

a different year from when the obligation was recorded.

For the purposes of SBA's Scorecard, a problem arises when the agency records the deobligation in a fiscal year different from the year in which the agency recorded the obligation, particularly when the obligation was for a small-business award. The deobligation on a small-business award (or WOSB, HUBZone, SDVO SBC, or SDB contract) is recorded in FPDS as a current-day negative-value transaction, even though the deobligation is an accounting transaction to offset the earlier contract award. This transaction decreases the agency's contracting dollars in FPDS for the current fiscal year, thus creating discrepancy on the agency's performance on that year's SBA Scorecard.

SBA was alerted to this problem on September 10, 2020, via letter from the Chair of the Federal Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Directors Interagency Council (OSDBU Council). SBA then received a letter from the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on September 30, 2020. Both sources expressed concern that deobligations make agencies' small-business achievements unpredictable and uncertain.

II. Data Analysis and Agency Collaboration

After receiving the OSDBU Council and HUD letters, SBA analyzed the FPDS data to examine the effect of deobligations on agencies' prime contracting achievements on SBA Scorecard. SBA rejected the idea of excluding all deobligations from the Scorecard because it is quite common for an agency to obligate and deobligate funds on an award in the same fiscal year. SBA also considered but rejected the idea of excluding all deobligations associated with contracts awarded in prior fiscal years because doing so would present an opportunity to agencies to raise their Scorecard scores by obligating small-business dollars at the end of one fiscal year and then immediately deobligating in the next fiscal year.

Furthermore, deobligations occur on all types of awards, including those held by other-than-small contractors. SBA found it incongruous to apply a treatment simply to deobligations of small-business awards.

SBA thus analyzed what effect it would have to exclude deobligations that are associated with awards for which the last positive obligation occurred more than one fiscal year prior. The exclusion changed the

governmentwide small-business prime-contracting percentage by less than a tenth of a percentage point. For certain agencies, however, the exclusion significantly impacted the agency's prime-contracting achievements.

SBA shared these results with the Small Business Procurement Advisory Council (SBPAC) at the group's January 2022 meeting and solicited feedback from the SBPAC members. At the February 2022 meeting of the OSDBU Council, SBA further discussed the results and the proposal adopted below. SBA later updated the SBPAC at that body's February 2022 meeting.

III. Exclusion for Deobligations

Starting in the Scorecard for FY 2022, SBA will interpret "awards" for the purposes of the Scorecard program to exclude certain deobligations that, when included in the Scorecard, present a distorted view of the opportunities for small businesses to participate in Government contracts with Federal agencies. Specifically, SBA will exclude deobligations that are associated with prime awards for which the most recent positive-dollar obligation was from a year earlier than the most recent prior fiscal year.

SBA will identify the deobligations to be excluded by determining whether the deobligation is on an award (defined by the combination of Procurement Instrument Identifier (PIID) Indefinite Delivery Vehicle PIID (IDV PIID)) that does not have a positive obligation in the current fiscal year or prior fiscal year. The deobligations identified for exclusion will be removed from the current-year Scorecard calculations regardless of whether the transaction was associated with a small business or an other-than-small business.

The following examples illustrate this deobligations exclusions method:

Example 1: Agency A awards Contract X for \$1 million, obligating \$1 million in FY22 to a small business. Agency A deobligates \$1 million on Contract X in FY22. The deobligation is not excluded, and the total obligation for Contract X is \$0 for FY22.

Example 2: Agency B awards Contract Y for \$1 million, obligating \$1 million in FY17 to an other-than-small business. Agency B then obligates \$1 million in each of FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 on Contract Y. Agency B then deobligates \$1 million on Contract Y in FY22. The deobligation is not excluded as it has the same contract identifier as a contract that had a positive obligation not more than one fiscal year prior. The total obligation for Contract Y for FY22 is negative \$1 million.

Example 3: Agency C awards Contract Z for \$1 million, obligating \$1 million in FY11. Agency C then obligates \$1 million in each of FY12, FY13, FY14, and FY15. Agency C then deobligates \$1 million on Contract Z in FY22. The deobligation is excluded from the FY22 Scorecard calculations because the most recent positive obligation was from more than one fiscal year prior. The total obligation for Contract Z for FY22 is \$0. This exclusion applies regardless of whether Contract Z was awarded to a small business or an other-than-small business.

SBA will track excluded obligations for FY22 and beyond and will continue monitor and refine this methodology as necessary.

Antonio Doss,

Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development.

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BILLING CODE 8026-09-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36613]

Commonwealth Railway, Incorporated—Trackage Rights Exemption—Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Commonwealth Railway, Incorporated (CWRY), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7) for the acquisition of local trackage rights over approximately 2.3 miles of rail line owned by Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) in and near Fairview, W. Va., between approximately States Run Road at milepost LR 77.3 and the end of the track at approximately milepost LR 79.6 (the Line).

Pursuant to a written trackage rights agreement, NSR is granting CWRY trackage rights on the Line to provide local switching service to and from the American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc., facility at Fairview.¹

The transaction may be consummated on July 6, 2022, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the acquisition of the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk & Western Railway—Trackage Rights—Burlington Northern, Inc.*, 354 I.C.C. 605

¹ A redacted copy of the agreement is attached to the verified notice. An unredacted copy has been filed under seal along with a motion for protective order pursuant to 49 CFR 1104.14. That motion is being addressed in a separate decision.

(1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Railway—Lease & Operate—California Western Railroad*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed by June 29, 2022 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36613, should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on CWRY's representative, Eric M. Hocky, Clark Hill PLC, Two Commerce Square, 2001 Market St., Suite 2620, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

According to CWRY, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b)(3).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: June 16, 2022.

By the Board, Valerie O. Quinn, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2022-13389 Filed 6-21-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. FAA-2022-0828]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of a Renewed Approval of Information Collection: Small Unmanned Aircraft Registration System

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. Aircraft registration is necessary to ensure personal accountability among all users of the

National Airspace System (NAS). Aircraft registration also allows the FAA and law enforcement agencies to address non-compliance by providing the means for identifying an aircraft's owner and operator. This collection also permits individuals to de-register or update their record in the registration database.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 22, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments:

By Electronic Docket:
www.regulations.gov (Enter docket number into search field).

By mail: Kevin West, Manager, Aircraft Registration Branch, AFB-710, PO Box 25504, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

By fax: 405-954-8068.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie Lefko by email at: bonnie.lefko@faa.gov; phone: 405-954-7461.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2120-0765.

Title: Small Unmanned Aircraft Registration System.

Form Numbers: None.

Type of Review: Renewal of an information collection.

Background: The Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) affirmed that all unmanned aircraft, including model aircraft, are aircraft. As such, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 44101(a) and as further prescribed in 14 CFR part 48, registration is required prior to operation. See 80 FR 63912, 63913 (October 22, 2015). Registration allows the FAA to provide respondents with educational materials regarding safety of flight in the NAS to promote greater accountability and responsibility of these new users. Registration also allows the FAA and law enforcement agencies to address non-compliance by providing the means for identifying an aircraft's owner and operator.

Subject to certain exceptions discussed below, aircraft must be

registered prior to operation. See 49 U.S.C. 44101-44103. Upon registration, the Administrator must issue a certificate of registration to the aircraft owner. See 49 U.S.C. 44103.

Registration, however, does not provide the authority to operate. Persons intending to operate a small unmanned aircraft must operate in accordance with the exception for limited recreational operations (49 U.S.C. 44809), part 107 or part 91, in accordance with a waiver issued under part 107, in accordance with an exemption issued under 14 CFR part 11 (including those persons operating under an exemption issued pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44807), or in conjunction with the issuance of a special airworthiness certificate, and are required to register.

Respondents: 283,761 registrants and 21,910 de-registrants based on CY 2021 data.

Frequency: Information is collected on occasion.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: 6 minutes per response to register and 3 minutes per response to de-register.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: Approximately 28,376 hours to register and 1,096 to de-register.

Issued in Oklahoma City, OK on June 16, 2022.

Bonnie Lefko,

Program Analyst, FAA, Civil Aviation Registry, AFB-700.

[FR Doc. 2022-13319 Filed 6-21-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Final Agency Actions on Proposed Railroad Project in California on Behalf of the California High Speed Rail Authority

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: FRA, on behalf of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), is issuing this notice to announce actions taken by the Authority that are final. By this notice, FRA is advising the public of the time limit to file a claim seeking judicial review of the actions. The actions relate to the California High-Speed Rail San Jose to Merced Project Section (Project). These actions grant approvals for project implementation pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws, regulations, and executive orders.