

Dated: February 19, 1997.  
Herbert L. Mitchell  
*Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*  
[FR Doc. 97-4925 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

**[Declaration of Disaster Loan Area 2928; Amendment 1]**

**Oregon; Declaration of Disaster Loan Area**

In accordance with a notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated February 14, 1997, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to include the Counties of Coos, Douglas, Lake, and Lane in the State of Oregon as a disaster area due to damages caused by winter storms, land and mudslides, and flooding beginning on December 25, 1996 and continuing through January 6, 1997.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the contiguous counties of Benton, Harney, Lincoln, and Linn in the State of Oregon may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location. Any counties contiguous to the above-named counties and not listed herein have been previously declared.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the termination date for filing applications for physical damage is March 24, 1997, and for loans for economic injury the deadline is October 23, 1997.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: February 19, 1997.  
Herbert L. Mitchell,  
*Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*  
[FR Doc. 97-4924 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

**[Declaration of Disaster Loan Area 2927; Amendment 2]**

**Washington; Declaration of Disaster Loan Area**

In accordance with notices from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated February 6 and 11, 1997, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to include the Counties of Asotin, Clark, Jefferson, Pend Oreille, and Whatcom in the State of Washington as a disaster area due to damages caused by winter storms, land and mudslides, and flooding. This Declaration is further amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on December 26,

1996 and continuing through February 10, 1997.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the contiguous counties of Garfield in the State of Washington and Columbia in the State of Oregon may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location. Any counties contiguous to the above-named counties and not listed herein have been previously declared.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the termination date for filing applications for physical damage is March 18, 1997, and for loans for economic injury the deadline is October 17, 1997. The economic injury number for the State of Oregon is 935600.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: February 19, 1997.  
Herbert L. Mitchell,  
*Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*  
[FR Doc. 97-4923 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

**SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

**Proposed Out-of-Basin Diversion Policy and Protocol; Public Hearing**

**AGENCY:** Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

**ACTION:** Public hearing on addition to comprehensive plan.

**SUMMARY:** The Susquehanna River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing in conjunction with its regular meeting on March 20, 1997. This hearing will be for the purpose of receiving public comments on the inclusion of the proposed Out-of-Basin Diversion Policy and Protocol in the Commission's *Comprehensive Plan for Management and Development of the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin*.

Under Section 3.10 of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, Public Law 91-575, 84 Stat. 1509 *et seq.*, the Commission must review and approve all diversions of water from the Susquehanna River Basin. Up to this time, the Commission has adopted no formal policy position or statement on how it will evaluate proposed diversions, but has relied on positions articulated in past docket decisions. This policy establishes the principles that the Commission will consider in the approval of diversions and adds a protocol describing how those principles will be applied. Written

comments will also be accepted and made a part of the hearing record.

**DATES:** The public hearing will be held on March 20, 1997, beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. Written comments on the proposed policy should be submitted by March 20, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** The public hearing will be held at the Best Western Country Cupboard Inn, Rt. 15 North, Lewisburg, Pa.. Copies of the entire policy statement and protocol may be obtained upon request to the Commission at 1721 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17102-2391, (717)238-0423.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard A. Cairo, General Counsel/Secretary, SRBC, 717-238-0423.

Dated: February 21, 1997.  
Richard A. Cairo,  
*General Counsel/Secretary.*  
[FR Doc. 97-4938 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7040-01-P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Free Trade Area of the Americas; Notice and Request for Views**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of opportunity to provide views on U.S. objectives for the free trade area of the Americas.

**SUMMARY:** The Trade Policy Staff Committee is issuing this notice to request advice and information useful in the preparation for the meeting of Western Hemisphere trade ministers, to be held on May 16, 1997 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. At the Summit of the Americas, leaders of the Western Hemisphere agreed that countries should conclude negotiation of a "Free Trade Area of the Americas" by 2005. The trade ministers were asked to oversee the negotiation.

**DATES:** In order to receive full consideration, comments must be received no later than: March 24, 1997. This will make them timely for consideration as U.S. positions for the Ministerial meeting are developed. Any comments, however brief, would be welcome. The U.S. Government will continue to welcome advice as work on the FTAA proceeds.

**ADDRESSES:** Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Room 501, Washington, D.C. 20508.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen James Chopra (202) 395-5190.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The 34 democratically-elected leaders of the Western Hemisphere gathered at the first Summit of the Americas in Miami in December 1994. At the Summit, leaders agreed that countries should conclude negotiation of a "Free Trade Area of the Americas" (FTAA) by 2005 and make concrete progress towards that goal by 2000. They directed their trade ministers to oversee the process of constructing the FTAA.

The first Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial was held in Denver in June 1995. The United States Trade Representative and the other 33 Ministers in the Hemisphere responsible for trade agreed to the Denver "Joint Declaration." This advanced the Summit of the America's objective of establishing the FTAA by 2005. The Denver Declaration adopted a set of principles and created a work program to prepare for negotiation of the FTAA—including the establishment of seven working groups. Four more working groups were created at the second Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial, which was held in Cartagena, Colombia in March 1996. The eleven working groups established to date are: Investment, Standards and Technical Barriers to Trade, Subsidies/Anti-dumping/Countervailing Duties, Smaller Economies, Government Procurement, Intellectual Property Rights, Services, Competition Policy, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, Customs Procedures and Rules of Origin, and Market Access.

In the Cartagena "Joint Declaration", the Ministers mandated that Vice Ministers make recommendations on when and how to launch the FTAA negotiations and on the approach to negotiations. Also, concrete proposals on near-term practical steps toward hemispheric economic integration (e.g. business facilitation actions) are to be reported to the Ministers at the next Ministerial. The Ministers provided overall guidance to further the FTAA process and another detailed plan of work for the eleven working groups. Copies of the Miami, Denver and Cartagena Declarations can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.ustr.gov/index.html>.

The third Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial will take place on May 16 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Ministers have requested that Vice Ministers prepare recommendations on how and when to launch the negotiations to construct the FTAA.

**Key Issues**

To make preparations for the Belo Horizonte Ministerial as relevant as possible, the U.S. Government is seeking advice and views from the public. Any views on the FTAA process are welcome, but of particular interest would be input on the following issues:

- What should U.S. objectives be for the FTAA process as a whole, and what should we seek to achieve at the next meeting in Belo Horizonte to make progress towards that objective?
- What major issues are not currently addressed adequately by international disciplines that could be addressed in the FTAA?
- Are there particular advantages/disadvantages to negotiating or implementing certain agreements or codes affecting either specific sectors (e.g. telecommunications) or disciplines (e.g. investment) before the FTAA negotiations are completed in the year 2005?
- What concrete steps toward economic integration would most benefit U.S. interests overall or the interests of specific industries or groups?
- What impediments are most detrimental to the U.S. companies doing business and how can hemispheric disciplines remove them?
- Has your company or organization experienced particular problems in the region of which the U.S. Government should be aware as it goes through the FTAA process?
- To what extent have the subregional arrangements (Mercosur, Andean Pact, Central American Common Market, Caribbean Community) affected your interests in or exports to Latin America and the Caribbean?
- What measures should the ministers consider to ensure that private sector advice from throughout the Hemisphere is received and incorporated into the FTAA process?
- Do you have any concrete proposals for near-term practical steps toward hemispheric economic integration (e.g. business facilitation actions)?

**Written Comments:** All written comments should be addressed to: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Room 501, Washington, D.C. 20508.

All submissions must be in English and should conform to the information requirements of 15 CFR 2003.

A party must provide ten copies of its submission, which must be received at USTR no later than March 24, 1997. If the submission contains business

confidential information, ten copies of a non-confidential version must also be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially must be included in the submission. In addition, any submissions containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "confidential" at the top and bottom of the cover page (or letter) and of each succeeding page of the submission. The version that does not contain confidential information should also be clearly marked, at the top and bottom of each page, "public version" or "non-confidential."

Written comments submitted in connection with this request, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6, will be available for public inspection shortly after the filing deadline. Inspection is by appointment only with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room and can be arranged by calling (202) 395-6186.

Frederick L. Montgomery,

*Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

[FR Doc. 97-4936 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Aviation Administration**

[Summary Notice No. PE-97-10]

**Petitions for Exemption; Summary of Petitions Received; Dispositions of Petitions Issued**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of petitions for exemption received and of dispositions of prior petitions.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to FAA's rulemaking provisions governing the application, processing, and disposition of petitions for exemption (14 CFR Part 11), this notice contains a summary of certain petitions seeking relief from specified requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Chapter I), dispositions of certain petitions previously received, and corrections. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of any petition or its final disposition.

**DATES:** Comments on petitions received must identify the petition docket