

for Management has determined that the Council is necessary and in the public interest.

The Council consists of representatives from four (4) U.S. Government agencies and twenty-one (21) American private sector companies and organizations. The Council will follow the procedures prescribed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Public Law 92-463). Meetings will be open to the public unless a determination is made in accordance with Section 10(d) of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (1) and (4), that a meeting or a portion of the meeting should be closed to the public. Notice of each meeting will be provided in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

For more information contact Nick Proctor, Executive Director, Overseas Security Advisory Council, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20522-1003, phone: 202-663-0533.

Dated: November 26, 1996.

William D. Clarke,

Acting Director of the Diplomatic Security Service.

[FR Doc. 96-31919 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-24-M

[Public Notice No. 2481]

Renewal of the Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of State is renewing the Shipping Coordinating Committee to solicit the view of interested members of the public and government agencies on maritime policy issues, for the guidance of U.S. delegations to international meetings on these matters. The Under Secretary for Management has determined that the committee is necessary and in the public interest.

Membership includes representatives from the maritime industry, labor unions, environmental groups and government bureaus and agencies. The Committee will follow the procedures prescribed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Meetings will be open to the public unless a determination is made in accordance with the FACA Section 10(d), 5 U.S.C. 552(b) (1) and (4) that a meeting or a portion of the meeting should be closed to the public. Notice of each meeting will be provided in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

For further information, contact Stephen Miller, Executive Secretary of the Committee at (202) 647-6961.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

Stephen M. Miller,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee.

[FR Doc. 96-31918 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

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[Public Notice 2479]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Preparation of Second U.S. Climate Action Report

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: In June 1992, the United States signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Pursuant to the reporting requirements under Articles 4.2 and 12 of the Convention and to proposed format guidelines later adopted by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) at its first session, the United States submitted the U.S. Climate Action Report (USCAR) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. At its second session, the COP to the UNFCCC agreed that the second national communications from developed country Parties would be due on April 15, 1997. The U.S. government has initiated a process to complete its submission within the given timeframe.

As part of that process, we are soliciting public comment on the first USCAR, which will be used as the basis for the second submission due in April.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In June 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the "Earth Summit"), the United States signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The ultimate objective of this Convention is to: "achieve * * * stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

In accordance with the UNFCCC's reporting requirements as specified in Articles 4.2 and 12, and following reporting guidelines developed (and adopted by the UNFCCC COP at its first session), the United States prepared the U.S. Climate Action Report (USCAR)

and submitted it to the UNFCCC Secretariat in October 1994.

The USCAR provided a description of the U.S. program designed to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. The initial USCAR incorporated much of the information contained in the first Climate Change Action Plan announced by President Clinton and Vice President Gore on October 19, 1993. The revised USCAR will review key elements contained in the initial Climate Change Action Plan including: An update on key baseline assumptions; a review and assessment of activities to date under the almost 50 actions listed in the plan; and update of the list of actions reflecting changes initiated by responsible agencies since the plan was first proposed in 1993. The revised USCAR will also reflect information submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality in response to a request for comments on the original Climate Change Action Plan that was published in the Federal Register on August 24, 1995 (60 FR 44022) and information presented at a subsequent public hearing held on September 22, 1995.

In keeping with international guidelines, the USCAR provided an inventory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks, estimated effects of mitigation measures and policies on future emissions levels, and described U.S. involvement in international programs including associated contributions and funding efforts.

In addition, the USCAR included a discussion of U.S. national circumstances which affect U.S. vulnerability and responses to climate change. Information on the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the largest climate change research program in the world, and on adaptation programs was also presented.

At the Second COP, the Parties agreed to request developed country Parties to the Convention to submit to the UNFCCC Secretariat, in accordance with Articles 12.1 and 12.2 of the Convention, a second national communication by April 15, 1997. Parties that submitted first reports in 1996 are to provide an update by the 1997 deadline and Parties with economies in transition are to provide their second communication by April 15, 1998. Developing country Parties have different guidelines and due dates for their first communications.

The Parties to the UNFCCC also adopted revisions to the guidelines for the reports at their second session. Among other modifications, the revised guidelines encourage Parties to provide information on actions implemented by

regional and local governments or the private sector. At its 12th Plenary meeting in September 1996, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) approved additional guidance with respect to the methodologies to inventory greenhouse gas emissions. We anticipate that these revised methodologies will be approved at the next session of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) when it meets in December 1996. We intend to follow both sets of guidelines, to the extent possible, in the preparation of the second USCAR.

Public Input Process

The comments received in response to this Federal Register notice will be considered in the preparation of the second national communication. We invite contributions and comments on all aspects of the USCAR and in particular, on issues related to regional, local, and private sector actions to address climate change.

DATES: Written comments on the first USCAR should be received on or before noon, January 2, 1997. The deadline cannot be extended because of a carefully planned timetable for the report's preparation in anticipation of the April 15, 1997 due date.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Mr. Daniel Reifsnyder, OES/EGC Room 4330, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818. Copies of the First National Communication may be obtained from the Internet (text only) at the following address: (ftp://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov/gpo_bbs/dos_env/lclimate.txt), or by contacting the Government Printing Office (ISBN 0-16-045214-7).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Daniel A. Reifsnyder, Director, Office of Global Change, U.S. Department of State at (202) 647-4069.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

Rafe Pomerance,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Development, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-31914 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Notice of Out-of-Cycle Country Eligibility Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the deadline for the submission of petitions for an out-of-cycle GSP Review of country eligibility. The deadline is Friday, February 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Room 518, Washington, DC 20508. Telephone: (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Announcement of 1997 Out-of-Cycle GSP Country Eligibility Review

The U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program provides for the duty free importation of designated articles when imported from designated beneficiary developing countries. GSP is authorized by Title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*). The GSP program was implemented by Executive Order 11888 of November 14, 1975, and modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations. The GSP regulations provide for annual reviews unless otherwise specified by Federal Register notice (15 CFR 2007.3 *et seq.*). The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) hereby gives notice that an out-of-cycle country eligibility review will be conducted in 1997. No annual country eligibility review was initiated at the normal time in 1996 since the GSP program was suspended. Moreover, public interest has been expressed in support of delinking the time table for the annual product reviews and country eligibility reviews. No decision has been made to permanently alter the schedule. However, the TPSC has decided to provide for an out-of-cycle country eligibility review at this time. Notice is hereby given, therefore, that in order to be considered in the 1997 out-of-cycle country eligibility review, all petitions containing requests to review the GSP status of any beneficiary developing country must be received by the GSP Subcommittee no later than 5 p.m., Friday February 28, 1997. Petitions submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review and will be returned to the petitioner.

Interested parties or foreign governments may submit petitions to have the GSP status of any eligible beneficiary developing country reviewed with respect to any of the designation criteria listed in sections 502(b) or 502(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b) and (c)). Petitions should be addressed to the GSP Subcommittee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative,

600 17th Street, NW, Room 518, Washington, DC 20508. All such submissions must conform with the GSP regulations which are set forth at 15 CFR 2007. These regulations were published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, February 11, 1986 (51 FR 5035). The regulations are also printed in "A guide to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)", (August 1991) ("GSP Guide"). Information submitted will be subject to public inspection by appointment only with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room, except for the information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2007.7. An original and fourteen (14) copies of each petition must be submitted in English. If the petition contains business confidential information and a party is requesting an exemption from public inspection for this information, each page containing such information should be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page, and an original and fourteen (copies) of this business confidential version of the petition must be submitted together with a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The version that does not contain business confidential information (the public version) should be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each page (either "public version" or "nonconfidential"). This version and the nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection.

Petitioners are strongly advised to review the GSP regulations. Petitioners are reminded that submissions that do not provide all information required by the GSP regulations will not be accepted for review except upon a detailed showing in the submission that the petitioner made a good faith effort to obtain the information required. These requirements will be strictly enforced.

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 96-31884 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Aviation Proceedings; Agreements Filed During the Week Ending 12/6/96

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

Docket Number: OST-96-1996.

Date filed: December 2, 1996.