DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2021-0006-N-5]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

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

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On February 18, 2021, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to

www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find the particular ICR by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Hodan Wells, Information Collection Clearance Officer at email: Hodan.Wells@dot.gov or telephone: (202) 493-0440, and Mr. John Purnell, Information Collection Clearance Officer at email: John.Purnell@dot.gov or telephone: (202) 493-0500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices
seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On February 18, 2021, FRA published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register soliciting comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. See 86 FR 10068.

FRA received one comment in response to this 60-day notice from Dr. Dennis J. Fixler, the Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). In its March 11, 2021 letter to FRA, the BEA expresses its strong support for this ICR because BEA considers the data collected on FRA’s forms to be crucial to key components of its economic statistics. The BEA uses the data collected to prepare estimates of the employee compensation component of national income and state personal income. The BEA specifically uses employee injury and death data collected on forms FRA F 6180.55 and FRA F 6180.55a, Railroad Injury and Illness Summary, to prepare estimates of workers’ compensation for the railroad industry.

Before OMB decides whether to approve the proposed collection of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)–(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). OMB believes the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA’s estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of
the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

*Title*: Accident/Incident Reporting and Recordkeeping.

*OMB Control Number*: 2130-0500.

*Abstract*: The railroad accident/incident reporting regulations in 49 CFR part 225 require railroads to submit reports summarizing collisions, derailments, and certain other accidents/incidents involving damages above a periodically revised dollar threshold, as well as certain injuries to passengers, employees, and other persons on railroad property. As the reporting requirements and the information needed regarding each category of accident/incident are unique, a different form is used for each category.

*Type of Request*: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public*: Businesses.

*Form(s)*: FRA F 6180.54; .55; .55a; .56; .57; .78; .81; .97; .98; .107; .150.

*Respondent Universe*: 765 railroads.

*Frequency of Submission*: On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Responses*: 89,057.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden*: 35,846 hours.\(^1\)

*Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent*: $2,775,067.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA

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\(^1\) When submitting this ICR package in OMB’s database, ROCIS, the total estimated annual burden increases one hour, from 35,845 to 35,846, due to required rounding.
informs all interested parties that a respondent is not required to respond to, conduct, or sponsor a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

**Authority:** 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

**Brett A. Jortland,**

*Acting Chief Counsel.*

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