

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Brett A. Jortland,

Acting Chief Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2019–0099]

Petition for Approval Extension: Norfolk Southern Railway Company

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of petition for extension of approval of track inspection test program.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that on July 19, 2021, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to extend an existing temporary suspension of some visual track inspections to allow for a continuation of a previously approved Test Program designed to test track inspection technologies (*i.e.*, an autonomous track geometry measurement system) and new operational approaches to track inspections (*i.e.*, combinations of autonomous inspection and traditional visual inspections).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yu-Jiang Zhang, Staff Director, Track and Structures Division, at (202) 493–6460 or yujiang.zhang@dot.gov; or Aaron Moore, Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, at (202) 493–7009 or aaron.moore@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 27, 2020, FRA conditionally approved the Test Program and NS's petition under 49 CFR 211.51 to suspend §§ 213.233(b)(3) and 213.233(c) as applied to operations under the Test Program. A copy of the Test Program, FRA's conditional approval of the Test Program, and a previously published **Federal Register** notice explaining FRA's rationale for approving the Test Program and related suspension are available for review in the docket.¹

As approved, the Test Program included three separate phases over 12 months as outlined in Exhibit C of the

Program.² Accordingly, NS began the Test Program on March 16, 2020. However, FRA has approved extending the Test Program twice as requested by NS. Thus, the Test Program is currently set to expire on September 31, 2021.

On March 22, 2021, NS submitted a waiver petition³ to permit a reduced frequency of manual track inspections where an automated track geometry measurement system (ATGMS) is used at specific frequencies. The petition, which is similar to and based on information collected by Norfolk Southern during the Test Program, is pending FRA review.

NS is requesting to extend the Test Program until FRA issues a decision on the pending waiver petition or December 31, 2021, whichever is later. In support of its request, NS states that it will continue to comply with all other conditions and requirements of FRA's January 27, 2020, approval letter.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, if any, are available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments.

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.

Communications received by September 7, 2021 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, 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/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activity: 35% Exemption Request From 85/15 Reporting Requirement

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits 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 new 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 October 1, 2021.

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 NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to nancy.kessinger@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: Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 1717 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266–4688 or email maribel.aponte@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–NEW” in any correspondence.

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.

¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0003> (Test Program); <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0001> (FRA's approval decision); <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0004> (FRA's published notice of approval).

² See <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2019-0099-0003>.

³ <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2021-0044-0001>.