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ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

September 16, 2020

Paul J. Ray
Acting Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Ray:

In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.13, "Emergency Processing," the Department of Defense (DoD) requests emergency processing and approval of a new public information collection requirement in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS).

This collection is tied to a rule currently under OIRA review: *Strategic Assessment and Cybersecurity Certification Requirements (DFARS Case 2019-D041)*. This rule and DoD's request for a new information collection builds on existing Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and DFARS cybersecurity requirements by: (1) adding a mechanism to immediately begin assessing the current status of contractor implementation of existing National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidance on cybersecurity; and (2) requiring contractors and subcontractors to take steps to fully implement existing cybersecurity requirements to protect government information on contractor information systems. There is an urgent need for DoD to immediately begin assessing where vulnerabilities in its supply chain exist and take steps to correct such deficiencies based on internal reports indicating DoD contractors do not consistently implement mandated system security requirements for safeguarding DoD information. This can be accomplished by requiring contractors and subcontractors handling DoD information on contractor systems to perform an assessment and implement required changes consistent with existing NIST guidance.

Additional information is provided by the enclosures. The Determination for Emergency Processing is at Enclosure 1. The Supporting Statement is at Enclosure 2. The Federal Register notice for the rulemaking that imposes the information collection is at Enclosure 3. The collection instrument (DFARS text) is at Enclosure 4.

Use of the normal OMB process would preclude the collection of the information in a timely manner. The Department requests emergency approval by September 18, 2020.

Kim Herrington
Acting Principal Director,
Defense Pricing and Contracting

Enclosures:
As stated