

(Sub-No. 2X) and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and (2) Gary Laakso, Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc., 301 Yamato Road, Suite 1190, Boca Raton, FL 33431.

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) 565-1545. [TDD for the hearing impaired is available at (202) 565-1695.]

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 normally will be 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.

Decided: August 8, 1997.

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

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-21824 Filed 8-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In order to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 concerning new information collection requirements, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN") is soliciting comments concerning a proposed new Treasury Form TD F 90-22.49, Suspicious Activity Report by Casinos ("SARC"), which will be used by Nevada casinos, effective October 1, 1997, to file with FinCEN reports of potentially suspicious transactions and activities that may occur by, at, or through a Nevada casino.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Office of Program Development, Attn.: SARC Comments, Suite 200, 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22182-2536. Comments may also be submitted by Internet e-mail to RegComments@fincen.treas.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or for a copy of the draft form should be directed to Leonard Senia, Senior Financial Enforcement Officer, Office of Program Development, (703) 905-3931, or by inquiry to the Internet e-mail address shown above. A copy of the draft SARC form can be obtained through the Internet at <http://www.ustreas.gov/treasury/bureaus/fincen>. Once the SARC form is issued as a final form, a copy of it, as well as all forms required by the Bank Secrecy Act, can be obtained through the Internet at <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms-pubs/forms.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act (commonly known as the Bank Secrecy Act) Titles I and II of Pub. L. 91-508, as amended, codified at 12 U.S.C. 1829b, 12 U.S.C. 1951-1959, and 31 U.S.C. 5311-5314, 5316-5326, 5328-5330, specifically authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, *inter alia*, to issue regulations that require domestic financial institutions to report suspicious transactions. See 31 U.S.C. 5318(g). The authority of the Secretary to administer the Bank Secrecy Act ("BSA") regulations has been delegated to the Director of FinCEN.

The BSA defines financial institutions to include casinos. See 31 U.S.C. 5312(a)(2)(X) and 31 CFR 103.11(n)(7)(i). Nevada Gaming Commission Regulation 6A, Section 100, requires Nevada casinos to report suspicious transactions to FinCEN as part of its continuing responsibilities pursuant to a May 1985 cooperative agreement between the State of Nevada and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. That agreement obligates Nevada to implement a state casino regulatory system which substantially meets federal regulatory requirements designed to address money laundering and other financial crimes which may occur at casinos.

FinCEN is proposing a new information collection requirement pertaining to the reporting of suspicious transactions to permit a federal form to be used to satisfy Nevada Regulation 6A. Under the new requirement, contained in Section 100 of that Regulation, which will become effective on October 1, 1997, Nevada casinos

must file their reports of suspicious transactions with FinCEN, using the SARC form, and its accompanying instructions.

The information collection requirement contained in this notice supports one of the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act ("PRA") of 1995 which is to "strengthen the partnership between the Federal Government and State, local, and tribal governments by minimizing the burden and maximizing the utility of information created, collected, maintained, used, disseminated, and retained by or for the Federal Government" (see 44 U.S.C. 3501(6)). This goal is accomplished, in part, through the creation of a single reporting form for suspicious casino transactions and activities—Treasury Form TD F 90-22.49 (SARC).

As previously mentioned, Nevada casino licensees must use the SARC in satisfying the new suspicious activity reporting requirement contained in Nevada State Regulation 6A, Section 100. FinCEN intends to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking, sometime in 1997, that would require non-Nevada casinos or card clubs subject to the requirements of the BSA and its implementing regulations to report suspicious activity. Until such a rule is published as a *final* rule in the **Federal Register** and takes effect, casinos and card clubs in jurisdictions other than Nevada are encouraged to file the SARC form to report suspicious activity. Once FinCEN has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking on suspicious transaction reporting by casinos, it will prepare a subsequent PRA notice to permit persons in other jurisdictions to comment on a SARC. FinCEN anticipates the form will be modified slightly to accommodate the nationwide extension of suspicious activity reporting to casinos and card clubs.

Reports filed by Nevada casinos and any reports filed voluntarily by other casinos and card clubs will be fully subject to the protection from liability contained in 31 U.S.C. 5318(g)(3) and the provision contained in 31 U.S.C. 5318(g)(2) which prohibits notification of any person involved in the transaction that a suspicious activity report has been filed.

Information collected on the SARC will be made available, in accordance with strict safeguards, to appropriate criminal law enforcement and regulatory personnel for use in the official performance of their duties. The information collected is used for regulatory purposes and in investigations and proceedings involving international and domestic

money laundering, tax violations, fraud, and other financial crimes.

FinCEN has requested that a different OMB Control Number be assigned for this collection requirement than the OMB Control Number assigned for Treasury Form TD F 90-22.47, Suspicious Activity Report, which is applicable to banks and other depository institutions. This will facilitate FinCEN's oversight over its BSA information collection requirements by obtaining a unique OMB Control Number for each specific form.

In accordance with requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, the following information concerning the collection of information on Treasury Form TD F 90-22.49, is presented to assist those persons wishing to comment on the information collection.

Title: Suspicious Activity Report by Casinos ("SARC").

Form Number: Treasury Form TD F 90-22.49.

OMB Number: To be assigned.

Description of Respondents: Initially, all Nevada casinos, with gross annual gaming revenue in excess of \$10 million and having an annual table games statistical win in excess of \$2 million.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 94.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 1,700.

Frequency: As required.

Estimate of Burden: Reporting average of 31 minutes per response; recordkeeping average of 5 minutes per response. No regulatory burden is imposed by federal regulation in this case because state regulation imposes the regulatory burden.

Estimate of Total Annual Burden on Respondents: Reporting burden estimate = 878 hours; recordkeeping burden estimate = 142 hours. Estimated combined total of 1,020 hours.

Estimate of Total Annual Cost to Respondents for Hour Burdens: Based on \$20 per hour, the total cost to the public is estimated to be \$20,400.

Estimate of Total Other Annual Costs to Respondents: None.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Request for Comments

FinCEN specifically invites comments on the following subjects: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the mission of FinCEN, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of

FinCEN's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

In addition, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires agencies to estimate the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. Thus, FinCEN also specifically requests comments to assist with this estimate. In this connection, FinCEN requests commenters to identify any additional costs associated with the completion of the form. These comments on costs should be divided into two parts: (1) Any additional costs associated with reporting; and (2) any additional costs associated with recordkeeping.

Responses to the questions posed by this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 12, 1997.

Stanley E. Morris,

Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

[FR Doc. 97-21815 Filed 8-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[IA-56-87 and IA-53-87]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, IA-56-87 and IA-53-87 (TD 8416), Minimum Tax—Tax Benefit Rule (§§ 1.58-9(c)(5)(iii)(B), and 1.58-9(e)(3)).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before October 17, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Minimum Tax—Tax Benefit Rule.

OMB Number: 1545-1093.

Regulation Project Number: IA-56-87 and IA-53-87.

Abstract: Section 58(h) of the Internal Revenue Code provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations that adjust tax preference items where such items provided no tax benefit for any taxable year. This regulation provides guidance for situations where tax preference items did not result in a tax benefit because of available credits and describes how to claim a credit or refund of minimum tax paid on such preferences.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 12 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 40.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper