must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) in FRA's Docket Room, Room 7051 at 1120 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. The waiver petition is as follows.

Railroad Museum of New England/ Naugatuck Railroad (NAUG) FRA Waiver Petition Docket No. RSEQ–98–1

The NAUG seeks a waiver of compliance with Part 240 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, ''Qualifications for Locomotive Engineers'' (49 CFR Part 240). NAUG's petition states that in keeping with the Museum's educational mission, NAUG's *Engineer for an hour program* is designed to give participants the experience of operating a locomotive (under controlled conditions) and to learn how a diesel-electric locomotive works. Motive power would be drawn from the Museum's pool of three road switcher units, a 1950 Alco RS–3, a 1965 GE U25B and a 1957 EMD GP–9.

The operating zone would be between MP 12 and MP 16.3 on the Northern end of the Naugatuck Railroad. This section of the railroad contains no at grade crossings, no turnouts and no bridges. The regular Naugatuck excursion trains operate between MP 1 and MP 11, thus allowing a one mile separation between operating zones. The base of operations would be located at the East Litchfield station.

Participants will reserve a session in advance and must be 21 years or older. Additionally, the participant must provide a copy of a recent physical exam or a doctor's letter, sign a release of liability, wear appropriate footwear, clothing and eye protection and must, in the judgement of the Museum's representatives, be able to operate the locomotive safely.

Each participant will attend a one hour classroom session covering railroad safety and instruction on the basic theory of diesel electric locomotives and air brakes. Printed instructional material will be sent to each participant in advance. At all times, each participant will be under the supervision of Naugatuck Railroad's Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers.

The proposed dates for this program are various weekends and holidays between July 1 and November 30, 1998 and 1999.

Issued in Washington D.C. on June 2, 1998.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 98–15185 Filed 6–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waivers of Compliance

In accordance with 49 CFR Sections 211.9 and 211.41, notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of the Federal safety laws and regulations. The petition is described below, including the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Union Pacific Railroad Company

FRA Docket Number H–98–3

The Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) seeks a temporary waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Locomotive Safety Standards (49 CFR 229) for approximately 30 trains to be determined prior to commencement of the test. UP is seeking relief, for a six month test period, from the requirements of Section 229.21 that requires each locomotive in use to be inspected once each calendar day, and Section 229.9(b)(1), which provides that if a locomotive develops a non-complying condition enroute, it may continue to utilize its propelling motors only until the next calendar day inspection if the calendar day inspection is earlier than the nearest forward repair point.

Under the purposed waiver the UP would have mechanical department employees perform locomotive inspections prior to each trip, with the next inspection not being due until the locomotive reaches its final destination. If a locomotive develops a non-complying condition enroute and all provisions of 229.9 are otherwise met the locomotive may continue to the next point to where repairs can be made. Locomotives not receiving an inspection by mechanical department employees will continue to require a calendar day inspection.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written reviews, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number H–98–3,) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days from the publication of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) at FRA's temporary relocation 1120 Vermont Ave. NW, room 7051, Washington, DC 20005.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on June 3, 1998.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 98–15186 Filed 6–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0029]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This

notice solicits comments on the information needed from a private sector sales broker to submit an offer to VA on behalf of a prospective purchaser of a VA-acquired property.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before August 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0029'' in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273–5079 or FAX (202) 275–5146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13; 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. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Titles and Form Numbers

a. Offer to Purchase and Contract of Sale, VA For 26–6705.

b. Credit Statement of Prospective Purchaser, VA Form 26–6705b

c. Addendum to VA Form 26–6705 (Virginia), VA Form 26–6705d.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0029.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract:

a. VA Form 26–6705 is used by the private sector sales broker to submit an offer to the VA on behalf of a prospective purchaser of a VA-acquired property. The form will be prepared for each proposed contract submitted to the VA. If the VA accepts the offer to purchase, it then becomes a contract of sale. The form defines the terms of sale, provides the prospective purchaser with a receipt for his/her earnest money deposit, eliminates the need for separate transmittal of a purchase offer and develops the contract without such intermediate processing steps and furnishes evidence of the station decision with respect to the acceptance of the contract as tendered. Without this information, a determination of the best offer for a property cannot be made.

b. VA Form 26–6705b is used as a credit application to determine the creditworthiness of a prospective purchaser in those instances when the prospective purchaser seeks VA vendee financing, along with VA Form 26–6705. In such sales, the offer to purchase will not be accepted until the purchaser's income and credit history have been verified and a loan analysis has been completed, indicating loan approval. Without this information, the creditworthiness of a prospective purchaser cannot be determined and the offer to purchase cannot be accepted.

c. VA Form 26–6705d is an addendum to VA Form 26–6705 for use in Virginia. It includes requirements of State law which must be acknowledged by the purchaser at or prior to closing.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 57,917 hours.

a. VA Form 26–7605—35,000 hours.

b. VA Form 26–6705b—22,500 hours.

c. VA Form 26–6705d—417 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 20 minutes (average).

a. VA Form 26–7605—20 minutes.

b. VA Form 26–6705b—20 minutes.

c. VA Form 26–6705d—5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Generally one-time.

Estimated Number of Total Respondents: 172,500.

a. VA Form 26–7605—100,000.

b. VA Form 26–6705b—67,500.

c. VA Form 26–6705d—5,000.

Dated: March 31, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 98–15232 Filed 6–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–M