

State	Disaster date(s)	Disaster description	Date of state request to SBA	Approval status	Date of declaration
Massachusetts	February 22, 2026–February 27, 2026.	Blizzard	June 8, 2026	Approved	June 12, 2026.
New Jersey	May 3–14, 2026	12-Alarm Warehouse Fire	June 10, 2026	Approved	June 12, 2026.
Pennsylvania	June 11, 2026	Oak Forest Apartment Complex Fire	June 23, 2026	Approved	June 24, 2026.
New York	May 20, 2026	Severe Storms and Flooding	June 26, 2026	Approved	June 30, 2026.
Illinois	June 10–11, 2026	Severe Storms and Tornadoes	July 7, 2026	Approved	July 10, 2026.
Illinois	June 17, 2026	Severe Storms and Tornadoes	July 7, 2026	Approved	July 10, 2026.
Missouri	April 23–28, 2026	Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding.	July 14, 2026	Approved	July 15, 2026.
Iowa	July 2–4, 2026	Severe Storms, Heavy Rain, and Flash Flooding.	July 20, 2026	Approved	July 23, 2026.
Pennsylvania	July 5–6, 2026	Severe Storms and Flooding	July 20, 2026	Approved	July 21, 2026.
Illinois	June 21, 2026	Severe Storms and Tornado	July 28, 2026	Approved	July 29, 2026.
Pennsylvania	July 11, 2026	Severe Storms	July 28, 2026	Approved	July 30, 2026.
Illinois	June 16, 2026	Severe Storms and Tornadoes	July 28, 2026	Approved	July 30, 2026.
Pennsylvania	July 4, 2026	Severe Storms	July 28, 2026	Approved	July 31, 2026.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

Authority: 13 CFR 123.3(b).

James Stallings

Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience.

[FR Doc. 2026–16349 Filed 8–10–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 13099]

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Employee Self-Certification and Ability To Perform in Emergencies (ESCAPE) Posts, Pre-Deployment Physical Exam Acknowledgement Form

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment and submission to OMB of proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this Notice is to allow 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Submit comments up to September 10, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional

information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to Director of Medical Clearances, Jessica Martinez, who may be reached on (202) 663–1657 or at MartinezJA7@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* Employee Self-Certification and Ability to Perform in Emergencies (ESCAPE) Posts, Pre-Deployment Physical Exam Acknowledgement Form.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405–0224.
- *Type of Request:* Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Medical Services, Office of Medical Clearances MED/CP/CS/CL.
- *Form Number:* DS–6570.
- *Respondents:* Contractors and eligible family members deploying to ESCAPE Diplomatic Missions requesting access to the Department of State Medical Program (currently Iraq, Juba, Kyiv, Libya, Peshawar, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen).
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,800.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 1,900.
- *Average Time per Response:* 40 minutes (applicants); 30 minutes (physicians).
- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 2,216 hours.
- *Frequency:* Annually for those deployed to an ESCAPE post.
- *Obligation To Respond:* Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

The DS–6570 is completed by an individual and their medical provider to declare that the individual has health concerns that may represent a safety hazard for the individual or others at an ESCAPE Diplomatic Mission. ESCAPE is an acronym used to describe Diplomatic Missions overseas that are in extremely high threat, potentially combat, areas. Current ESCAPE Missions are Iraq, Juba, Kyiv, Libya, Peshawar, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. This program is authorized under the Foreign Service Act of 1980, as implemented by the Department in 13 FAM 301.4–5.

Methodology

The respondents will be prompted access to the forms digitally based on their medical clearance needs (ESCAPE post designation). They will then take it to their personal medical provider for completion and authorization. Once complete, the forms will be submitted via a secure online platform for review by the Office of Medical Clearances.

Response to Public Comment

The Department published a notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting public comments for a period of 60 days. The Department received one comment. The commenter suggested that the burden

calculation was inaccurate because it did not account for the burden on the non-federal healthcare providers who were filling out the DS-6570. The Department agrees and has provided revised burden estimates in paragraph 12. The other allegations from the commenter, including Privacy Act concerns, are without merit. The Department is in compliance with the Privacy Act, and the relevant System of Records Notice is up to date. Finally, the commenter cites E.O. 12866 in asking for a meeting with OIRA. We note that E.O. 12866 relates to rulemaking and does not provide any procedures under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Jessica A. Martinez,

Director of Medical Clearances, Bureau of Medical Services, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026-16307 Filed 8-10-26; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36907]

Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—State of South Dakota

On May 18, 2026, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc. (RCPE), a Class II rail carrier, filed a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for an exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10902 to acquire and operate over approximately 15.33 miles of rail line owned by the State of South Dakota, acting by and through its Department of Transportation (the State or SDDOT). The line of railroad at issue is known as the Huron–Yale Line, and extends between Huron, S.D., at milepost 160.33, and Yale, S.D., at approximately milepost 145, a distance of approximately 15.33 miles (the Line). RCPE concurrently filed a petition for waiver of the 60-day advance notice requirement of 49 CFR 1121.4(h). For the reasons discussed below, the Board will grant the petition for exemption and the petition for waiver.

Background

The State acquired the Line in 2008 through a series of sales transactions where ownership of the Line was ultimately transferred by the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation (DM&E) to the State.¹ (Pet.

4.) RCPE explains in its filing that since 2008, the State has leased the Line to ECRRA. (Pet. 4.) Between 2008 and 2014, ECRRA subleased the Line to DM&E, and following RCPE's acquisition of certain lines from DM&E in 2014, ECRRA subleased the Line to RCPE.² RCPE asserts it has been leasing and operating the Line since 2014. (*Id.* at 6.) The State and RCPE have now entered into an agreement for RCPE to purchase the Line.³ (*Id.* at 4.) RCPE states that, as part of this transaction, the State and ECRRA have agreed to terminate their Line lease, and ECRRA and RCPE have agreed to terminate their Line sublease. (*Id.*)

According to RCPE, it does not intend to change its existing operations over the Line or make any changes in the way it currently maintains and dispatches the Line. (*Id.* at 5.) RCPE states in its filing that the transaction will have no impact on current RCPE, State, or ECRRA employees because these employees will be unaffected by the conversion of RCPE's leasehold interest in the Line to an ownership interest. (*Id.*) RCPE requests that the Board grant its petition for authority to acquire and operate the Line by September 30, 2026, so that the parties may close the transaction no later than October 31, 2026. (*Id.* at 2–3.)

RCPE also petitions the Board for a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement under 49 CFR 1121.4(h). Unless waived, Section 1121.4(h) would require RCPE, at least 60 days before the exemption becomes effective, to post a notice of its intent to undertake the proposed transaction (setting forth certain information) at the workplace of the employees on the affected lines, serve a copy of the notice on the national

(SDRRA), and SDRRA subsequently sold the Line to the State. *See State of S.D. by & through its S.D. R.R. Auth. and its Dep't of Transp.—Acquis. Exemption—E. Cent. Reg'l R.R.*, FD 35185, slip op. at 1–2 (STB served Nov. 5, 2008). Following consummation of these transactions, “DM&E . . . remain[ed] the operator of the [Huron–Yale] line by virtue of having retained sublease rights in the sale agreement with ECRRA.” (*Id.* at 2.) According to the State, this series of transactions was conducted so that the State could fund the rehabilitation of the Line. SDDOT Verified Notice 4, FD 35185 (stating that this structure is to “fund necessary rehabilitation of the line” while complying with applicable South Dakota statutes, and that “[t]hese statutory considerations are the reason for the slightly complex transactional structure” employed).

² *See Rapid City, Pierre & E. R.R.—Acquis. & Operation Exemption Including Interchange Commitment—Dakota, Minn. & E. R.R.*, FD 35799 (STB served Mar. 27, 2014).

³ In this agreement, RCPE will also acquire from the State 4.2 miles of sidetrack in Wolsey, S.D., that RCPE currently utilizes for interchange with BNSF Railway Company. (Pet. 4.) RCPE states that this track is not subject to Board jurisdiction and thus RCPE is not seeking authority to acquire it. (*Id.*)

offices of the labor unions with employees on the affected lines, and certify to the Board that it has done so. RCPE argues that the notice requirement would serve no useful purpose under the circumstances, asserts that it is clear that no railroad employees will be affected, much less adversely affected, by RCPE's purchase of the Line, and states that there will be no operational changes on the Line. (Pet. 8.) RCPE argues that posting notices on the Line would not provide any relevant notice to any State or ECRRA employees, since none are railroad employees and none work on the Line. (*Id.* at 5.)

No opposition to either the petition for exemption or the petition for waiver has been filed.

Discussion and Conclusions

Exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10902. Under 49 U.S.C. 10902, the acquisition of a rail line by a Class II rail carrier requires the prior approval of the Board. Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(a), however, the Board shall, to the maximum extent consistent with Title 49, Subtitle IV, Part A, exempt a transaction or service from regulation when it finds that: (1) regulation is not necessary to carry out the rail transportation policy (RTP) of 49 U.S.C. 10101; and (2) either (a) the transaction or service is of limited scope, or (b) regulation is not needed to protect shippers from the abuse of market power.

Detailed scrutiny of the proposed transaction under section 10902 is not necessary to carry out the RTP. An exemption from the application process would minimize the need for Federal regulatory control, reduce regulatory barriers to entry, and result in the expeditious handling of this proceeding. *See* 49 U.S.C. 10101(2), (7), (15). Other aspects of the RTP would not be adversely affected by use of the exemption process.

Moreover, regulation of the proposed transaction under section 10902 is not needed to protect shippers from the abuse of market power.⁴ There would be no loss of rail competition and no adverse change in the competitive balance in the transportation market, as RCPE has been the carrier providing service over the Line since 2014,⁵ and will continue to do so. Nor would there be a change in the level of service to any

⁴ Because the Board concludes that regulation is not needed to protect shippers from the abuse of market power, it is unnecessary to determine whether the proposed transaction is limited in scope. *See* 49 U.S.C. 10502(a).

⁵ *Rapid City, Pierre & E. R.R.—Acquis. & Operation Exemption Including Interchange Commitment—Dakota, Minn. & E. R.R.*, FD 35799 (STB served Mar. 27, 2014).

¹ As explained in RCPE's filing, DM&E sold the Line to the East Central Regional Railroad Authority (ECRRA) in 2008. *See E. Cent. Reg'l R.R.—Acquis. Exemption—Dakota, Minn. & E. R.R.*, FD 35184, slip op. at 1 (STB served Nov. 5, 2008). ECRRA sold the Line to the South Dakota Railroad Authority