

4. Set strategic priorities within and between each cluster;

5. Select projects (research, field operational tests, targeted model deployments) to reduce the unknowns within each cluster, meet the goals, objectives and strategic priorities, and stay within budget allocations for each fiscal year; and

6. Evaluate progress and update both the Strategic Plan and Program Plan during each budget cycle (Performance Feed Forward).

(23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48)

Issued on: March 7, 1997.

Jane F. Garvey,

Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-6738 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB-433X]

Idaho Northern & Pacific Railroad Company; Abandonment Exemption in Wallowa and Union Counties, OR

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board—DOT.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (the ICCTA), which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and transferred certain functions and proceedings to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). Section 204(b)(1) of the ICCTA provides, in general, that proceedings pending before the ICC on the effective date of that legislation shall be decided under the law in effect prior to January 1, 1996, insofar as they involve functions retained by the ICCTA. This decision relates to a proceeding that was pending with the ICC prior to January 1, 1996, and to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10903. Therefore, this decision applies the law in effect prior to the ICCTA, and citations are to the former sections of the statute, unless otherwise indicated. The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10505 exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903-04, the abandonment by Idaho Northern & Pacific Railroad Company of a 60.58-mile portion of its Joseph Branch line, in Wallowa and Union Counties, OR, subject to standard labor protective conditions and environmental conditions.

DATES: Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective April 17, 1997. Formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2) must be filed by March 28, 1997; petitions to stay must be filed April 2, 1997; requests for a public use condition in conformity with 49 CFR 1152.28(a)(2) must be filed by April 7, 1997; and petitions to reopen must be filed by April 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to Docket No. AB-433X must be filed with: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioner's representative: Robert A. Wimbish, 1920 N Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beryl Gordon, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., 1925 K Street, NW., Suite 210, Washington, DC 20006 [Telephone: (202) 289-4357]. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

Decided: March 12, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-6741 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission to OMB for Review; Comment Request

March 10, 1997.

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.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-1380.

Regulation ID Number: IA-17-90 (Final).

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Reporting Requirements for Recipients of Points Paid on Residential Mortgages.

Description: To encourage compliance with the tax laws relating to the mortgage interest deduction, the regulations require the reporting on Form 1098 of points paid on residential mortgages. Only businesses that receive mortgage interest in the course of a trade or business are affected by this reporting requirement.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 37,644.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 7 hours, 31 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 283,056 hours.

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

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dale A. Morgan,

Departmental Reports Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-6791 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

[Docket No. 97-01]

Preemption Determination

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury.

ACTION: Reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is reopening the public comment period on the OCC's notice and request for comment regarding a request it has received for a preemption determination regarding certain provisions of the Rhode Island Financial Institution Insurance Sales Act.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Communications Division, 250 E Street, SW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20219. Attention Docket No. 97-01. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to FAX number

(202) 874-5274 or by Internet mail to REGS.COMMENTS@OCC.TREAS.GOV. Comments will be available for inspection and photocopying at the E Street, SW, location. Appointments for inspection of comments can be made by calling (202) 874-4700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzette Greco, Senior Attorney, Securities and Corporate Practices Division, (202) 874-5210 or Stuart Feldstein, Assistant Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, (202) 874-5090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OCC has been asked to determine whether certain provisions of the Rhode Island Financial Institution Insurance Sales Act (FIISA), pertaining to sales of insurance by financial institutions, are preempted by provisions of Federal law. On January 14, 1997, the OCC sought comment on this request by notice published in the Federal Register (62 FR 1950). The deadline for submission of comments was February 13, 1997.

As the Federal Register notice and request for comment indicated, the Rhode Island law imposes a number of requirements upon financial institutions engaged in the solicitation and sale of insurance that differ from the requirements that apply to other insurance agents and agencies. The request for a preemption determination contends that these special requirements prevent or significantly interfere with the ability of a national bank to exercise its authority under 12 U.S.C. 92. *See Barnett Bank of Marion County, N.A. v. Bill Nelson, Florida Insurance Commissioner, et al.*, 116 S.Ct. 1103, 1109 (1996) (stating that state laws are applicable to national banks provided they do not "prevent or significantly interfere" with national banks' exercise of their powers).

Section 92 authorizes a national bank "located and doing business in any place the population of which does not exceed five thousand * * * [to] act as the agent for any fire, life, or other insurance company," to "solicit[] and sell[] insurance," to "collec[t] premiums," and to "receive for services so rendered * * * fees or commissions," subject to rules and regulations prescribed by the Comptroller of the Currency. The FIISA special requirements include a provision prohibiting banks from requiring or implying that the purchase of insurance products from a bank is related to receiving another banking product or service, a provision restricting where a bank's licensed agent can solicit the sale of insurance, a provision prohibiting certain bank

employees from soliciting and selling insurance, a provision requiring separate applications for loans and insurance, and a provision limiting the ability of a bank to use its customer information to solicit and sell insurance.

The OCC is reopening the comment period until May 15, 1997, to allow interested parties the opportunity to consider the effect, if any, of a pending Rhode Island regulation that would implement the FIISA. On December 13, 1996, the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR), Insurance Division, published notice of its proposal to promulgate Regulation 90, a rule that would apply to the sale of insurance by financial institutions in Rhode Island. Copies of the proposed regulation are on file at the DBR. Subsequently, on February 10, 1997, the DBR held a public hearing on proposed Regulation 90. The DBR has stated that it intends to file Regulation 90, as amended to reflect any changes from the proposed rule, with the Rhode Island Secretary of State in early April, 1997. The final regulation is expected to take effect in mid-1997.

In addition, the comments received to date on this matter raise certain points on which additional information would be helpful to the OCC. Specifically, the OCC invites commenters to address the following issues:

1. How would national banks have to change the way they conduct their insurance sales activities to conform to the provisions of the FIISA that are described in the January 14, 1997 Federal Register notice? Commenters should address with specificity any business or operational adjustments, and associated costs, involved in conforming their operations to the FIISA provisions.

2. The FIISA contains certain requirements intended to address the potential for customer confusion with regard to bank sales of insurance. What other approaches, including other formal mechanisms, are available to ensure that consumers are adequately protected?

3. Would any of the provisions of the FIISA described in the OCC's previous notice disproportionately impact community banks with respect to personnel or other costs?

4. To what extent would any of the FIISA provisions impact the ability of banks to use streamlined physical facilities which employ fewer staff and rely on technology to a greater extent than a traditional branch? To the extent there was any impact, how would customer convenience be affected? Would any of the provisions have a detrimental affect on convenient

availability of a full line of products to customers?

5. Banks operating in low-income areas increasingly are seeking to develop more efficient, low-overhead facilities and delivery systems when providing products and services in these areas. Would compliance with any provisions of the FIISA result in operating costs and burdens that would deter banks from providing insurance in low-income areas and thereby lessen access to a full line of financial products and services in low-income communities?

6. What effect do recent amendments to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*, have on the FIISA provisions limiting the ability of a bank to use its customer information to solicit and sell insurance? The OCC welcomes comments on these issues and on any aspect of the FIISA on which the OCC has been asked to consider preemption.

Dated: March 11, 1997.

Eugene A. Ludwig,

Comptroller of the Currency.

[FR Doc. 97-6708 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-33-P

Customs Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Certificate of Registration

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, Customs invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on an information collection requirement concerning the Certificate of Registration. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3505(c)(2)).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 19, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to U.S. Customs Service, Information Services Group, Room 6216, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to U.S. Customs Service, Attn.: J. Edgar Nichols, Room 6216, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20229, Tel. (202) 927-1426.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Customs invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on