

**Department of Transportation
Office of the Chief Information Officer**

**Supporting Statement
“Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines”**

INTRODUCTION

This is to request the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) renewed three-year approval of an information collection titled, “Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines” OMB Control No. 2137-0589, which is currently due to expire on September 30, 2025.

Part A. Justification.

1. Circumstances that make collection of information necessary.

This information collection request (ICR) pertains to the Department of Transportation's regulation in 49 CFR Part 194, titled “Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines”. The requirements in Part 194 apply to the response planning relative transportation-related onshore oil pipelines, as mandated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). The information collection activities contained in the requirements are intended to enhance private sector planning capabilities to minimize the impact of oil spills from pipelines.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose is the information used.

The information is primarily used by operators to be prepared for emergency situations involving oil spills. This information collection is also used by PHMSA to determine if an operator follows the requirements in 49 CFR Part 194.

3. Extent of automated information collection.

The information required for a response plan is unique to each facility and may not be amenable to the use of electronic collection technology (*e.g.*, on-line submission of response plans). For example, the length and content of plans and the electronic software involved in the development of the response plans are expected to vary considerably depending on the geographic range, geographic location, and complexity of each facility. The use of automated information collection technologies would not address this set of issues and would not likely decrease burden on regulated facilities. There are no legal obstacles to reducing the burden if the operators choose to develop and send report electronically.

4. Efforts to identify duplication.

While initial plan development likely requires significant collection of “new” (*i.e.*, not readily available) data specific to each facility, certain operators may be required to provide similar information under additional regulations. For example, EPA’s Oil Pollution Prevention regulation (also known as the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) program), requires planning capabilities for onshore non-transportation-related facilities that have the potential to discharge oil into the navigable waters or adjoining shorelines of the U.S. and meet certain storage capacity thresholds. Similarly, under OPA 90 the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) requires facilities with pipelines in proximity to navigable waters to prepare plans detailing the ability to respond to spills into these waters. USCG also requires response plans for marine transportation-related facilities that could accidentally discharge oil into navigable waters.

Some facilities have both transportation- and non-transportation-related components (*e.g.*, pipelines and storage tanks) and many pipeline facilities are located near navigable waters. In these cases, facilities may be subject to either or both of the USCG and EPA regulations in addition to the DOT regulations under 49 CFR 194. While each of the regulations addresses a unique component or aspect of a facility, certain information provided by the facilities will be common to all response planning requirements.

5. Efforts to minimize the effects on small business.

No special efforts have been made to minimize the burden to small businesses.

6. Impact of less frequent collection of information.

Section 4202(a)(6) of OPA 90 requires facilities to update the response plan periodically and resubmit plans for approval with each significant change in operations. Under 49 CFR 194.121, pipeline operators are required to conduct a review of the response plan at least once every five years and submit changes to OPS. DOT has determined that requiring companies to review and update their response plans less frequently than once every five years would not support our efforts to ensure that facilities have an up-to-date plan at all times. For example, contact lists of spill response personnel may require revision every year and possibly more frequently. Moreover, because the majority of information collection activities are related to initial preparation of the response plan, reducing the frequency of the information collection activities in subsequent years would have only a modest impact on the total burden.

7. Special circumstances.

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

8. Compliance with 5 CFR 1320.8.

PHMSA maintains an “open-door” policy with its stakeholders where continual engagement on ways to improve pipeline safety are routine. PHMSA published a 60-Day Notice in the Federal

Register [89 FR 82294] on October 10, 2024. PHMSA received no comments pertaining to this information collection.

9. Payments or gifts to respondents.

There is no payment or gift provided to respondents associated with this collection of information.

10. Assurance of confidentiality.

PHMSA doesn't have the authority to guarantee confidentiality.

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information.

Not applicable.

12. Estimate of burden hours for information requested.

540 responses/ 73,980 burden hours

Based on prior research and experience in collecting this information over the years, PHMSA estimates that it takes operators an average of **137 hours** to comply with the request of this data collection. PHMSA estimates that operators of impacted facilities will submit **540** active response plans annually. As a result, PHMSA estimates the overall burden of this collection to be **73,980 hours**.

The paperwork requirements under 49 CFR Part 194 consist of the initial preparation and submission of the response plan, submission of plan revisions to DOT on a five-year basis and as changes in operations occur, and annual recordkeeping activities.

13. Estimate of total annual costs to respondents.

PHMSA expects the required tasks, including all associated recordkeeping tasks, to be completed by a senior engineer whose fully loaded hourly cost (i.e., salary plus overhead) is estimated to be \$64.75. At this rate, PHMSA estimates the total annual cost to respondents will be \$4,790,205{64.75X x 73,980 hours/3years}. There are no additional costs beyond the labor cost cited above.

14. Estimate of cost to the Federal Government.

PHMSA does not anticipate any additional costs because of this collection of information.

15. Explanation of program changes or adjustments.

There has been no change to this information collection.

16. Publication of results of data collection.

The information will not be published.

17. Approval for not displaying the expiration date for OMB approval.

OPS is not seeking approval to not display the expiration date.

18. Exceptions to certification statement.

There is no exception.