not re-illuminate immediately after the vehicle ignition is reactivated, as required by paragraph S5.3.3 of FMVSS No. 126. Specifically, the ESC system malfunction telltale will only re-illuminate after the vehicle reaches a speed of 1.2 mph and will remain continuously illuminated thereafter as required by FMVSS No. 126 for the rest of the ignition cycle regardless of vehicle speed.

IV. Rule Requirements: Paragraph S5.3.3 of FMVSS No. 126, includes the requirements that, subject to the exceptions not relevant to this petition, the ESC malfunction telltale must illuminate when an ESC malfunction exists and must remain continuously illuminated as long as the malfunction exists whenever the ignition locking system is in the "On" position.

V. Summary of Volkswagen's Petition: Volkswagen stated that the condition described above is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety because the warning (ESC system malfunction telltale) immediately re-illuminates when the vehicle starts to move and reaches 2 km/h or 1.2 mph.

Furthermore, Volkswagen explained that the condition is limited to an ESC system fault caused by the steering angle sensor. For all other potential ESC system faults, the ESC system malfunction telltale illuminates as required with the next ignition key in the "On" ("Run") position.

Volkswagen concluded by expressing the belief that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, and that its petition to be exempted from providing notification of the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30118, and a remedy for the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120, should be granted.

Volkswagen's petition analyses and supporting documents are available by logging onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) website at https://www.regulations.gov and following the online search instructions to locate the docket number listed in the heading of this notice.

NHTSA's Analysis: NHTSA has reviewed Volkswagen's analyses that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Specifically, in the instance of a steering angle sensor malfunction, the ESC system malfunction telltale does not re-illuminate immediately after the vehicle ignition is reactivated as required by paragraph S5.3.3 of FMVSS No. 126.

Volkswagen explained that the ESC system malfunction telltale does not re-illuminate when the ignition is reactivated as required, however, it does illuminate immediately when the vehicle starts to move and reaches 2 km/h or 1.2 mph. Volkswagen stated that this specific condition is limited only to a malfunction caused by the steering angle sensor and that for all other potential ESC system malfunctions, the telltale illuminates as required when the ignition locking system is in the "On" ("Run") position.

On March 28, 2017, and November 16, 2017, NHTSA contacted Volkswagen to request additional information regarding the behavior of the ESC system malfunction telltale. In response to those requests, Volkswagen explained that these vehicles were originally designed with the 2km/h (1.2 mph) threshold to prevent nuisance ESC system malfunction telltale activations during steering component workshop troubleshooting and repairs. Volkswagen clarified that during subsequent ignition cycles, the ESC system malfunction telltale on these vehicles illuminates after the vehicle speed reaches 2 km/h or 1.2 mph and stays illuminated for the entire ignition cycle regardless of vehicle speed (*i.e.*, even if the vehicle speeds falls back down below 2 km/h or 1.2 mph). Volkswagen added that these vehicles are also equipped with a separate Electronic Power Steering (EPS) warning light, on the dashboard in clear view of the driver, that illuminates when the steering angle sensor malfunctions, and is illuminated during the period of time the ESC malfunction telltale is required to illuminate but does not.

The agency believes that the subject noncompliance poses no significant risk to motor vehicle safety as discussed below. If the vehicle is in operation when a steering angle sensor malfunction first occurs, the ESC malfunction telltale will illuminate and stay illuminated as required by the standard until the vehicle's ignition is turned off. It is only upon re-activation of the ignition system that the malfunction telltale does not re-illuminate immediately but then does so very quickly when the vehicle begins to move. After the telltale does re-illuminate, it remains illuminated, regardless of vehicle speed, until the malfunction is corrected or the ignition is deactivated once again. The ESC malfunction telltale will not illuminate for very short periods of time, between when the ignition is activated and the vehicle reaches a speed of 2 km/h. If this condition ever occurs, it will take place for a very short duration of time at very low speeds, conditions under which a vehicle loss of control due to instabilities that require the ESC system to activate will not occur.

Finally, Volkswagen did mention that these vehicles are also equipped with a separate EPS warning light that when activated is on the dashboard in clear view of the driver. The symbol used for the EPS telltale is a vehicle's steering wheel. This telltale will illuminate when the steering angle sensor malfunctions, and is illuminated during

the period-of-time the ESC malfunction telltale is required to illuminate but does not.

NHTSA's Decision: In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA finds that Volkswagen has met its burden of persuasion that the FMVSS No. 126 noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, Volkswagen's petition is hereby granted and Volkswagen is consequently exempted from the obligation to provide notification of, and a free remedy for, that noncompliance under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120.

NHTSA notes that the statutory provisions (49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h)) that permit manufacturers to file petitions for a determination of inconsequentiality allow NHTSA to exempt manufacturers only from the duties found in sections 30118 and 30120, respectively, to notify owners, purchasers, and dealers of a defect or noncompliance and to remedy the defect or noncompliance. Therefore, this decision only applies to the subject vehicles that Volkswagen no longer controlled at the time it determined that the noncompliance existed. However, the granting of this petition does not relieve vehicle distributors and dealers of the prohibitions on the sale, offer for sale, or introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of the noncompliant vehicles under their control after Volkswagen notified them that the subject noncompliance existed.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.95 and 501.8.

Michael A. Cole,

Acting Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2019-03574 Filed 3-5-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Creating Options for Veterans Expedited Recovery (COVER) Commission Veterans Focus Groups: Mental Health Services Preferences and Utilization Data Collection

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the

proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before April 29, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Brian McCarthy, Office of Regulatory and Administrative Affairs (10B4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to Brian.McCarthy4@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian McCarthy at (202) 615-9241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Authority: Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

Title: Creating Options for Veterans Expedited Recovery (COVER) Commission Veterans Focus Groups: Mental Health Services Preferences and Utilization Data Collection.

OMB Control Number: 2900-NEW.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: The COVER Commission was established under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA). Pursuant to Section

931(b)(2) of the CARA legislation, the COVER Commission is directed to conduct a patient-centered survey within each of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks. The survey will collect qualitative and demographic information from Veterans seeking and utilizing mental health services through VA and non-VA facilities. The findings will be compiled in a final report to the President, the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 400 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 120 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

By direction of the Secretary.

Danny S. Green,

Interim Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk (QPR), Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2019-04018 Filed 3-5-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0745]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Request for Certificate of Veteran Status

AGENCY: Loan Guaranty Service, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Loan Guaranty Service, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. **DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before May 6, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue