



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 13, 2021

Ms. Lisa L. Burley  
Chief/Supervisory Attorney-Advisor  
Cargo Security, Carriers and Restricted Merchandise Branch  
Office of Trade, Regulations and Rulings  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Dear Ms. Burley:

On May 12, 2021, Citgo Petroleum Corporation ("CITGO") requested a waiver of the coastwise merchandise transportation statute (46 U.S.C. § 55102 or the "Jones Act") to utilize a foreign-flag vessel to load up to 160,000 barrels of jet fuel, 125,000 barrels of gasoline, and 15,000 barrels of ultra-low sulfur diesel ("the Cargo") for a combined 300,000 barrels to be loaded at CITGO Terminal Lake Charles, Louisiana, and discharged at CITGO Terminal Linden, New Jersey. CITGO requested a loading date (ready for pick-up) on May 13 and indicated the cargo must be shipped by May 14 with an ultimate delivery date of 20/21 May.

Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 501(b), the Maritime Administration canvassed the U.S. maritime industry to assess the availability of coastwise-qualified vessels for the movement of the subject petroleum products. This survey did not identify any coastwise-qualified U.S.-flag vessels that are available for the required load date of tomorrow, May 14. Therefore, MARAD's assessment is that coastwise-qualified vessels are not available to move this cargo at the stated time. This determination is subject to reassessment under changed circumstances, such as modifications to the cargo load dates.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Tony Padilla at (202) 366-7045 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucinda Lessley".

Lucinda Lessley  
Acting Maritime Administrator