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From: Hoekstra, Jeffrey G.
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 1:42 PM
To: Clarke, Robert
Subject: comments on proposed rule changes

Mr. Clarke,

As a new-hire examiner in TC3700 who received their accelerated promotion and envisions becoming a primary, the proposed rule package briefing gave me a number of insights into PTO proceedings, some of which I would like to share and comment on. I was encouraged by the early disclosure of the draft rules to employees and excited by the changes. Reducing pendency and backlog is a critical and tremendous undertaking that requires a substantial shift in office protocol. Although many examiners will resist the changes, they are a fundamental step for technology enthusiasts and entrepreneurs.

I do not wish to comment on the particulars of the drafts as they are just that. However I welcome the opportunity to examine more new applications and make an increased number of patentability decisions rather than "sitting" on old cases that continue to deliver counts. I could see in the future though that new examiner retention may prove difficult if an increased number of fast public searchers are needed by attorneys for EDS submissions. Which again compounds the complex problem of training vs. primary examiner's ability to focus on docket work.

Good luck,
Jeff

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