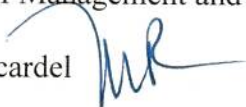




MAR 13 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: Neomi Rao
Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Mira Ricardel 

SUBJECT: Request for OMB Emergency Review and Approval of
Information Collections for Exclusions from the Section 232
National Security Adjustments of Imports of Steel and Aluminum

On behalf of the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), I am seeking approval for emergency Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) clearances to allow the Department of Commerce (DOC), as represented by BIS, to publish a Federal Register Notice (FRN) announcing the method by which exclusions from the Section 232 National Security adjustments of imports of steel and aluminum may be requested.

BACKGROUND

On April 19, 2017, Secretary Ross initiated an investigation under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1862), to determine the effects on the national security of imports of steel. On April 20, 2017, the President signed a memorandum directing the DOC to proceed expeditiously in conducting this investigation and submitting a report on the DOC's findings to him. The President further directed that if this investigation finds that steel is being imported into the United States in such quantities or under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security, that the DOC recommend actions and steps to be taken to adjust steel imports so that they will not threaten to impair the national security.

On April 26, 2017, Secretary Ross initiated an investigation under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1862), to determine the effects on the national security of imports of aluminum. On April 27, 2017, the President signed a memorandum directing the DOC to proceed expeditiously in conducting this investigation and submitting a report on the DOC's findings to him. The President further directed that if this investigation finds that aluminum is being imported into the United States in such quantities or under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security, that the DOC recommend actions and steps to be taken to adjust aluminum imports so that they will not threaten to impair the national security.

The Secretary submitted the steel report to the President on January 11, 2018 and the aluminum report on January 19, 2018. We have been informed that the President will likely announce his decision – to adjust imports – no later than March 15. The requisite Presidential proclamations authorize the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate rules and regulations to provide relief from the adjustments of imports.



JUSTIFICATION

1. The collection of information is needed prior to the expiration of the time period normally associated with a routine submission for review under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act in view of the President's proclamations issued on March 8, 2018, for the *Presidential Proclamation on Adjusting Imports of Steel into the United States*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-steel-united-states/>, and for the *Presidential Proclamation on Adjusting Imports of Aluminum into the United States*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-aluminum-united-states/>.
2. The collection of information is essential to the mission of the Department, in particular to the adjudication exclusion requests and objections to exclusions requests.
3. The use of normal clearance procedures would prevent the collection of information exclusion requests and objections to exclusion requests, for national security purposes, as discussed under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 as amended and the Presidential Proclamations issued on March 8, 2018.
4. As the President has decided to adjust imports and allow exclusion requests, BIS will need OMB's clearances to collect the information that would be required for parties to request exclusions. This will allow BIS to publish a *Federal Register* notice informing the public how to submit exclusion requests as soon as possible, allowing for earlier decisions on the requests giving parties certainty on the effect of the remedies on their business.