

Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app.2).

Objectives and Duties

1. The Committee shall review and make recommendations regarding general policy for NIST, its organization, its budget, and its programs, within the framework of applicable national policies set forth by the President and the Congress.

2. The Committee functions solely as an advisory body, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

3. The Committee shall report to the Director of NIST.

4. The Committee shall provide a written annual report, through the Director of NIST, to the Secretary of Commerce for submission to the Congress on or before January 31 each year. Such report shall deal essentially, though not necessarily exclusively, with policy issues or matters which affect the Institute, or with which the Committee in its official role as the private sector policy adviser of the Institute is concerned. Each such report shall identify areas of research and research techniques of the Institute of potential importance to the long-term competitiveness of United States industry, which could be used to assist United States enterprises and United States industrial joint research and development ventures. The Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the Congress such additional reports on specific policy matters as it deems appropriate.

Membership

1. The Committee is composed of fifteen members that provide representation of a cross-section of traditional and emerging United States industries. Members shall be selected solely on the basis of established records of distinguished service and shall be eminent in one or more fields such as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations. No employee of the Federal Government shall serve as a member of the Committee.

2. The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall appoint the members of the Committee, and they will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance.

Miscellaneous

1. Members of the VCAT are not paid for their service, but will, upon request,

be allowed travel expenses in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5701 et seq., while attending meetings of the Committee or of its subcommittees, or while otherwise performing duties at the request of the chairperson, while away from their homes or a regular place of business.

2. Meetings of the VCAT take place in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, usually at the NIST headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and once each year at the NIST headquarters in Boulder, Colorado. Meetings are one or two days in duration and are held quarterly.

3. Committee meetings are open to the public except for approximately one hour, usually at the beginning of the meeting, a closed session is held in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in those portions of the meetings is likely to reveal information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. All other portions of the meetings are open to the public.

II. Nomination Information

1. Nominations are sought from all fields described above.

2. Nominees should have established records of distinguished service and shall be eminent in fields such as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment and international relations. The category (field of eminence) for which the candidate is qualified should be specified in the nomination letter. Nominations for a particular category should come from organizations or individuals within that category. A summary of the candidate's qualifications should be included with the nomination, including (where applicable) current or former service on federal advisory boards and federal employment. In addition, each nomination letter should state that the person agrees to the nomination, acknowledge the responsibilities of serving on the VCAT, and will actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the VCAT. Besides participation at meetings, it is desired that members be able to devote the equivalent of two days between meetings to either developing or researching topics of potential interest, and so forth in furtherance of their Committee duties.

3. The Department of Commerce is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace and seeks a broad-based and diverse VCAT membership.

Dated: August 17, 1999.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 99-22217 Filed 8-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology; Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Tuesday, September 14, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology is composed of fifteen members appointed by the Director of NIST; who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations. The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include an update on NIST programs; Update on the Manufacturing Extension Partnership; Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory's Thermophysical Properties Standard Reference Data Dissemination; a laboratory tour of the Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory's Welding R&D Program; Electronic and Electrical Engineering Laboratory's Future Directions in Metrology for the Magnetic Recording Industry and RF and Antenna Measurements; and Physics Laboratory's Short Pulse Lasers and the Laser "Ruler".

Discussions scheduled to begin at 8:15 a.m. and to end at 9:15 a.m. on September 14, 1999, on staffing of management positions at NIST and the NIST budget, including funding levels of the Advanced Technology Program and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership will be closed.

DATES: The meeting will convene September 14, 1999, at 8:15 a.m. and

will adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on September 14, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Radio Building, Room 1107 (seating capacity 60, includes 35 participants), National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder, Colorado.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Brian C. Belanger, Executive Director, Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1004, telephone number (301) 975-4720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Acting Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on July 15, 1999, that portions of the meeting of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology which involved discussion of proposed funding of the Advanced Technology Program and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because those portions of the meetings will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of meetings which involve discussion of the staffing issues of management and other positions at NIST may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in those portions of the meetings is likely to reveal information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: August 17, 1999.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 99-22218 Filed 8-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.072899D]

Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of the report on the June

1998 Turtle Excluder Device (TED) testing session.

DATES: August 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the 1998 TED testing report may be submitted to the Chief, Harvesting Systems and Engineering Branch, Mississippi Laboratories, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, P.O. Drawer 1207, Pascagoula, MS 39568-1207.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Schroeder, 301-713-1401, or Charles A. Oravetz, 727-570-5312.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Harvesting Systems and Engineering Branch of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula Facility conducted SCUBA diver evaluations and testing of modified TED designs using the small turtle test protocol (Federal Register, Vol. 55, No. 195) in Panama City, Florida, May 29–June 14, 1998. The project objectives were to: (1) test and evaluate candidate Andrews soft TED designs for the exclusion of juvenile sea turtles, (2) develop detailed installation criteria for soft TED designs which pass the efficiency test, (3) examine the consistency of installation with the currently approved Parker soft TED design among different trawl types and sizes, and (4) provide vessel and diver support in conducting a multiple submergence experiment on 2 year old loggerhead sea turtles.

Soft TEDs were prohibited in December 1997 (61 FR 66933) due to difficulties with installing them correctly and observed sea turtle takes during controlled testing and commercial trawling operations. The Parker soft TED, however, was approved for use in the shrimp industry through October 13, 1999 (63 FR 17956, April 13, 1998). The approval was based on information from tests conducted in 1997 which showed the Parker design to be effective in excluding sea turtles in certain net configurations. Its use after October 13, 1999, will be determined based on an evaluation of the 1998 TED testing report made available through this **Federal Register** notice as well as an evaluation of observations made during commercial fishing activities, enforcement data and stranding data.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531–1543 *et seq.*

Dated: August 20, 1999.

Wanda L. Cain,

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-22216 Filed 8-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Petition Requesting Development of Safety Standard for Bleachers and Grandstands

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission has received a petition from Representatives Bill Luther and Jim Ramstad requesting that the Commission develop a safety standard to prevent falls between gaps in bleachers and grandstands. The Commission solicits written comments concerning the petition.

DATES: Comments on the petition should be received in the Office of the Secretary by October 25, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments, preferably in five copies, on the petition should be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, telephone (301) 504-0800, or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Room 501, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments should be captioned "Petition CP 99-2, Petition for Development of a Safety Standard for Bleachers and Grandstands." A copy of the petition is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Reading Room, Room 419, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rockelle Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504-0800, ext. 1232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission has received a letter from Representatives Bill Luther and Jim Ramstad requesting that the Commission develop a safety standard for bleachers and grandstands. The Commission is docketing the correspondence as a petition under provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 2051 *et seq.* The petitioners note that there have been several recent incidents involving children falling through gaps in bleachers at basketball and hockey arenas. In one such incident a six-year-old boy died. The petitioners ask for a standard that would include minimum spacing requirements for gaps in new bleachers. They also request that the Commission issue guidelines for retrofitting older facilities.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the petition by writing or calling the