



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Information Officer
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 11, 2009

Mr. Alex Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:


The Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) requests emergency review of a revision to its existing information collection, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms.

The Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 (TGAAA), was passed as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The TGAAA amended chapter 3 of the Trade Act of 1974, making "service sector" firms eligible for the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAAF) Program administered by EDA. It also provided the option for firms to use extended "look-back" periods for certification. As a result of these changes, EDA's proposed regulations will make service sector firms potentially eligible for assistance. EDA is not making any change to this approved collection of information; however, because of the changes made by the TGAAA, EDA estimates that it will receive an additional 800 responses annually under the TAAF Program.

EDA requires emergency review and approval of this revision and to publish the final version of the regulatory changes promulgated in accordance with the TGAAA, revising the definition of an applicant under the TAAF Program. A notice of proposed rulemaking was published on May 5, 2009.

Therefore, EDA requests that OMB conclude its review of this information collection request by August 12, 2009. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Hilding