

## 13. Environmental Justice

The EIS will:

a. Describe demographics in the project area and the immediate vicinity of the proposed new construction, including communities potentially impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed new rail line.

b. Evaluate whether proposed new rail line construction or operation would have a disproportionately high and adverse impact on minority or low-income groups.

c. Propose mitigative measures to minimize or eliminate potential project impacts on environmental justice communities, as appropriate.

## 14. Cumulative Impacts

The EIS will address the cumulative impacts on the environment that may result from the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or individuals undertake such actions.

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief,  
Section of Environmental Analysis.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-31718 Filed 12-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Agency Information Collection;  
Activity Under OMB Review; Report of  
Passengers Denied Confirmed  
Space—BTS Form 251**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation  
Statistics (BTS), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (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 extension of currently approved collections. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on September 22, 2003 (68 FR 55085-55086).

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by January 23, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline  
Information, K-14, Room 4125, Bureau

of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone Number (202) 366-4387, Fax Number (202) 366-3383, or e-mail [bernard.stankus@bts.gov](mailto:bernard.stankus@bts.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)**

*Title:* Report of Passengers Denied Confirmed Space.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2138-0018.

*Forms:* BTS Form 251.

*Affected Public:* U.S. and foreign air carriers that provide scheduled passenger service with aircraft having over 60 seats.

*Abstract:* BTS Form 251 is a one-page report on the number of passengers denied boarding voluntarily and involuntarily, whether the bumped passengers were provided alternate transportation and/or compensation, and the amount of the payment. U.S. and foreign air carriers that operate scheduled passenger service with large aircraft (over 60 seats) must submit Form 251. However, carriers do not report data from inbound international flights because the protections of Part 250 *Oversales* do not apply to these flights. The report allows the Department to monitor the effectiveness of its oversales rule and take enforcement action when necessary. The involuntary denied-boarding rate has decreased over the years from 4.38 per 10,000 passengers in 1980 to 0.89 for the nine months ended September 2003. The improvement has been made in a period when load factors and passenger enplanements have risen. These statistics demonstrate the effectiveness of the "volunteer provision." The publishing of the air carriers' individual denied boarding rates has negated the need for more intrusive regulation. The rate of denied boarding can be examined as a continuing fitness factor. This rate provides an insight into a carrier's policy of treating passengers and its compliance disposition. A rapid sustained increase in the rate of denied boarding often is an indicator of operational difficulty. Because the rate of denied boarding is released quarterly, travelers and travel agents can select carriers with low bumping incidents when booking a trip. This information is made available to the public in the *Air Travel Consumer Report* and on the Web at <http://www.dot.gov/airconsumer>. The *Air Travel Consumer Report* is also sent to newspapers, magazines, and trade journals. Without Form 251, determining the effectiveness

of the Department's oversales rule, would be impossible.

*Estimated Annual Burden Hours:*  
2,200 hours.

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

Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department concerning consumer protection. Comments should address whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note), requires a statistical agency to clearly identify information it collects for non-statistical purposes. BTS hereby notifies the respondents and the public that BTS uses the information it collects under this OMB approval for non-statistical purposes including, but not limited to, publication of both respondent's identity and its data, submission of the information to agencies outside BTS for review, analysis and possible use in regulatory and other administrative matters.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 17, 2003.

**Donald W. Bright,**

*Assistant Director, Office of Airline  
Information.*

[FR Doc. 03-31727 Filed 12-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

## Internal Revenue Service

**Open Meeting of the Area 6 Taxpayer  
Advocacy Panel (Including the States  
of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii,  
Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada,  
Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming)**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS),  
Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** An open meeting of the Area 6 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) is

soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service. The TAP will use citizen input to make recommendations to the Internal Revenue Service.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Thursday, January 15, 2004

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Judi Nicholas at 1-888-912-1227, or 206-220-6096.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Area 6 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be held Thursday, January 15, 2004, from 2 p.m. Pacific time to 4 p.m. Pacific time via a telephone conference call. The public is invited to make oral comments. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes. If you would like to have the TAP consider a written statement, please call 1-888-912-1227 or 206-220-6096, or write to Judi Nicholas, TAP Office, 915 2nd Avenue, MS W-406, Seattle, WA 98174. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate in the telephone conference call meeting must be made with Judi Nicholas. Ms. Nicholas can be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or 206-220-6096.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

**Bernard Coston,**

*Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.*

[FR Doc. 03-31691 Filed 12-23-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0358]

### 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. 3501-21), 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 and

includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before January 23, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION 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](mailto:denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0358."

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. 2900-0358" in any correspondence.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Supplemental Information for Change of Program or Reenrollment After Unsatisfactory Attendance, Conduct or Progress, VA Form 22-8873.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Veterans and other eligible persons may change their program of education under conditions prescribed by Title 38 U.S.C., Section 3691. A claimant can normally make one change of program without VA approval. If that claimant makes any additional change of program, VA approval is required. Before VA may approve benefits for a second or subsequent change of program, VA must first determine that the new program is suitable to the claimant's aptitudes, interests, and abilities, or that the cause of any unsatisfactory progress or conduct has been resolved before entering into a different program. VA Form 22-8873 is used to gather the necessary information only if the suitability of the proposed training program cannot be established from information already available in the claimant's VA education records or the results of academic or vocational counseling are not available to VA.

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 October 14, 2003, at page 59244-59245.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 9,150 hours.  
**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 30 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.  
**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 18,300.

Dated: December 8, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Jacqueline Parks,**

*IT Specialist, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-31621 Filed 12-23-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0646]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-21), this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), 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 and includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before January 23, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION 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 to: [denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov](mailto:denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0646."

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. 2900-0646" in any correspondence.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Medication Prescribed by Non-VA Physicians; VA Transitional Pharmacy Benefit, VA Form 10-0411.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0646.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Under existing law and regulations, a veteran desiring medical care from VA must enroll in VA's health