



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 16, 2022

Dr. Dominic J. Mancini
Official Performing the Delegated Duties of Administrator,
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs,
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW Washington, DC 20503

Dear Administrator Mancini:

The Maritime Administration seeks emergency processing of a request for approval of a collection of information concerning the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Tanker Security Program (TSP).

A classified Fuel Tanker Study (mandated by Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)) examined the sufficiency of the U.S.-flag tanker fleet to meet National Defense Strategy (NDS) requirements. The report's unclassified summary found there to be a substantial risk to the nation's defense associated with a heavy reliance on foreign flagged tankers, particularly in the intra-theater area and within a contested environment. The location, timing, and specific missions associated with some tanker requirements dictate the need for U.S.-flagged assets, for which there currently are insufficient numbers available. The report's gap analysis found a clear and critical need for a Tanker Security Program to increase U.S.-flag tanker capacity, to reduce the risk of reliance on foreign flagged tankers for the most important fuel missions, and to ensure the DoD has sufficient tanker capabilities to meet NDS objectives.

The FY21 NDAA responded to the critical need for U.S.-flag tanker capacity by authorizing the creation of a new TSP. The FY21 NDAA directed that the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, establish a fleet of American vessels that are actively trading, commercially viable, militarily useful, and privately owned for the purpose of meeting national defense and other security requirements and to maintain a United States presence in international petroleum transportation. To meet the current national security demand, MARAD is acting quickly to ensure its ability to receive and process applications, followed by the review and execution of supporting agreements with qualified vessel operators. The U.S. Transportation Command Combatant Commander (4-star) has stated that the capabilities the Tanker Security Program will bring are a high priority as the DoD rapidly evolves operations to match fully contested conflicts in the Indo-Pacific and North Atlantic with pacing threats from China and Russia. DoD leadership has stated that while the 10-ship TSP is a good start to the effort to secure reliable tanker capacity, they also recognize a need for more than the initial 10 ships. In addition, DoD is indicating a high degree of urgency in MARAD implementing this new authority which will support critical USTRANSCOM bulk petroleum

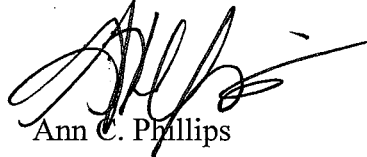
objectives. DoD points to an urgent need for tankers especially with respect to the carriage of fuel that DoD forces rely upon for land, air, and seaborne units.

In addition, this collection will be designed to require the minimum amount of information necessary for product tank vessel selection and administration of the TSP. Items such as participant operational certifications, payment vouchers, and financial report submissions will be included in the proposed collection of information to monitor participant compliance with program requirements. MARAD has made all efforts to reduce the administrative burden on the applicants while ensuring the requisite information is received to make informed decisions on which vessels to select for the program.

For the reasons stated, and under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.13, *Emergency Processing*, MARAD is respectfully requesting emergency processing for a collection of information critical to its mission of ensuring the United States has sufficient U.S.-flag tankers to meet NDS requirements. Concurrent with OMB clearance of its emergency clearance request, MARAD will continue policy development and follow the normal clearance procedures for an information collection to implement the Tanker Security Program.

If you would like to discuss this further, please have your staff contact Mr. Mitch Hudson at 202-302-7223 or at mitch.hudson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Ann C. Phillips

Enclosures