

receipt is July 12, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to July 26, 1999).

A copy of the application and the accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at the following location: Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3716, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230-0002.

Dated: April 29, 1999.

**Dennis Puccinelli,**

*Acting Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-12015 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 18-99]

#### **Foreign-Trade Subzone 59A—Lincoln, NE, Request for Removal of Board Order Condition; Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. (Industrial Robots)**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. (KMM), operator of FTZ 59A, requesting removal of the time restriction on manufacturing authority for industrial robots pursuant to Board Order 745 (60 FR 30517, 6-9-95), which authorized the manufacture of industrial robots under FTZ procedures for an initial period ending July 1, 1999, subject to extension. It was formally filed on May 3, 1999.

Subzone 59A was approved by the Board in 1980 with authority granted for the manufacture of motorcycles, jet skis, and four wheel all-terrain vehicles (Board Order 163, 45 FR 58637, 9-4-80). The subzone was subsequently expanded in 1994 (Board Order 712, 59 FR 66891, 12-28-94). The Board later approved the manufacture of off-road, utility work trucks and industrial robots with 6 or more axes of motion under FTZ procedures for the U.S. market and export (Board Orders 744 and 745, 60 FR 30517, 6-9-95). KMM is now requesting that the manufacturing authority for industrial robots be extended on a permanent basis. Foreign-sourced components comprise approximately 60 percent of the finished robots' FOB value and include: plastic parts, rubber belts, fasteners, metal fittings, air pumps/compressors,

data processing equipment (controllers), optical readers, valves and switches, electric motors and transformers, transmissions/gear boxes, diodes, transistors, semiconductors, liquid crystal devices, and measuring instruments (duty rate range: free-9.0%).

FTZ procedures exempt KMM from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production. On its domestic sales, the company can choose the duty rate that applies to finished industrial robots (HTSUS 8479.50.0000, 2.5%) for the foreign components noted above. The request indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures will continue to help improve the facility's international competitiveness. In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is July 12, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to July 26, 1999).

A copy of the application and the accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at the following location: Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3716, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230-0002.

Dated: May 3, 1999.

**Dennis Puccinelli,**

*Acting Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-12017 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 15-99]

#### **Foreign-Trade Zone 122—Corpus Christi, TX; Application for Subzone Equistar Chemicals LP (Oil Refinery); Nueces County, TX**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, grantee of FTZ 122, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the petrochemical complex of Equistar Chemicals LP, located in

Nueces County, Texas. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on April 27, 1999.

The petrochemical complex and connecting pipelines (1,700 acres) are located at four sites in Nueces County, Texas (Corpus Christi area): *Site 1* (1,600 acres)—main petrochemical complex, located at 1501 McKinzie Road; *Site 2* (3 leased tanks on 51.26 acres, 141,600 barrel capacity)—dock facility located adjacent to the Corpus Christi inner harbor; *Site 3* (10 leased tanks, 1.4 million barrel capacity) at the Hess storage facility and, and *Site 4* (2 leased tanks, 166,000 barrel capacity) located at the CITGO Corpus Christi refinery located at 1802 Nueces Bay Blvd. The complex (253 employees) produces a variety of petrochemical feedstocks and fuel products, including ethylene (1.7 billion lb. capacity), propylene (800 million lb. capacity), benzene (600 million lb. capacity), butadiene (200 million lb. capacity), propane, toluene, butylenes, piperylenes, resin oils, dicyclopentadiene, isoprene, methanol, and fuel oils. The complex also produces MTBE, biphenyl, hydrogen, and certain gasoline blendstocks, which will not be produced under zone procedures. Some 54 percent of the inputs, including gas oil, naphtha, condensate, and natural gasoline, are sourced abroad.

Zone procedures would exempt the refinery from Customs duty payments on the foreign products used in its exports. On domestic sales, the company would be able to choose the Customs duty rates that apply to certain petrochemical feedstocks by admitting incoming foreign inputs in non-privileged foreign status. The duty rates on inputs range from 5.25¢/barrel to 10.5¢/barrel. Under the FTZ Act, certain merchandise in FTZ status is exempt from ad valorem inventory-type taxes. The application indicates that the savings from zone procedures would help improve the refinery's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is July 12, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material

submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to July 26, 1999).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

Office of the Port Director, U.S.,  
Customs Service, 400 Mann St.,  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
Office of the Executive Secretary,  
Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room  
3716, U.S. Department of Commerce,  
14th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.,  
Washington, DC 20230

Dated: May 3, 1999.

**Dennis Puccinelli,**

*Acting Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-12014 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a closed meeting of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Tuesday, June 1, 1999. The Judges Panel is composed of nine members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of this meeting is to review the 1999 Baldrige Award cycle, final judging interaction, survey of applicants and judging process improvement discussions. The applications under review contain trade secrets and proprietary commercial information submitted to the Government in confidence.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene June 1, 1999, at 11:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. on June 1, 1999. The entire meeting will be closed.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Tenth Floor Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on April 26, 1999, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of records and discussion of Award applicant data, may be closed to the public in accordance with section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, since the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

Dated: May 4, 1999.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-11893 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Wednesday, June 2, 1999. The Board of Overseers is composed of eleven members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, assembled to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the conduct of the Baldrige Award. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and review information received from the National Institute of Standards and Technology with the members of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The agenda will include reviewing roles and responsibilities of Judges and Overseers; information transfer through QE XI, regional conferences, state, local and international networks; discussion of proposed program changes including three award/category cap; health care and education efforts including first year progress, fund-raising, and 2000

criteria; and 1999 Award criteria changes and future criteria evolution.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene June 2, 1999, at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on June 2, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Tenth Floor Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

Dated: May 4, 1999.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-11894 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031899A]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; IFQ Halibut Fisheries Off Alaska; Experimental Fishing Permit

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Issuance of an experimental fishing permit.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the issuance of experimental fishing permit 99-01 (EFP) to the Washington Sea Grant Program (WSGP). The EFP authorizes the WSGP to conduct an experiment in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) that would test the effectiveness of seabird avoidance measures. NMFS could use results from the EFP to establish more effective regulatory measures to reduce incidental take of seabirds in these fisheries. This EFP is necessary to provide information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations. The intended effect of this action is to promote the purposes and policies of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the EFP are available from Lori Gravel, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region,