

49 CFR section	Respondent universe (railroads)	Total annual responses (A)	Average time per response (B)	Total annual burden hours (C = A * B)	Wage rate ¹	Total cost equivalent U.S.D. (D = C * wage rates)
—(b) Retention of current operating rules, and amendments to these operating rules.	The burden for this requirement is included under § 217.7, OMB Control No. 2130–0035.					
220.61 Radio transmission of mandatory directives: —(b)(3) Written copy of mandatory directive	773	3,040,000 directives	90 seconds	76,000	79.02	6,005,520.00
220.302 Operating rules implementing the requirements of this subpart: —Each railroad shall adopt operating rules that implement the requirements of this subpart for electronic devices.	The burden for this requirement is included under § 217.7, OMB Control No. 2130–0035.					
220.313 Instruction: —(a) Written program of instruction and examination on part 220 requirements for new and existing railroads.	2	2 written instruction programs.	1 hour	2	79.02	158.04
—(c) Employee training records	773	28,000 records	30 seconds	233	79.02	18,438.00
220.315 Operational tests and inspections; further restrictions on use of electronic devices: —(a) Railroad's program of operational tests and inspections under part 217 shall be revised as necessary to include this subpart.	The burden for this requirement is included under § 217.9, OMB Control No. 2130–0035.					
Total ²	773	3,068,004 responses		76,237		6,024,274.08

¹ The dollar equivalent cost is derived from the 2024 Surface Transportation Board Full Year Wage A&B data series using the employee group 600 (Transportation, Train & Engine) hourly wage rate of \$45.16. The total burden wage rate (Straight time plus 75%) used in the table is \$79.02 (\$45.16 × 1.75 = \$79.02).

² Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Total Estimated Annual Responses:
3,068,004.

Total Estimated Annual Burden:
76,237 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$6,024,274.08.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher Van Nostrand,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2026–18982 Filed 9–15–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION [Docket No. FRA–2026–2278]

Federal Railroad Administration

Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program; Ohio Department of Transportation Audit Report

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT).

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces and solicits comments on the draft audit report for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program allows a State to assume FRA's environmental responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, and

compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for railroad projects should a State first assume NEPA responsibilities under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). When a State assumes these Federal responsibilities, the State becomes solely responsible and liable for carrying out the responsibilities it has assumed, in lieu of FRA. This program mandates annual audits during each of the first 4 years of State participation to ensure compliance with program requirements.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The draft audit report is available for review at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Comments related to Docket No. FRA–2026–2278 may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must refer to the Federal Railroad Administration and the docket number in this notice (FRA–2026–2278). Note that all submissions received, including any personal information provided, will be posted without change and will be available to the public on <https://www.regulations.gov>. You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477), or at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice, for FRA, please contact Ms. Carmen Stemen,

Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Environmental Program Management, Federal Railroad Administration, telephone: (740) 817–7304, email: Carmen.Stemen@dot.gov. For ODOT, please contact Mr. Timothy Hill, Administrator of ODOT's Office of Environmental Services, Ohio Department of Transportation, 1980 West Broad Street, Mail Stop 4170, Columbus, Ohio 43223, telephone: (614) 644–0377; email: Tim.Hill@dot.ohio.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Section 327 of Title 23, United States Code (23 U.S.C. 327) establishes the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program (Program), also known as the NEPA Assignment Program. It allows the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (Secretary) to assign, and a State to assume, responsibility for all or part of the Secretary's responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, or other actions required under NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and any Federal environmental law with respect to one or more highway projects within the State, as well as one or more railroad, public transportation, and/or multimodal projects.¹ FRA is authorized to act on behalf of the Secretary with respect to these matters for railroad projects.

¹ The Secretary may not assign its responsibility for making any conformity determination required under section 176 of the Clean Air Act. Also not assignable is Government to Government consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The State of Ohio initially participated in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Program and in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 327, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FHWA for the FHWA NEPA Assignment Program in Ohio. The FHWA NEPA Assignment MOU between the State, acting through ODOT, and FHWA became effective December 11, 2015, was amended on June 6, 2018, and renewed on December 14, 2020. Since being accepted into the FHWA NEPA Assignment Program, the State has successfully completed four audits, eight self-assessments, and two monitoring events. FHWA has consistently publicly stated that the State continues to meet all requirements of the FHWA NEPA Assignment Program. The State will have participated in the Program for 11 years on December 11, 2026.

ODOT published its application to assume FRA's environmental review responsibilities for railroad projects ("FRA NEPA Assignment") on June 2, 2024, and made it available for public comment for 30 days. After considering public comments, ODOT submitted its application to FRA on July 22, 2024. The application served as the basis for developing an MOU that identifies the responsibilities and obligations that ODOT would assume. The FRA published a notice of the draft MOU in the **Federal Register** on September 9, 2024, with a 30-day comment period to solicit the views of the public and Federal agencies. After the close of the comment period, FRA and ODOT considered comments and proceeded to execute the MOU pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 (Section 327 MOU). Effective December 3, 2024, ODOT assumed FRA's responsibilities under NEPA, and the responsibilities for NEPA-related Federal environmental laws described in the Section 327 MOU.

Section 327(g) of Title 23, U.S.C., requires the Secretary to conduct annual audits during each of the first 4 years of State participation. After the fourth year, the Secretary shall monitor the State's compliance with the written agreement. The results of each audit must be made available for public comment. FRA is issuing this notice to advise the public that it has conducted the first-year audit of the State of Ohio, acting through ODOT. This notice announces the availability of the first draft audit report for ODOT's FRA NEPA Assignment Program and solicits public comment for a 30-day period in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 327(g). No later than 60 days after the close of the comment period, FRA will publish the final audit report in the **Federal Register**. FRA will consider the comments submitted on the draft audit report for ODOT's FRA NEPA Assignment Program.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 327; 42 U.S.C. 4331, 4332; 23 CFR part 773; and 49 CFR 264.101.

Marlys Ann Osterhues,

Director, Office of Environmental Program Management, Office of Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026-18986 Filed 9-15-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline And Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Hazardous Materials: Notice of Actions on Special Permits

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of actions on special permit applications.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, special permits from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Material Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has granted or denied the application described herein.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Record Center, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-addressed stamped postcard showing the special permit number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donald Burger, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Special Permits Program, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building, PHH-6, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4535.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the applications are available for inspection in the Records Center, East Building, PHH-6, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington DC.

This notice of receipt of applications for special permit is published in accordance with part 107 of the Federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5117(b); 49 CFR 1.53(b)).

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 4, 2026.

Donald P. Burger,

Director, Special Permits Program.

Application No.	Applicant	Regulation(s) affected	Nature of the special permits thereof
Special Permits Data—Granted			
11215-M	Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation.	172.300, 172.400, 172.500, 173.62, 175.75, 172.101(j)(1), 172.102(c), 172.200.	To modify the special permit to authorize additional departure and return airports.
14951-M	Hexagon Lincoln, LLC	173.301(f), 173.302(a)	To modify the special permit to authorize a new conversion rate and testing requirements.
20274-M	Ceva Air & Ocean International.	172.101(j), 172.300, 172.400, 173.301, 173.302a(a)(1), 173.304a(a)(2).	To modify the special permit to authorize additional hazardous materials and modes of transportation.
21999-M	City of Phoenix	172.101(j), 173.220(b)(4)(iii), 173.27(b)(3), 175.10(a)(22).	To modify the special permit to authorize additional hazardous materials.
22151-M	Zhejiang Rein Gas Equipment Co., Ltd..	178.71	To modify the special permit to authorize additional hazardous materials.
22159-N	Americase, LLC	173.185(b)(6)	To authorize the manufacture, mark, sale and use of UN specification 50B and 50A Large Packagings that are intended to contain multiple lithium ion batteries.