

must be limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than April 14, 2000. The Department will issue a notice of final results of this sunset review, which will include the results of its analysis of issues raised in any such, no later than June 27, 2000.

This five-year ("sunset") review and notice are in accordance with sections 751(c), 752, and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: February 18, 2000.

Robert S. LaRussa,
Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-821-802]

Uranium From Russia; Preliminary Results of Sunset Review of Suspended Antidumping Duty Investigation

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of preliminary results of full sunset review: Uranium from Russia.

SUMMARY: On August 2, 1999, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") initiated a sunset review of the antidumping duty suspension agreement on uranium from Russia (64 FR 41915) pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"). On the basis of a notice of intent to participate filed on behalf of domestic and respondent interested parties, the Department determined to conduct a full review. As a result of this review, the Department preliminarily finds that revocation of the antidumping duty suspension agreement would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping at the levels indicated in the Preliminary Results of Review section of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 28, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathryn B. McCormick or Melissa G. Skinner, Office of Policy for Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1930 or (202) 482-1560, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Statute and Regulations

This review is being conducted pursuant to sections 751(c) and 752 of the Act. The Department's procedures for the conduct of sunset reviews are set forth in *Procedures for Conducting Five-year ("Sunset") Reviews of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders*, 63 FR 13516 (March 20, 1998) ("Sunset Regulations") and in CFR Part 351 (1999) in general. Guidance on methodological or analytical issues relevant to the Department's conduct of sunset reviews is set forth in the Department's Policy Bulletin 98.3—*Policies Regarding the Conduct of Five-year ("Sunset") Reviews of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders; Policy Bulletin*, 63 FR 18871 (April 16, 1998) ("Sunset Policy Bulletin").

Background

On August 2, 1999, the Department initiated a sunset review of the antidumping duty suspension agreement on uranium from Russia (64 FR 41915), pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act. The Department received Notices of Intent to Participate on behalf of domestic interested parties, the Ad Hoc Committee,¹ USEC, Inc. and its subsidiary, the United States Enrichment Corporation (collectively, "USEC"), and Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union, AFL-CIO ("PACE"), within the applicable deadline (August 17, 1999) specified in section 351.218(d)(1)(i) of the *Sunset Regulations*. On August 27, 1999, we received a notice of intent to participate on behalf of AHUG.² The Ad Hoc Committee claimed interested-party status under section 771(9)(C) of the Act, as the only U.S. producers of a domestic like product; the AHUG claimed interested-party status as industrial users of uranium; ³ PACE claimed interested-party status as a union representing workers of two domestic gaseous diffusion plants that produce uranium products.

¹ The Ad Hoc Committee consists of Rio Algom Mining Corporation, Uranium Resources Inc., and Cotter Corporation.

² The AHUG consists of Ameren UE, Baltimore Gas and Electric Co., Carolina Power and Light Co., Commonwealth Edison Co., Consumers Energy, Duke Power Co., Entergy Services, Inc., FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co., Florida Power and Light Co., Northern States Power Co., PECO Energy Co., Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Texas Utilities Electric Co., and Virginia Power.

³ The Department notes that, although industrial users are allowed to participate in sunset reviews, they are not considered "interested parties" as defined in the statute and regulations. See section 771(9) and 771(h) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.312.

The Ad Hoc Committee claims that, along with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, it was the original petitioner in the suspended antidumping investigation and resulting suspension agreement under review (see September 1, 1999, Substantive Response of the Ad Hoc Committee at 4).

USEC notes that it was created, in 1993, as a U.S. government-owned company to operate the enrichment facilities then owned by the Department of Energy ("DOE") and privatized in July 1998. While USEC was not in existence when the petition in the original proceeding was filed in 1991, the DOE participated in the original proceeding and provided comments regarding the implementation of the original Russian suspension agreement. After its creation, USEC commented on subsequent amendments to the agreement and, on March 13, 1998, requested that the Department determine that enriched uranium derived from the re-enrichment of depleted uranium tails in Russia should be treated as Russian-origin material covered by the Russian suspension agreement (see September 1, 1999, Substantive Response of USEC at 7). On August 6, 1999, USEC requested that the Department issue a scope ruling to clarify that enriched uranium located in Kazakhstan at the time of the dissolution of the Soviet Union is within the scope of the Russian suspension agreement. *Id.*

AHUG did not submit a summary of their past participation in the proceedings.

On September 1, 1999, the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy ("Minatom"), AO Technsnabexport, ("Tenex"), and Globe Nuclear Services and Supply GNSS, Limited ("GNSS") (collectively, "respondent interested parties") notified the Department of their intent to participate in the review. Minatom is an interested party pursuant to section 771(9)(B) of the Act, as the government of a country in which subject merchandise is produced and exported; Tenex claims interested-party status pursuant to section 771(9)(A) of the Act as the exclusive producer and exporter; and GNSS imports into the United States from Russia.

Minatom and Tenex claim that they have been involved in all aspects of the suspended investigation through their compliance with the terms of the suspension agreement and through ongoing consultations with the United States. GNSS claims that it has participated as an importer by reporting sales of the subject merchandise under

the agreement and by submitting comments to the Department on various aspects of the suspended investigation.

On September 1, 1999, we received complete substantive responses from the above domestic and respondent interested parties, and industrial users with the exception of PACE,⁴ within the 30-day deadline specified in the *Sunset Regulations* under section 351.218(d)(3)(i). On September 2, 1999, we received a request for an extension to file rebuttal comments from AHUG.⁵ Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.302(b)(1999), the Department extended the deadline for all participants eligible to file rebuttal comments until September 13, 1999.⁶ On September 14, 1999, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.218 (e)(1)(ii)(A), the Department determined to conduct a full (240-day) sunset review of this suspension agreement.⁷

In accordance with section 751(c)(5)(C)(v) of the Act, the Department may treat a review as extraordinarily complicated if it is a review of a transition order (*i.e.*, an order in effect on January 1, 1995). Accordingly, on November 22, 1999, the Department determined that the sunset review of the uranium investigation is extraordinarily complicated, and extended the time limit for completion of the preliminary results of this review until not later than February 18, 2000, in accordance with section 751(c)(5)(B) of the Act.⁸

Scope of Review

The merchandise covered in the June 3, 1992, preliminary determination of the suspension investigation includes natural uranium in the form of uranium ores and concentrates; natural uranium metal and natural uranium compounds; alloys, dispersions (including cermets), ceramic products, and mixtures containing natural uranium or natural uranium compound; uranium enriched in U²³⁵ and its compounds; alloys dispersions (including cermets), ceramic products and mixtures containing uranium enriched in U²³⁵ or

compounds or uranium enriched in U²³⁵; and any other forms of uranium within the same class or kind. According to the Department's preliminary determination, the uranium subject to these investigations is provided for under subheadings 2612.10.00.00, 2844.10.10.00, 2844.10.20.10, 2844.10.20.25, 2844.10.20.50, 2844.10.20.55, 2844.10.50, 2844.20.00.10, 2844.20.00.20, 2844.20.00.30, and 2844.20.00.50 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTSUS").⁹ Although the above HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description remains dispositive. In addition, the Department preliminarily determined that highly-enriched uranium ("HEU") is not covered within the scope of the investigation, and that the subject merchandise constitutes a single class or kind of merchandise.

On October 30, 1992, the Department issued a suspension of the antidumping duty investigation of uranium from Russia and an amendment of the preliminary determination.¹⁰

The suspension agreement (the "Agreement") provided that uranium ore from Russia that is milled into U₃O₈ and/or converted into UF₆ in another country prior to direct and/or indirect importation into the United States is considered uranium from Russia and is subject to the terms of the Agreement.¹¹ Further, uranium enriched in U²³⁵ or compounds of uranium enriched in Russia are covered by the Agreement, regardless of their subsequent modification or blending. Uranium enriched in U²³⁵ in another country prior to direct and/or indirect importation into the United States is not considered uranium from Russia and is not subject to the terms of this Agreement.¹²

HEU is within the scope of this investigation, and HEU is covered by this Agreement. For the purpose of this Agreement, HEU means uranium enriched to 20 percent or greater in the isotope uranium-235. Imports of

uranium ores and concentrates, natural uranium compounds, and all other forms of enriched uranium are currently classifiable under HTSUS subheadings 2612.10.00, 2844.10.20, 2844.20.00, respectively. Imports of natural uranium metal and forms of natural uranium other than compounds are currently classifiable under HTSUS subheadings 2844.10.10 and 2844.10.50. *Id.* Although the above HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description remains dispositive.

On August 6, 1999, USEC, Inc. and its subsidiary, United States Enrichment Corporation (collectively, "USEC") requested that the Department issue a scope ruling to clarify that enriched uranium located in Kazakhstan at the time of the dissolution of the Soviet Union is within the scope of the Russian suspension agreement. Respondent interested parties filed an opposition to the scope request on August 27, 1999. That scope request is pending before the Department at this time.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs by parties to this sunset review are addressed in the "Issues and Decision Memorandum" ("Decision Memo") from Jeffrey A. May, Director, Office of Policy, Import Administration, to Robert S. La Russa, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, dated February 18, 2000, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into this notice. The issues discussed in the attached Decision Memo include the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of dumping and the magnitude of the margin likely to prevail were the suspension investigation terminated. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum which is on file in B-099.

In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memo can be accessed directly on the Web at www.ita.doc.gov/import_admin/records/frn/, under the heading "Russia." The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memo are identical in content.

Preliminary Results of Review

We determine that revocation of the antidumping duty suspension agreement on uranium from Russia would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping at the following percentage weighted-average margin:

⁴ See September 9, 1999, Letter to the Secretary from Philip H. Potter withdrawing PACE from participation in the sunset reviews of uranium from Russia, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

⁵ See September 2, 1999, *Request for an Extension to File Rebuttal Comments in the Sunset Reviews of Uranium from Russia, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine* from Shaw Pittman to the Office of Policy.

⁶ See September 3, 1999, Letter from Jeffrey A. May, Director of the Office of Policy to Nancy A. Fischer of Shaw Pittman.

⁷ See May 24, 1999, Memoranda for Jeffrey A. May, Re: Sunset Reviews of Uranium from Russia and Uzbekistan: Adequacy of Respondent Interested Party Response to the Notice of Initiation.

⁸ See *Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results of Full Five-Year Reviews*, 64 FR 66879 (November 30, 1999).

⁹ See *Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Uranium from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan; and Preliminary Determination of Sales at Not Less Than Fair Value: Uranium from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Turkmenistan*, 57 FR 23380, 23381 (June 3, 1992).

¹⁰ See *Antidumping; Uranium from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan; Suspension of Investigations and Amendment of Preliminary Determinations*, 57 FR 49220 (October 30, 1992).

¹¹ *Id.* at 49235.

¹² *Id.*

Manufacturer/exporters	Margin (percent)
All Russian manufacturers/exporters	115.82

Any interested party may request a hearing within 30 days of publication of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.310(c). Any hearing, if requested, will be held on April 19, 2000, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.310(d). Interested parties may submit case briefs no later than April 10, 2000, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(i). Rebuttal briefs, which must be limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed no later than April 12, 2000. The Department will issue a notice of final results of this sunset review, which will include the results of its analysis of issues raised in any such, no later than June 27, 2000.

This five-year ("sunset") review and notice are in accordance with sections 751(c), 752, and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: February 18, 2000.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-4619 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

ACTION: Notice of intent to evaluate.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) announces its intent to evaluate the performance of the New Hampshire and Rhode Island Coastal Managements Programs.

These evaluations will be conducted pursuant to Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended, and regulations at 15 CFR Part 928. The CZMA requires a continuing review of the performance of states with respect to coastal program and research reserve program implementation. Evaluation of Coastal Zone Management Programs requires findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives enumerated in the CZMA, adhered to its coastal program document approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered

to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA. The evaluation will include a site visit, consideration of public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, State, and local agencies and members of the public. A public meeting will be held as part of the site visit.

Notice is hereby given of the date of the site visit for the listed evaluation, and the date, local time, and location of the public meeting during the site visit.

The New Hampshire Coastal Management Program site visit will be from March 20-24, 2000. A public meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21, 2000, at 7 p.m., in the Urban Forestry Center Meeting Barn Room, 45 Elwin Road, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program site visit will be from April 17-21, 2000. A public meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2000, at 7 p.m., in Conference Room A, 2nd floor, RI Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island.

The State will issue notice of the public meeting in a local newspaper at least 45 days prior to the public meeting, and will issue other timely notice as appropriate.

Copies of the State's most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's notifications and supplemental request letters to the State, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding these programs are encouraged and will be accepted until 15 days after the date of the public meeting. Please direct written comments to Margo E. Jackson, Deputy Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. When the evaluation is completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margo E. Jackson, Deputy Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, (301) 713-3155, Extension 114.

Ted Lillestolen,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 00-4627 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021700E]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the IFQ Program

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

ACTION: Notice of fishing season dates.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for sablefish with fixed gear managed under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program. The season will open 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 15, 2000, and will close 1200 hrs, A.l.t., November 15, 2000. This period is the same as the IFQ season for Pacific halibut announced by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The IFQ halibut season is announced by publication in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, A.l.t., March 15, 2000, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., November 15, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Hale, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Beginning in 1995, fishing for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) with fixed gear in the IFQ regulatory areas defined in § 679.2 has been managed under the IFQ Program. The IFQ Program is a regulatory regime designed to promote the conservation and management of these fisheries and to further the objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act. Persons holding quota share receive an annual allocation of IFQ. Persons receiving an annual allocation of IFQ are authorized to harvest IFQ species within specified limitations. Further information on the implementation of the IFQ Program, and the rationale supporting it, are contained in the preamble to the final rule implementing the IFQ Program published in the **Federal Register**, November 9, 1993 (58 FR 59375), and subsequent amendments.

This announcement is consistent with § 679.23(g)(1), which requires that the directed fishing season for sablefish managed under the IFQ program be specified by the Administrator, Alaska Region, and announced by publication in the **Federal Register**. This method of season announcement was selected to facilitate coordination between the