DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)/Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG)

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Synopsis of August 17, 2004 Meeting with VISA Participants.

The VISA program requires that a notice of the time, place, and nature of each JPAG meeting be published in the **Federal Register**. The program also requires that a list of VISA participants be periodically published in the **Federal Register**. The full text of the VISA program, including these requirements, is published in 68 FR 8800–8808, dated February 25, 2003.

On August 17, 2004, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command co-hosted a meeting of the VISA JPAG at Ft. Eustis, Virginia.

Meeting attendance was by invitation only, due to the nature of the information discussed and the need for a government-issued security clearance. Of the 57 U.S.-flag carrier corporate participants enrolled in the VISA program at the time of the meeting, 16 companies participated in the meeting. In addition, representatives from MARAD, the Department of Defense, and maritime labor attended the meeting.

LtGen Gary Hughey, opened the meeting with a welcome to all attendees. He was followed by BG Mark Scheid, who provided participants with an overview of the meeting. The JPAG meeting included updates on: (1) Threats to surface deployment and distribution operations; (2) operations overview; (3) liner operations and sustainment update; (4) merchant mariner availability; and (5) maritime industry issues.

As of August 17, 2004, the following commercial U.S.-flag vessel operators were enrolled in the VISA program with MARAD: AAA Shipping No. 1 L.L.C.; A Way to Move, Inc.; America Cargo Transport, Inc.; American Automar, Inc.; American International Car Carrier, Inc.; American President Lines, Ltd.; American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC; American Ship Management, L.L.C.; Bay Towing Corporation; Beyel Brothers Inc.; Central Gulf Lines, Inc.; Coastal Transportation, Inc.; Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC; CRC Marine Services, Inc.; Crowley Liner Services, Inc.; Crowley Marine Services, Inc.; Delta Towing; E-Ships, Inc.; Farrell Lines Incorporated; First American Bulk Carrier Corp.; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-I, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-II, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-III, LLC; Foss Maritime Company; Horizon Lines, LLC; Laborde Marine Lifts, Inc.; Laborde Marine, L.L.C.; Liberty Shipping Group Limited Partnership; Lockwood Brothers, Inc.; Lykes Lines Limited, LLC; Lynden Incorporated; Maersk Line, Limited; Matson Navigation Company, Inc.; Maybank Navigation Company, LLC; McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.; Moby Marine Corporation; Odyssea Shipping Line LLC; OSG Car Carriers, Inc.; Patriot Shipping, L.L.C.; RR & VO L.L.C.; Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.; Samson Tug & Barge Company, Inc.; Sea Star Line, LLC; SeaTac Marine Services, LLC; Sealift Inc.; Signet Maritime Corporation; STEA Corporation; Strong Vessel Operators LLC (SVO); Superior Marine Services, Inc.; TECO Ocean Shipping; Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.; Trailer Bridge, Inc.; TransAtlantic Lines LLC; Troika International, Ltd.; U.S. Ship Management, Inc.; Waterman Steamship Corporation; and Weeks Marine, Inc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Taylor E. Jones II, Director, Office of Sealift Support, (202) 366–2323.

Dated: August 25, 2004.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04–19721 Filed 8–27–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB–33 (Sub–No. 221X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Santa Clara County, CA

On August 10, 2004, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon and discontinue service over a portion of the line, known as the San Jose Industrial Lead, extending from milepost 16.3 to milepost 19.6, for a distance of 3.3 miles, in Santa Clara County, CA.[1] The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 95112, 95116, and 95122, and it includes the station of San Jose.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in UP's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by November 26, 2004.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each OFA must be accompanied by a $1,100 filing fee. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than September 20, 2004. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a $200 filing fee. *See* 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB–33 (Sub-No. 221X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001; and (2) Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606. Replies to the petition are due on or before September 20, 2004.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565–1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565–1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings

[1] The portion of the line from milepost 16.30 to milepost 17.49 is owned by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. UP is proposing to discontinue its trackage rights and abandon its freight easement over this segment. The portion of the line from milepost 17.49 to milepost 19.60 is owned and operated by UP. UP is proposing to abandon this segment.

normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at *http://www.stb.dot.gov*.

Decided: August 24, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04–19695 Filed 8–27–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Notice of Meeting; Sunshine Act

AGENCY: Institute of Peace.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, September 17, 2004. 9:15 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 1200 17th Street, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036–3011.

STATUS: Open Session—Portions may be closed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, as provided in subsection 1706(h)(3) of the United States Institute of Peace Act, Public Law 98–525.

AGENDA: September 2004 Board Meeting; Approval of Minutes of the One Hundred Fifteenth Meeting (June 16–18, 2004) of the Board of Directors; Chairman's Report; President's Report; Committee Reports; Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006 Budget Review; Organizational Review; Approval of 2004 Unsolicited and Solicited Grant; Other General Issues.

CONTACT: Tessie Higgs, Executive Office, Telephone: (202) 429–3836.

Dated: August 18, 2004.

Harriet Hentges,

Executive Vice President, United States Institute of Peace.

[FR Doc. 04–19876 Filed 8–26–04; 3:12 pm]

BILLING CODE 6820–AR–M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0003]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 29, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273–8030, FAX (202) 273–5981 or e-mail *denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov.* Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0003.'' Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395–7316. Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0003'' in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Burial Benefits (Under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 23), VA Form 21–530.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0003.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21–530 is used to apply for burial benefits, including transportation. The information is used to determine if a deceased veteran had appropriate service and/or disability and that the claimant has made payment for burial or has contracted to make appropriate payment.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on June 15, 2004, at page 33465.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, Businesses or other for profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 100,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300,000.

Dated: August 17, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Loise Russell,

Director, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 04–19682 Filed 8–27–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0212]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 29, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273–8030, FAX (202) 273–5981 or e-mail *denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov.* Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0212.'' Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395–7316. Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0212'' in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance Statement, VA Form 29–8636.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0212.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 29–8636 is completed by veterans to decline Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) or to provide information upon which the insurance premium can be based. VMIL provides financial protection to cover an eligible veteran's outstanding home mortgage in the event of his or her death. The insurance is available only to disabled veterans who, because of their disability, have