

suborbital trajectory; (B) in Earth orbit in outer space; or (C) otherwise in outer space, including activities involved in the preparation of a launch vehicle or payload for launch.

Alternatives to the proposed action may include activities such as not licensing horizontal launches, not licensing vertical reentries, not licensing horizontal reentries, not licensing powered reentries, and not licensing unpowered reentries.

FAA exercises licensing authority in accordance with the Commercial Space Launch Act and Commercial Space Transportation Licensing Regulations, 14 CFR Ch.III, which authorize the FAA to license the launch of a launch vehicle when conducted within the U.S. and those operated by U.S. citizens abroad. The scope of the PEIS would include launches on both orbital and suborbital trajectories.

In May 1992, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Commercial Reentry Vehicles* that assessed the environmental impacts of licensing the unpowered reentry of reentry vehicles from space to Earth. This 1992 PEIS relied in part on the analysis in the *Programmatic Environmental Assessment of Commercial Expendable Launch Vehicle Programs*, February 1986.

In May 2001, the FAA issued the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing Launches*, which assessed the environmental impacts of licensing commercial launches. This 2001 PEIS updated and replaced the 1986 Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA).

The PEIS for Licensing Launches of Horizontally Launched Vehicles and Reentries of Reentry Vehicles will update and replace the 1992 PEIS and address the launch of horizontally launched vehicles and the reentry of all reentry vehicles.

Scoping: Public scoping will be conducted as part of the PEIS development process to ensure that all interested government and private organizations, and the general public have an opportunity to express their concerns and identify topics that should be addressed in the PEIS. The FAA has developed a public participation Web site (<http://ast.faa.gov/>) which provides information on the development of this PEIS and provides the public an opportunity to submit comments electronically. Materials on the Web site include information about licensing and the NEPA process; frequently asked questions, a fact sheet on the PEIS; a comparison of the analysis of the

previous programmatic documents; and public comment forms. Scoping meetings may be requested by organizations or individuals that feel their concerns cannot be met through the online opportunity to comment. Information regarding the development of the PEIS is available on the public participation Web site at <http://ast.faa.gov/>, under the "What's new on the AST Web site—Announcements" section.

To Submit Comments: Written comments, statements, and/or questions regarding scoping issues or the PEIS process should be addressed to Ms. Michon Washington, FAA Environmental Specialist, FAA PEIS, c/o ICF Consulting, 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia 22031; phone (703) 934-3950; fax (703) 934-3951; e-mail at FAA.PEIS@icfconsulting.com; or by Web site <http://ast.faa.gov/>.

Comments should clearly identify and describe the specific issue(s) or topics to be included in the PEIS. To ensure sufficient time to consider issues identified during public scoping, comments should be submitted no later than September 26, 2003.

Issued in: Washington DC.

Responsible Official:

Herbert Bachner,

Manager, Space Systems Development Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD 2003 15934]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intentions to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before October 20, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas M.P. Christensen, Office of National Security Plans, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-5900; FAX 202-488-0941 or e-mail:

tom.christensen@marad.dot.gov.

Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Voluntary Tanker Agreement.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0505.

Form Numbers: None.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years after date of approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

Summary of Collection of Information: The collection consists of a request from the Maritime Administration (MARAD) that each participant in the Voluntary Tanker Agreement submit a list of the names of ships owned, chartered or contracted for by the participant, and their size and flags of registry. There is no prescribed format for this information.

Need and Use of the Information: The collected information is necessary to evaluate tanker capability and make plans for the use of this capability to meet national emergency requirements. This information will be used by both MARAD and Department of Defense to establish overall contingency plans.

Description of Respondents: Tanker companies that operate in international trade and who have agreed to participate in this agreement.

Annual Responses: 15.

Annual Burden: One hour per response.

Comments: Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator,