

of the Committee. The PRAC will meet at least twice a year, and meetings are open to the public, consistent with the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409 (1976).

The PRAC was officially formed on November 29, 2023, and currently has no members. The Board is therefore soliciting nominations from the public for candidates to fill every PRAC vacancy. The members of the PRAC will regularly serve a term of three years. However, under the PRAC charter,¹ half of the initial PRAC members will serve a term of two years as designated by the Chair of the Board at the time of appointment. See PRAC Charter art. 12.a.vii.² By letter dated December 28, 2023, the Chair of the Board has designated which initial PRAC members will serve for three-year and two-year terms. A copy of this letter is available on the PRAC website. Members of the PRAC are appointed to serve in a representative capacity.

The vacancies and initial term lengths are as follows:

- Two representatives from the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak).
 - One representative will serve an initial three-year term. The other representative will serve an initial two-year term.
 - Two representatives from commuter rail operators whose operations use facilities owned and/or utilized by (i) Amtrak, (ii) other intercity passenger rail operators, or (iii) rail freight operators (for purposes of ensuring geographic diversity within PRAC's membership, these representatives cannot be from the same state as any of the state representatives described below and cannot be from the same state as each other).
 - One representative will serve an initial three-year term. The other representative will serve an initial two-year term.
 - Two representatives from existing intercity passenger rail operators other than Amtrak, or developers of new intercity passenger rail lines other than Amtrak.
 - One representative will serve an initial three-year term. The other

¹ A copy of the PRAC charter is available on the Board's website at: <https://www.stb.gov/resources/stakeholder-committees/prac/>.

² Under the PRAC charter, members may serve an additional term with approval from the Chair of the Board, without needing to be renominated for that additional term. See PRAC Charter art. 12.a.viii. Any member of the PRAC who has served for two consecutive terms will be required to be renominated for membership and appointed by the Chair of the Board should they wish to serve for additional terms. If reappointed, that individual may serve two additional terms before being required to be renominated. See *id.*, art. 12.a.ix.

representative will serve an initial two-year term.

- One representative from a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail (for purposes of ensuring geographic diversity within PRAC's membership, this representative cannot be from the same state as any of the representatives of the commuter rail operators described above, or the representative from a state in which the intercity passenger rail stations are served only by long-distance trains described below).

- This representative will serve an initial three-year term.

- One representative from a state in which the intercity passenger rail stations are served only by long-distance trains, *i.e.*, passenger trains serving the entirety of routes of more than 750 miles between endpoints (for purposes of ensuring geographic diversity within PRAC's membership, this representative cannot be from the same state as any of the representatives of the commuter rail operators described above or the representative from the state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail described above).

- This representative will serve an initial two-year term.

- Two representatives from Class I freight railroads.

- One representative will serve an initial three-year term. The other representative will serve an initial two-year term.

- One representative from a Class II or Class III freight railroad.

- This representative will serve an initial three-year term.

- One representative from an organized rail labor association.

- This representative will serve an initial three-year term.

- Two representatives from rail passenger advocacy organizations.

- One representative will serve an initial three-year term. The other representative will serve a two-year term.

- One representative from a rail shipper or customer advocacy organization or an individual shipper or customer.

- This representative will serve an initial two-year term.

- Three at-large representatives with relevant experience (including, but not limited to, individuals involved in the design or construction of passenger rail equipment or infrastructure, in the provision of passenger rail analytic or consulting services, in transportation planning, or in transportation-related public policy work).

- One representative will serve an initial three-year term. The other two representatives will each serve an initial two-year term.

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 the PRAC, 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). No honoraria, salaries, travel or per diem are available to members of the PRAC; however, reimbursement for travel expenses may be sought from the Board in cases of hardship.

Nominations for candidates to fill the vacancies should be submitted in letter form and should include: (1) the name, position, and business contact information of the candidate to include email address and phone number; (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 the PRAC; and, (5) a statement that the candidate agrees to serve in a representative capacity. Candidates may nominate themselves. The Chair is committed to having a committee reflecting diverse communities and viewpoints and strongly encourages the nomination of candidates from diverse backgrounds. Nominations for candidates for membership on the PRAC should be filed with the Board by February 5, 2024. Please note that submissions will be posted publicly on the Board's website under Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1).

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1321; 49 U.S.C. 24101.

Decided: December 29, 2023.

By the Board, Mai T. Dinh, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Eden Besera,
Clearance Clerk.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

30-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Approval for Information Collections: Joint Notice of Intent To Arbitrate and Notice of Availability for Arbitrator Roster

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (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 information collections of the Joint Notice of Intent to Arbitrate and Notice of Availability for Arbitrator Roster, as described separately below.

DATES: Comments on these information collections should be submitted by February 5, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be identified as “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Arbitration Procedures under 49 CFR 1108.” Written comments for this information collection should be submitted via www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. This information collection can be accessed by selecting “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. As an alternative, written comments may be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Michael J. McManus, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer; via email at oir_submission@omb.eop.gov; by fax at (202) 395–1743; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Please also direct all comments to Chris Oehrle, PRA Officer, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423–0001, or to PRA@stb.gov. When submitting comments, please refer to “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Arbitration Procedures under 49 CFR 1108.” 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 RCPA@stb.gov. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245–0245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 73388 (Oct. 25, 2023)). That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

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 Information Collections

OMB Control Number: 2140–0038.

Information Collection 1

Title: Joint Notice of Intent to Arbitrate.

STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Parties seeking to submit to arbitration certain matters before the Board.

Number of Respondents: One.

Estimated Time per Response: One hour.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): One hour.

Total “Non-hour Burden” Cost: None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

Needs and Uses: Under 49 CFR 1108.5, arbitration commences with a written complaint that contains a statement that the relevant parties are participants in the Board’s arbitration program, or that the complainant is willing to arbitrate the dispute pursuant to the Board’s arbitration procedures. The respondent’s answer to the written complaint must then indicate the respondent’s participation in the Board’s arbitration program or its willingness to arbitrate the dispute at hand pursuant to the Board’s arbitration procedures.

As an alternative to filing a written complaint, parties may submit a joint notice to the Board, indicating the consent of both parties to submit an issue in dispute to the Board’s arbitration program. In the joint notice, parties state the issue(s) that they are willing to submit to arbitration. The notice must contain a statement that would indicate that all relevant parties are participants in the Board’s arbitration program pursuant to § 1108.3(a), or that the relevant parties are willing to arbitrate voluntarily a matter pursuant to the Board’s arbitration procedures, and the relief requested. The notice must also indicate whether parties have agreed to a three-member arbitration panel or a single arbitrator and must indicate whether the parties have mutually agreed to a lower amount of potential liability in lieu of the monetary award cap that would otherwise be applicable. The joint notice encourages greater use of arbitration to resolve disputes at the Board.

Information Collection 2

Title: Notice of Availability for Arbitrator Roster.

STB Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension without change.

Respondents: Potential arbitrators.

Number of Respondents: 23.

Estimated Time per Response: One hour.

Frequency: Annually.

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): 23 hours.

Total “Non-hour Burden” Cost: None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

Needs and Uses: Under 49 CFR 1108.6(b), an arbitration roster is compiled by the Chairman, and potential interested, qualified persons who wish to be placed on the Board’s arbitration roster must submit notice of their availability to be added to the roster. The Chairman may augment the roster at any time to include eligible arbitrators and remove from the roster any arbitrators who are no longer available or eligible. Potential arbitrators must also update their availability and information annually, if they wish to remain available for the arbitration roster. The arbitration rosters are available to the public on the Board’s website at <https://www.stb.gov/resources/litigation-alternatives/arbitration/#arbitration-procedures>.

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: December 29, 2023.

Brendetta Jones,

Clearance Clerk.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

30-Day Notice of Intent To Seek Extension of Approval for Information Collection: Rail Service Data

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.