

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number, 1405–0241 in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Under the PRA, (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520) Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. “Collection of information” is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, the Department of State is publishing notice of the extension of an existing collection of information set forth in this document.

Whether seeking a loan, Social Security benefits, veteran’s benefits, or other services provided by the Federal Government, individuals and businesses expect Government customer services to be efficient and intuitive, just like services from leading private-sector organizations. Yet the 2016 American Consumer Satisfaction Index and the 2017 Forrester Federal Customer Experience Index show that, on average, Government services lag nine percentage points behind the private sector.

A modern, streamlined and responsive customer experience means: raising government-wide customer experience to the average of the private sector service industry; developing indicators for high-impact Federal programs to monitor progress towards excellent customer experience and mature digital services; and providing the structure (including increasing transparency) and resources to ensure customer experience is a focal point for agency leadership. To support this, OMB Circular A–11 Section 280 established government-wide standards for mature customer experience organizations in government and measurement. To enable Federal programs to deliver the experience taxpayers deserve, they must undertake three general categories of activities: conduct ongoing customer research,

gather and share customer feedback, and test services and digital products.

These data collection efforts may be either qualitative or quantitative in nature or may consist of mixed methods. Additionally, data may be collected via a variety of means, including but not limited to electronic or social media, direct or indirect observation (e.g., in person, video and audio collections), interviews, questionnaires, surveys, and focus groups. The Department of State will limit its inquiries to data collections that solicit strictly voluntary opinions or responses. Steps will be taken to ensure anonymity of respondents in each activity covered by this request.

The results of the data collected will be used to improve the delivery of Federal services and programs. It will include the creation of personas, customer journey maps, and reports and summaries of customer feedback data and user insights. It will also provide government-wide data on customer experience that can be displayed on *performance.gov* to help build transparency and accountability of Federal programs to the customers they serve.

Method of Collection

The Department of State will collect this information by electronic means when possible, as well as by mail, fax, telephone, technical discussions, and in-person interviews. The Department of State may also utilize observational techniques to collect this information.

Form Number(s): DS–4318.

Type of Review: Extension.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Affected Public: Collections will be targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future. For the purposes of this request, “customers” are individuals, businesses, and organizations that interact with a Federal Government agency or program, either directly or via a Federal contractor. This could include individuals or households; businesses or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; State, local or tribal governments; Federal government; and Universities.

• *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,101,550.

• *Estimated Time per Response:* Varied, dependent upon the data collection method used. The possible response time to complete a questionnaire or survey may be 3 minutes or up to 1.5 hours to participate in an interview.

• *Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 100,800.

• *Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

C. Public Comments

The Department of State invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Alden F. Fahy,

Acting Director, Office of Privacy and Organizational Policy, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–16969 Filed 8–19–26; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)]

Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancies

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of vacancies on federal advisory committee and solicitation of nominations.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) hereby gives notice of two vacancies on its Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC): one representative from biofuel feedstock growers or providers and biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors; and one representative from coal producers. The Board is soliciting nominations from the public for candidates to fill these vacancies.

DATES: Nominations for candidates for membership on RETAC are due September 17, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Nominations may be submitted via e-filing on the Board’s website under Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Osburn at 202–748–4566. If

you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245–0245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board exercises broad authority over transportation by rail carriers, including regulation of railroad rates, practices, and service issues (49 U.S.C. 10701–47, 11101–24), the construction, acquisition, operation, and abandonment of rail lines (49 U.S.C. 10901–07), as well as railroad line sales, consolidations, mergers, and common control arrangements, (49 U.S.C. 10902, 11223–27).

The Board established RETAC in 2007 as a federal advisory committee consisting of a balanced cross-section of energy and rail industry stakeholders to provide independent, candid policy advice to the Board and to foster open, effective communication among the affected interests on issues such as rail performance, capacity constraints, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, railroads, and users of energy resources. RETAC operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Chapter 10).

RETAC's membership is balanced and representative of interested and affected parties, consisting of not less than: one representative from each of the Class I railroads; three representatives from Class II and III railroads; three representatives from coal producers; five representatives from electric utilities (including at least one rural electric cooperative and one state- or municipally-owned utility); four representatives from biofuel feedstock growers or providers and biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors; two representatives from private car owners, car lessors, or car manufacturers; three representatives from the petroleum shipping industry; two representatives from renewable energy sources; and one representative from a labor organization. The Committee may also include up to two at large members with relevant experience but not necessarily affiliated with one of the aforementioned industries or sectors.

Members are selected by the Chairman of the Board with the concurrence of a majority of the Board. The Chairman may invite representatives from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Transportation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to serve on RETAC in advisory capacities as *ex officio* (non-voting) members. The members of the Board serve as *ex officio* members of the Committee.

RETAC meets at least twice per year. Meetings are typically held at the Board's headquarters in Washington, DC, but may be held virtually or in other locations. Members of RETAC serve without compensation and without reimbursement of travel expenses. Further information about RETAC is available on the RETAC page of the Board's website at www.stb.gov/resources/stakeholder-committees/retac/.

The Board is soliciting nominations from the public for candidates to fill two vacancies on RETAC: one representative from biofuel feedstock growers or providers or biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors; and one representative from coal producers. Both vacancies are for three-year terms ending September 30, 2029. 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 RETAC, 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 47482 (Aug. 13, 2014). Members of RETAC are appointed to serve in a representative capacity.

Nominations for candidates to fill the vacancies should be filed 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 RETAC; and, (5) a statement that the candidate agrees to serve in a representative capacity. Candidates may nominate themselves. Nominations should be filed with the Board by September 17, 2026. Please note that submissions will be posted publicly on the Board's website under Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2).

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1321; 49 U.S.C. 11101; 49 U.S.C. 11121.

Decided: August 18, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

Kenyatta Clay,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026–17004 Filed 8–19–26; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36873]

Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Railroad Company—Control—Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Decision No. 30 in Docket No. FD 36873; removing the proceedings from abeyance; adopting a procedural schedule; directing the production of certain material; and ruling on a pending procedural request.

SUMMARY: On May 28, 2026, the Board accepted for consideration (1) the revised, primary application (the Revised Application) filed by Union Pacific Corporation (UPC), Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) (collectively, Union Pacific), Norfolk Southern Corporation (NSC), and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) (collectively, Norfolk Southern) (Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern collectively, Applicants) as well as (2) a related application in *Union Pacific Corp.—Control—Peoria & Pekin Union Railway*, Docket No. FD 36873 (Sub-No. 1). However, the Board held both proceedings in abeyance pending further Board order and the submission of certain additional information. Applicants filed additional information in two supplements submitted in July. In this decision, the Board removes the proceedings from abeyance, adopts a procedural schedule, directs Applicants to resubmit certain workpapers with unfiltered data, rules on a pending procedural request, and advises that the Board will address other outstanding motions at a future date.

DATES: The effective date of this decision is August 18, 2026. Notices of intent to participate in these proceedings are due by September 4, 2026. Descriptions of anticipated responsive, including inconsistent, applications are due by September 9, 2026. Petitions for waiver or clarification with respect to such applications are due by October 5, 2026. Responsive environmental information and environmental verified statements for responsive, including inconsistent, applications are due by November 13, 2026. Comments, protests, requests for conditions, and any other evidence and argument in opposition to the Revised Application are due by November 18, 2026. All responsive, including inconsistent, applications are also due by November 18, 2026. Any preliminary comments from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of