

levels are full in anticipation of the usual demand beginning in spring. Average usage during the spring and summer months exceed the volume of asphalt that can be produced and imported into the region during those months. The vessels utilized to import asphalt from Venezuela, Mexico and Spain do not traditionally trade domestically.

Sargeant states that unless other PADDs, namely PADD III—the Gulf Coast region—can fill the product void, the East Coast will experience product outages this summer. Florida has already begun to experience outages. Such outages will cause the delay of road and housing construction, which have been critical to the Administration's plan for economic recovery. Sargeant refers to the two attached letters to the application, which emphasize these conditions. Although this discussion has been limited to asphalt, the same issues are true for #6 fuel oil.

Sargeant advises that the current inventory of high-heat, ocean-going domestic transportation vessels is not adequate to handle this one-time "bubble" of tonnage needed to move asphalt from PADD III to PADD I. Sargeant's proposal to allow the ASPHALT COMMANDER to trade asphalt and #6 fuel oil domestically for six months will provide alternate tonnage to allow the East Coast to avoid product outages.

According to Sargeant, the current asphalt shortage situation is exactly what the waiver provisions were designed for as shown by the following facts:

- There is an acute shortage of product in one section of the United States—the East Coast.
- The shortage is a direct result of product disturbances in a foreign country—Venezuela.
- The shortage is temporary and of a fixed duration—the asphalt season will end in the fall of 2003.
- The shortage is causing economic difficulties in the United States—the lack of product has already caused the price of asphalt to increase significantly in Florida. This is causing the Florida DOT to consider decreasing the project lettings, thereby decreasing road construction projects and corresponding economic activity. Lack of flux material will cause a shortage of housing construction materials this summer.
- There is product available in another area of the United States—the Gulf Coast.
- There is insufficient domestic transportation equipment to handle this temporary need.

- The ASPHALT COMMANDER is capable of filling the temporary gap in transportation.

As indicated above, Sargeant refers to two letters it has received emphasizing the deteriorating situation with respect to asphalt supplies in Florida and the U.S. East Coast. One of the letters is from the Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida, Inc. and the other from Owens Corning. The Florida group advises that they are facing a serious shortage of asphalt products across the state and major supply problems in South Florida, as a result of the Venezuela oil strike. The group anticipates a growing shortage and any relief that could be provided by Sargeant's ASPHALT COMMANDER would be of great help. Owens Corning is concerned about the present and future shortages of asphalt on the East Coast as a result of the Venezuelan situation and fully supports the use of the ASPHALT COMMANDER to bring flux from the U.S. Gulf to the U.S. East Coast.

This notice is published as a matter of discretion, and the fact of its publication should in no way be considered a favorable or unfavorable decision on the application, as filed, or as may be amended. MARAD will consider all comments submitted in a timely fashion, and will take such action as may be deemed appropriate.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 20.800 Construction-Differential Subsidy)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: March 17, 2003.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

#### **Financial Management Service; Proposed Collection of Information: Application of Undertaker for Payment of Funeral Expenses from Funds to the Credit of a Deceased Depositor**

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Financial Management Service, 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 a continuing information collection. By this notice, the Financial Management

Service solicits comments concerning the POD Form 1672 "Application of Undertaker for Payment of Funeral Expenses From Funds to the Credit of a Deceased Depositor."

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before May 19, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Financial Management Service, 3700 East West Highway, Records and Information Management Program Staff, Room 135, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Rose Brewer, Manager, Judgment Fund Branch, Room 630F, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782, (202) 874-6664.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Financial Management Service solicits comments on the collection of information described below.

*Title:* Application of Undertaker for Payment of Funeral Expenses from Funds to the Credit of a Deceased Depositor.

*OMB Number:* 1510-0033.

*Form Number:* POD 1672.

*Abstract:* This form is used by the undertaker to apply for payment of a postal savings account of a deceased depositor to apply for funeral expenses. This form is supported by a certificate from a relative (POD 1690) and an itemized funeral bill. Payment is made to the funeral home.

*Current Actions:* Extension of currently approved collection.

*Type of Review:* Regular.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 15.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 8.

*Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget 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 performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on