Abandonment—Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on December 25, 1996, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,[1] formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),[2] and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29[3] must be filed by December 5, 1996. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by December 16, 1996, with: Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to applicant's representative: James R. Paschall, General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio.*

NW has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by November 29, 1996. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 3219, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser, Chief of SEA, at (202) 927–6248. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Decided: November 18, 1996.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–30006 Filed 11–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

[1] The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. *See Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines,* 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

[2] *See Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.,* 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

[3] The Board will accept late-filed trail use requests as long as the abandonment has not been consummated and the abandoning railroad is willing to negotiate an agreement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

International Trade Data System Project Office; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3505(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the International Trade Data System Project Office within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the North American Trade Automation Prototype (NATAP).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 31, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to The Department of the Treasury, International Trade Data Systems Project Office, Attn.: William Nolle, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, ICC–3130, Washington, DC 20229, Telephone (202) 927–1826.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the instructions should be directed to The Department of the Treasury, International Trade Data Systems Project Office, Attn.: William Nolle, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, ICC–3130, Washington, DC 20229, Telephone (202) 927–1826. Information concerning NATAP can also be obtained at the following Web Site: www.itds.treas.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: North American Trade Automation Prototype (NATAP)

OMB Number: 1501–0162

Abstract: After extensive consultation with the trade community in the three countries, the NAFTA Information Exchange and Automation Working Group developed the North American Trade Automation Prototype (NATAP). NATAP is a prototype developed by the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to experiment with standardized data, advanced automation, technologies, communications, and encryption designed to reduce costs and improve trade among the three NAFTA countries. This is mandated by Article 512 of the NAFTA. NATAP has been endorsed by the three governments and their trade communities as a limited six month test to be conducted at two US/Canada and four US/Mexico border locations. After the six month prototype, NATAP will stop; the governments and trade community will conduct joint and individual evaluations of the concepts experienced in NATAP and will determine the next steps in the development of improved North American trade processes.

In addition to the international aspects of North American trade, the intent of the U.S. Treasury, International Trade Data System Project Office is to demonstrate the integration of individual U.S. federal agency trade procedures into a comprehensive international trade process that includes the clearance and admissibility of goods, drivers/crew, and conveyances for purposes of enforcement, revenue, health and safety, etc.

Current Actions: The three governments have agreed to a six month test for NATAP. However, given the nature of NATAP and the extensive coordination of activities among the participating federal trade agencies in three separate countries and the installation of technology at all locations, involving federal, state/provincial, local, and private interests the Working Group and the trade community have agreed that the six month prototype period will begin for all six locations after NATAP becomes operational at the last location. While NATAP may be operational at the first location on November 1, 1996, the last location may not be operational until March 1, 1997. Accordingly, the official prototype period would not begin until March 1, 1997. Due to these unforseen and unpredictable delays, the Department of Treasury is requesting that this clearance be effective until December 21, 1997.

Volunteers have agreed to participate in NATAP in order to provide traders with the opportunity to experiment with these advanced technologies and procedures with minimal expense. Through their evaluation of NATAP, they will have input into future trade processes and requirements.

Type of Review: Extension.

Affected Public: Importers, exporters, customs house brokers, carriers (truck and rail) who have volunteered to participate in NATAP.

Estimated Number of Respondents: There are approximately 120 U.S. participants. Estimated number of respondents is 120.

Estimated Time per Respondents: Each response will not exceed 7 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,300 hours.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or include in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Comments are invited on: (a) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information and the prototype will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of this information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; (e) estimates of capital start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: November 19, 1996.

William L. Nolle,

International Trade Analyst.

[FR Doc. 96–30014 Filed 11–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810–25–M

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

November 15, 1996.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

Special Request: In order to conduct the focus group interviews described below during the mid-December 1996 to early-January 1997 timeframe, the Department of Treasury is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approve this information collection by November 27, 1996. To obtain a copy of this survey, please contact the IRS Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545–1432.
Project Number: PC:V 96–022.
Type of Review: Revision.
Title: Opinion Research Group, Strategic Planning Division Refund Focus Group.

Description: The objective of these focus group interviews is to gather feedback from taxpayers on their expectations regarding refunds and the refund process. The groups will also solicit information regarding taxpayer perceptions of how long it should take to receive a refund and when during the process taxpayers decide to call IRS to inquire about the status of their refunds. This information will be used to help IRS design a plan on how to communicate the refund process with taxpayers.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 54

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent:

Screening interviews—5 minutes
Focus group interviews—2 hours
Travel to site—1 hour

Frequency of Response: Other.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 195 hours.

Clearance Officer: Garrick Shear, (202) 622–3869, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395–7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Departmental Reports Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96–30015 Filed 11–22–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–01–P

[Treasury Directive 27–04]

Organization and Functions of the Office of the Under Secretary (International Affairs)

November 17, 1996.

1. *Purpose.* This Directive describes the organization and functions of the Office of the Under Secretary (International Affairs).

2. *The Under Secretary (International Affairs)* advises and assists the Secretary and Deputy Secretary in the formulation and execution of U.S. international policy. These responsibilities include the development of policies and guidance of the Department's activities in the areas of international financial, economic and monetary affairs, trade and investment policy, international debt, environmental and energy policy, and U.S. participation in international financial institutions. The Under Secretary helps coordinate United States economic policies with finance ministries of the other G–7 industrial nations (France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, and Italy) and participates in preparing the President for annual G–7 economic summits. Reporting to the Under Secretary is the Assistant Secretary, including all of the functions of that office.

3. *The Assistant Secretary (International Affairs)* reports to the Secretary through the Under Secretary (International Affairs) and the Deputy Secretary. The incumbent is a principal adviser to the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Under Secretary (International Affairs) in their exercise of international financial, economic, monetary, trade, investment, environmental and energy policies and programs.

4. *Organization Structure.* The Assistant Secretary (International Affairs) supervises the Office of Program Services, the Counselor for Middle East Affairs, and six Deputy Assistant Secretaries: International Monetary and Financial Policy; Asia, the Americas and Africa; International Development, Debt and Environmental Policy; Trade and Investment Policy; Eurasia and the Middle East; and Technical Assistance Policy. The functions and responsibilities of the Deputy Assistant Secretaries are defined by the Assistant Secretary. The Deputy Assistant Secretaries serve under the policy guidance of the Assistant Secretary. Each Deputy Assistant Secretary supervises a number of offices managed by Directors. See the attached organization chart.

5. *The Deputy Assistant Secretary (International Monetary and Financial Policy)* supervises: the Office of International Banking and Securities Markets; the Office of International Monetary Policy; the Office of Foreign Exchange Operations; and the Office of Industrial Nations and Global Analyses. The incumbent serves as a policy adviser to the Assistant Secretary (International Affairs) and is responsible for the following functions.

a. Formulates and implements Treasury policies concerning:

(1) maintenance and operation of a smoothly functioning international monetary system;

(2) coordination of economic policy among industrial nations through bilateral relationships, the Economic