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Dated: January 30, 1998.

Nicholas E. Tagliareni,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-2905 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2719]

Delegation of Duties, Functions and Responsibilities Vested in the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

1. General Delegation

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Secretary of State, including Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. Section 2651a), I hereby delegate the duties, functions and responsibilities now or hereafter vested in the Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Ocean and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

2. Technical Provisions

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this delegation, the Secretary of State, or the Deputy Secretary of State, or an Under Secretary of State at any time may exercise any function delegated by this delegation.

(b) The duties, functions, and responsibilities delegated may be redelegated to another Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

(c) This delegation shall not include duties, functions, and responsibilities required by law to be exercised by higher authority than the delegate.

(d) This delegation does not repeal previous delegations to the Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

(e) This delegation shall terminate and cease to be effective upon the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs that takes place after the effective date of this delegation.

Dated: January 8, 1998.

Madeleine K. Albright,

Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 98-2961 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published in FR 62 63214, November 26, 1997.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 9, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter Lockland, Chief, Division of Operations Support, Office of Ship Operations, Maritime Administration, MAR-613, Room 2123, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366-5735 or fax (202) 366-3954. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Maritime Administration, DOT

Title: Position Reporting System for Vessels.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0025.

Form Number: CG-4796-A (MA) (Rev. 8-88).

Affected Public: U.S.-flag and U.S. citizen-owned vessels which are required to respond under current statute and regulation.

Abstract: This collection is used to gather information regarding the location of U.S.-flag and certain other U.S. citizen-owned vessels for the purpose of Search and Rescue in the saving of lives at sea; and for the marshaling of ships for national defense and safety purposes. This collection consists of vessels that transmit their positions electronically via radio message, and from this, location data is read into a database and is accessed only by the U.S. Coast Guard and

MARAD to determine the location of a particular ship.

Need and Use of the Information: The collection is necessary for maintaining a current plot of U.S.-flag and U.S.-owned vessels in order to facilitate immediate marshaling of ships for national defense purposes, and for the purpose of maintaining a current plot for Search and Rescue purposes for safety of life at sea.

Annual Burden: 3,328 hours.

Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning this collection of information between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives within 30 days of publication.

Specifically, address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 30, 1998.

Phillip A. Leach,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 98-3084 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE-97-67]

Petitions for Exemption; Summary of Petitions Received; Dispositions of Petitions Issued

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of petitions for exemption received and of dispositions of prior petitions.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to FAA's rulemaking provisions governing the application, processing, and disposition of petitions for exemption (14 CFR part 11), this notice contains a summary of certain petitions seeking relief from specified requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Ch. I), dispositions of certain petitions previously received, and corrections. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's

awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of any petition or its final disposition.

DATES: Comments on petitions received must identify the petition docket number involved and must be received on or before February 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on any petition in triplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Attn: Rule Docket (AGC-200), Petition Docket No. _____, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591.

Comments may also be sent electronically to the following internet address: 9-NPRM-CMTS@faa.dot.gov.

The petition, any comments received, and a copy of any final disposition are filed in the assigned regulatory docket and are available for examination in the Rules Docket (AGC-200), Room 915G, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB 10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3132.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tawana Matthews, (202) 267-9783, or Angela Anderson, (202) 267-9681, Office of Rulemaking (ARM-1), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to paragraphs (c), (e), and (g) of § 11.27 of part 11 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 11).

Issued in Washington, DC., on February 2, 1998.

Donald P. Byrne,

Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations.

Petitions for Exemption

Docket No.: 29110

Petitioner: Era Aviation, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 121.356(b)

Description of Relief Sought: To permit the petitioner to operate its Douglas DC-3 aircraft under 14 CFR part 121 without those aircraft being equipped an approved Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System.

[FR Doc. 98-2999 Filed 2- 5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief from the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 235 and 49 U.S.C. App. 26, the following railroads have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR Part 236 as detailed below.

Block Signal Application (BS-AP)—No. 3454

Applicant: Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, Mr. William G. Peterson, Director Signal Engineering, 4515 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66106.

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway seeks approval of the proposed reduction of the traffic control system limits, on Main Track No. 2, at North Tennessee Yard, near Memphis, Tennessee, on the Thayer Subdivision, Southeastern Division, consisting of the relocation of Signal 180R and the associated Begin and End CTC limits, from milepost 494.6 to milepost 492.9.

The reason given for the proposed changes is that the planned installation of a new run through track (Third Quarter 1998), will allow straight through movements for the majority of freight trains on Main Track No. 1, and will eliminate unnecessary delays for the switch engine assignments that works customers on Main Track No. 2 between North Tennessee Yard and milepost 492.9.

BS-AP-No. 3455

Applicant: Union Pacific Railroad Company, Mr. P.M. Abaray, Chief Engineer—Signals 1416 Dodge Street, Room 1000, Omaha, Nebraska 68179-1000.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company seeks approval of the proposed modification of the traffic control system, on the two main tracks, mileposts 566.7 and 566.8, near Laramie, Wyoming, Laramie Subdivision, consisting of the discontinuance and removal of Signal 566.7 on Track No. 1 and Signal 566.8 on Track No. 2.

The reason given for the proposed changes is that the signals are no longer required and train operations will be improved by the increased signal spacing.

BS-AP-No. 3456

Applicant: Union Pacific Railroad Company, Mr. P.M. Abaray, Chief Engineer—Signals

1416 Dodge Street, Room 1000, Omaha, Nebraska 68179-1000.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company seeks approval of the proposed discontinuance and removal of the rail locks and associated power-operated switch machines, on the Rock Street Industrial Lead track, Junction Bridge, milepost 345.0, near Little Rock, Arkansas.

The reason given for the proposed changes is to modernize the operation of the Junction Bridge.

BS-AP-No. 3457

Applicant: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, Mr. John LaForce, P.E., Deputy Chief Engineer, Operations, 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3780.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) seeks approval of the proposed modification of Chestnut Hill West Interlocking, milepost 6.6, on the Chestnut Hill West Line, in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, consisting of the conversion of Chestnut Hill West Interlocking from manual control to automatic operation. The proposed conversion includes the retirement of the manually controlled electro-mechanical interlocking machine for directing train movements; installation of vital microprocessor technology and revision of interlocking control logic to provide for the automatic routing of train movements; installation of a local control panel for manual manipulation in a central instrument housing; and revision of interlocking control logic to provide for existing split point derrails and respective home signals to be operated by push button panels, to be located adjacent to the engineer's cab of a train ready for departure from the Chestnut Hill West Terminal, on each respective track.

The reason given for the proposed changes is to retire obsolete facilities no longer required for present operation thereby reducing costs associated operating the system.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, and contain a concise statement of the interest of the protestant in the proceeding. The original and two copies of the protest shall be filed with the Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 25, Washington, D.C. 20590 within 45 calendar days of the date of publication of this notice. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.