

## NEW EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS—Continued

Application No.	Applicant	Reason for delay	Estimated date of completion
11903-M .....	Comptank Corporation, Bothwell, Ontario, CA .....	4	04/28/2000
12074-M .....	Van Hool NV, B-2500 Lier Koningshooikt, BG .....	1	04/28/2000
12178-M .....	STC Technologies, Inc., Bethlehem, PA .....	1	04/28/2000

[FR Doc. 00-8729 Filed 4-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

## TRADE DEFICIT REVIEW COMMISSION

### Notice of Open Public Hearing

**AGENCY:** U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of open public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U. S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

*Name:* Murray Weidenbaum, Chairman of the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission

The Commission is mandated to report to the Congress and the President on the causes, consequences, and solutions to the U. S. trade deficit. The purpose of this public hearing is to take testimony on (1) agricultural trade: its importance, opportunities, obstacles, and challenges for U.S. farmers and rural communities as well as its impacts; (2) U.S.-Canada trade issues; and (3) international trade for small businesses in the United States: its importance, opportunities, challenges and impacts. Witnesses will also be invited to propose policy changes.

Confirmed witnesses include Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri and Governor Bill Graves of Kansas; Dr. Thomas M. Hoenig, President, and Dr. Alan Barkema, Vice President, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; Leland Swenson, President of the National Farmers Union; Daniel Amstutz, President of the North American Export Grain Association; Roger Johnson, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner; Professors Neil Harl and Dermot Hayes, Iowa State University; Professor Susan Feinberg, University of Maryland; and Professor Peter K. Kresl, Bucknell University.

### Background

In fulfilling its statutory mission, the Commission is holding field hearings to collect input from industry and labor leaders, government officials, leading researchers, other informed witnesses, and the public. The Commission has already held hearings in Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle,

Dallas, and New York on various aspects of our trade relations. Information on these hearings can be obtained from the USTDRC website [www.ustdrc.gov](http://www.ustdrc.gov).

Professor Murray Wiedenbaum of Washington University, St. Louis, who is a former Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, chairs the Commission. The Vice Chairman is Professor Dimitri Papadimitriou, President of The Jerome Levy Economics Institute at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. The Kansas City, MO, hearing will be chaired by Commissioner Wayne D. Angell, Chief Economist and Senior Managing Director of Bear Stearns & Co., Inc., who is a former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors at the Federal Reserve.

### Purpose of Hearing

In light of the ongoing massive trade and current account deficits incurred by the United States, progress in improving U.S. exporters' access to foreign markets is critically important. The failure of the WTO Ministerial in Seattle to come up with a negotiating agenda for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations highlights how the consensus on reducing barriers to trade has fractured. Rebuilding the consensus on trade issues in the United States is of critical importance in addressing the large U. S. trade deficits. The work of the Commission, by analyzing the U.S. trade deficits in a non-partisan manner with the input of leading experts, will provide a reasoned and informed answer on how to respond to the trade deficit and its consequences. The findings of the Commission, while not binding, will likely form the basis for Congressional consensus building on trade policy as we enter the new century.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, for presentations by invited witnesses on their views on the interrelationship between the trade deficit and the topics of the hearing. There will be a question and answer period between the Commissioners and the witnesses. Public participation is invited and there will be an open-mike session for public

comment at the conclusion of the afternoon session. Sign-up for the open-mike session will take place in the afternoon and will be on a first come first served basis. Each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of 3 minutes. Because of time constraints, parties with common interests are encouraged to designate a single speaker to represent their views.

**DATES AND TIMES:** Wednesday, April 26, 2000, 9:00 AM-5:30 PM Central Standard Time inclusive.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, located at 925 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64198. Public seating is limited to approximately 50 seats and will be on a first come first served basis. Commercial public parking lots are available within the vicinity of the Bank.

**SECURITY REQUIREMENTS:** The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is a secure facility and everyone must abide by security procedures. Everyone entering the facility is required to have a picture identification.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the hearing or who wishes to submit oral or written comments should contact Kathy Michels, Administrative Officer for the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 706, Washington, DC 20001; phone 202/624-1409; or via e-mail at: [kmichels@sso.org](mailto:kmichels@sso.org).

**PROVIDING ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMENTS AT THE KANSAS CITY HEARING:** Copies of the draft meeting agenda, when available, may be obtained from the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission by going to the Commission's website at [www.ustdrc.gov](http://www.ustdrc.gov). The Commission requests that written public statements submitted for the record be brief and concise and limited to two pages in length. Written comments (at least 35 copies) must be received at the USTDRC Headquarters Office in Washington, DC by April 17, 2000. Comments received too close to the hearing date will normally be provided to the Commission Members at its hearing.

Written comments may be provided up until the time of the hearing.

**Authority:** The Trade Deficit Review Commission Act, Public Law No.105-277, Div. A, section 127, 112 Stat. 2681-547 (1998), established the Commission to study the nature, causes and consequences of the United States merchandise trade and current

accounts deficits and report its findings to the President and the Congress. By statute, the Commission must hold at least 4 regional field hearings and 1 hearing in Washington, DC. This is the sixth in a series of field hearings to be conducted. The schedule of hearings is available at the US Trade Deficit Review Commission website <[www.ustdrc.gov](http://www.ustdrc.gov)>.

For the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, April 4, 2000.

**Allan I. Mendelowitz,**

*Executive Director, Trade Deficit Review Commission.*

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