

**Supporting Statement  
for  
Report of Oil or Hazardous Substance Discharge; and  
Report of Suspicious Maritime Activity**

OMB No.: 1625-0096  
COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS: Instruction

**A. Justification.**

1) Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This collection consists of two elements—

- (a) Report of Oil or Hazardous Substance Discharge, and
- (b) Report of Suspicious Maritime Activity.

(a) Prior to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act numerous spills were occurring and not being reported or cleaned up. This was deteriorating the environment and creating potential health risks to the public. The public did not have a central place to report pollution spills that had the resources or authority to take responsible action. Immediate reports to the National Response Center (NRC) of pollution discharges were mandated by section 311(b)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act<sup>1</sup>, section 306(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments<sup>2</sup> of 1978, section 18(b) of the Deepwater Port Act<sup>3</sup> of 1974, and by section 103(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act<sup>4</sup> of 1980 (CERCLA). This mandatory report has been further promulgated in—

- 33 CFR 153.203 for oil or hazardous substances,
- 40 CFR 263.30 and 264.56 for hazardous wastes, and
- 49 CFR 171.15 for hazardous materials.

Failure to report a discharge in any of the foregoing instances may result in a fine and/or imprisonment (see 33 CFR 153.205).

(b) In this post-September 11, 2001, environment, a mechanism for collection reports of suspicious maritime activities is necessary. A national program, branded America's Waterway Watch (AWW), encourages the voluntary reporting of all suspicious activity. Additionally, an owner or operator of a vessel or facility required to have MTSA<sup>5</sup> security plan must report activities that may result in a transportation security incident and breaches of security to the NRC (see 33 CFR 101.305).

This information collection supports the following strategic goals:

Department of Homeland Security

- Awareness
- Prevention
- Protection
- Response
- Recovery

Coast Guard

- Maritime Safety
- Maritime Security
- Maritime Stewardship

Prevention Policy & Response Policy Directorates (CG-5P & CG-5R)

<sup>1</sup> See 33 U.S.C. 1321, (all U.S. Code cites available via GPO Web site at -- <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUScode.action?collectionCode=USCODE>.

<sup>2</sup> See 43 U.S.C. 1801

<sup>3</sup> See 33 U.S.C. 1504

<sup>4</sup> See 42 U.S.C. 9601

<sup>5</sup> MTSA -- Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002

- Maritime Safety
- Maritime Security
- Human and Natural Environment
- Economic Growth and Trade/Mobility

2) Purposes of the information collection.

(a) The information concerning the pollution discharge is reported to the NRC by calling a toll-free telephone number or by submitting a request electronically via the NRC Web site. The discharge report is passed from the NRC to the pre-designated federal on-scene coordinator for the area in which the discharge occurred. This report ensures quick response to the pollution incident from Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector to minimize the hazard to lives, property, and the environment.

(b) With the AWW program, the NRC also serves as the centralized reporting point for suspicious activity as well as actual events in the maritime domain concerning threats, attacks, vulnerabilities and anomalies. In both emergency situations and when receiving reports of suspicious activity in a non-emergency situation, the NRC takes the report from the caller, and logs and forwards the information to the Homeland Security Operations Center and to other agencies as appropriate.

3) Consideration of the use of improved information technology.

Reports to the NRC come in 1 of 2 transmission methods—phone (800-424-8802) or fax (202-267-1322). Thus, 100% of the reporting is done electronically. The NRC online submission option was eliminated in February 2014<sup>6</sup> following a security breach. The online submission website was built in the 1990s, and does not meet modern security standards. At this time, the NRC does not have the funds necessary to build a modern, functional, and secure site.

4) Efforts to identify duplication.

(a) The Coast Guard monitors State and local regulatory activity in this field. To date there are no similar State or local programs that have been identified that require equivalent information. Furthermore, no other Federal agencies have similar or equivalent regulatory requirements.

(b) The Coast Guard will monitor State and local regulatory activity in this field. As a national oversight program, the AWW will support area, district and local commanders. In order to disseminate information to the appropriate agencies and provide security, information provided in the suspicious maritime activity reports is shared with the appropriate party. To date there are no similar State or local programs that have been identified that require equivalent information. Furthermore, no other Federal agencies have similar or equivalent regulatory requirements.

5) Methods to minimize the burden to small businesses if involved.

This information collection does not have an impact on small businesses or other small entities.

6) Consequences to the Federal program if collection were conducted less frequently.

(a) This information is reported whenever there is an oil or hazardous substance discharge. If it were reported less frequently, the federal on-scene coordinator might not learn of the discharge in time to clean up or mitigate its effects. Large spills of oil or hazardous substances could negatively impact the environment and pose serious health threats. This report ensures quick response to the pollution incident from Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector the ability to further minimize the hazard to lives, property, and the environment.

(b) This information is reported whenever there is a suspicious activity or actual events in the maritime

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<sup>6</sup> In calendar year 2013, the online submission option accounted for only about 10% of all spill notifications.

domain concerning threats, attacks, vulnerabilities and anomalies. It is collected to prevent acts of terrorism and other illegal activity that jeopardizes maritime homeland security. The ability to collect this type of information on a 24-hour/day basis is necessary to protect homeland security.

7) Special collection circumstances.

This information collection is conducted in manner consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

8) Consultation.

A 60-day Notice will be published in the *Federal Register* to obtain public comment on this collection.

9) Provide any payments or gifts to respondents.

There is no offer of monetary or material value for this information collection.

10) Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents.

(a) On occasion, a caller reports a discharge that his or her employer has failed to report. These persons often request that their identities be kept in confidence for fear of losing their jobs or being otherwise threatened.

(b) The caller is provided the option to make an anonymous report.

11) Additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.

There are no questions of sensitive language.

12) Estimates of annual hour and cost burdens to respondents.

- The estimated annual number of respondents is 39,286\_
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- The estimated annual hour burden is 3,144
- The estimated annual cost burden is \$204,360

The burden to respondents is provided in Appendix A. We estimate that it takes 5 minutes to make each call. Since we do not know exactly who is notifying the NRC, we estimate that the wage rate of individual making the report is equivalent to an average of the wage rates of an administrative assistance (GS-7) and technical specialist (GS-13). The wage rates used are in accordance with the current edition of COMDTINST 7310.1(series) for "Out-Government" personnel.

13) Total annualized capital and start-up costs.

There are no recordkeeping, capital, start-up or maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

14) Estimates of annualized Federal Government costs.

The estimated annual Federal Government cost is \$1,158,465 (see Appendix B). The NRC receives calls<sup>7</sup>, prepares incident reports and makes notifications to the appropriate officials in the field. On average, it takes the NRC approximately 12 minutes (1/5 hour) to receive, complete and disseminate a verbal notification to the Federal on-scene coordinator/appropriate Federal agency. On average, it takes the NRC approximately 1 minute (1/60 hour) to receive, complete, and disseminate a non-verbal notification to the Federal on-scene coordinator/ appropriate Federal agency. The tasks are typically

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<sup>7</sup> Of oil or other hazardous substances discharges, or suspicious maritime activities.

performed by a contractor, equivalent to a GS-9. The wage rate used is in accordance with the current edition of COMDTINST 7310.1(series) for "Out-Government" personnel. It is important to note the following:

- Every telephone call does not result in an incident report.
- Incident reports generate notifications. There may be more than one notification made for the same event to inform the various Federal agencies and other interested officials per incident report.

15) Reasons for the change in burden.

The change in burden is an ADJUSTMENT due to a change (i.e., decrease) in the number of NRC reports received by the Coast Guard. It is unknown why we have seen a large decrease in the number of annual responses. The reporting requirements, and the methodology for calculating burden, remain unchanged. Additionally, the Coast Guard has revised the methods for submitting a report by eliminating the online option. The upkeep of that method proved too costly.

16) Plans for tabulation, statistical analysis, and publication.

This information collection will not be published for statistical purposes.

17) Approval for not explaining the expiration date for OMB approval.

The Coast Guard will display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

18) Explain each exception to the certification statement.

The Coast Guard does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

**B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods.**

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.