NEEDS AND USES: Under 49 CFR 1152.10–1152.13, all railroads subject to the Board’s jurisdiction are required to keep current system diagram maps on file, or alternatively, in the case of a Class III carrier (a carrier with assets of not more than $38,060,384 in 2014 dollars), to submit the same information in narrative form. The information sought in this collection identifies lines in a particular railroad’s system, categorized to indicate the likelihood that service on a particular line will be abandoned and/or whether service on a line is currently provided under the financial assistance provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10904. Carriers are obligated to amend these maps as the need to change the category of any particular line arises.

Under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under section 3507(b) of the PRA, federal agencies are required to provide, prior to an agency’s submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: October 6, 2016.

Brendetta S. Jones,
Clerical Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2016–24617 Filed 10–11–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

30-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Extension of Approval: Rail Depreciation Studies

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice of its intent to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of the collection of Rail Depreciation Studies. This information collection is described in detail below.

The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the Federal Register. 81 FR 26,304 (May 2, 2016). That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by November 14, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be identified as “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board: Rail Depreciation Studies.” These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Chandana L. Achanta, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, by email at OIRA_SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV; by fax at (202) 395–6974; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Please also direct comments to Chris Oehrle, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001, or to PRA@stb.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding this collection, contact Michael Higgins, Deputy Director, Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245–0284 or at higginsm@stb.gov. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are requested concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board’s burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board’s request for OMB approval.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Title: Rail Depreciation Studies.

OMB Control Number: 2140–0028.

STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension with change.

Respondents: Class 1 railroads.

Number of Respondents: Seven.

Frequency: On occasion. (Under 49 CFR part 1201, 4–1 to 4–4, the Board requires all Class 1 (large) carriers to submit rail depreciation studies no less than every three years for equipment and annual depreciation expense. This expense is included in the railroads’ operating expenses, which are reported in their R–1 reports (OMB Control Number 2140–0009). Operating expenses are used to develop operating costs for application in various proceedings before the Board, such as in rate reasonableness cases and in the determination of railroad revenue adequacy.

Under the PRA, a Federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency’s submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Cost:

Approximately $262,500 per year. Board staff estimates that each study will cost between $50,000 and $100,000, which equals a cost of approximately $25,000–$50,000 per year. Using an average cost ($37,500 per year × 7 Class 1 railroads), the non-hour burden cost is estimated to be approximately $262,500 per year.

Needs and Uses: Under 49 CFR part 1201, 4–1 to 4–4, the Board is required to identify those classes of property for which rail carriers may include depreciation charges under operating expenses, and the Board must also prescribe a rate of depreciation that may be charged to those classes of property. Pursuant to the Board’s authority under 49 U.S.C. 11145, Class 1 rail carriers are required to submit Rail Depreciation Studies to the Board. Information in these studies is not available from any other source. The Board uses the information in these studies to prescribe depreciation rates. These depreciation rate prescriptions state the period for which the depreciation rates therein are applicable. Class 1 railroads apply the prescribed depreciation rates to their investment base to determine monthly and annual depreciation expense. This expense is included in the railroads’ operating expenses, which are reported in their R–1 reports (OMB Control Number 2140–0009). Operating expenses are used to develop operating costs for application in various proceedings before the Board, such as in rate reasonableness cases and in the determination of railroad revenue adequacy.
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

30-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Extension of Approval: Arbitration Option Notices

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice that it is requesting from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of an extension for the collection of Arbitration Option Notices, which is further described below. The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the Federal Register. 81 FR 26,303 (May 2, 2016). That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by November 14, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be identified as “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board: Arbitration Option Notice.” These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Chandana L. Achanta, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, by email at OIRA SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV; by fax at (202) 395–6974; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503. Please also direct comments to Chris Oehrle, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001, or to PRA@stb.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding this collection, contact Michael Higgins, Deputy Director, Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245–0284 or at michael.higgins@stb.gov. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are requested concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board’s burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board’s request for OMB approval.

Description of Collection

Title: Arbitration Option Notices. OMB Control Number: 2140–0020. STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension with change.

Respondents: All regulated rail carriers.

Number of Respondents: 1.

Estimated Time per Response: .5 hours.

Frequency: Annually.

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): .5 hours. Total “Non-hour Burden” Cost: None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

Needs and Uses: Under 49 CFR 1108.3, rail carriers may agree to participate in the Board’s arbitration program by filing a notice with the Board to “opt in.” Once a rail carrier is participating in the Board’s arbitration program, it may discontinue its participation only by filing a notice to “opt out” with the Board, which would become effective 90 days after its filing. Under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency’s submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: October 6, 2016.

Brendetta S. Jones,
Clearance Clerk.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are requested concerning: (1) The