



U.S. Department of
Transportation
**Maritime
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 23, 2012

Patrick J. Fuchs
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC

Re: Request for Emergency Processing of Information Collection Request

Dear Mr. Fuchs:

The Maritime Administration (MarAd) requests emergency processing of a request for approval of a collection of information concerning the availability of U.S.-flagged vessels qualified to operate in the coastwise trade including the ownership/management, location, and specifications of such vessels. A sample of such collection is attached for your review. Simultaneously with the Federal Register notice for a 60-day comment period for the information collection, MarAd seeks authorization to collect information regarding the availability of Jones Act vessels for the maximum permissible period under 5 CFR § 1320.13.

The purpose of this collection of information is to enable the Maritime Administrator to make availability determinations under 46 U.S.C. § 501(b), and/or necessary scenario planning for which the same parties will be contacted and information collected, though direct telephone contact may be employed for such scenario planning purposes. For ease of reference, the text of the proposed collection is appended for ease of reference. The normal Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) process set forth in 5 CFR Part 1320 is incompatible with the time-frame necessary to obtain the information needed before the Maritime Administrator can make such determinations. We seek your immediate preliminary approval with final approval, publication, and initial information collection to be further coordinated as necessary.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Christine Gurland at (202) 366-5712, or christine.gurland@dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin R. Parker
Chief Counsel

Enclosures