- What, in your institution, is the best way to conduct biosecurity training and what should it consist of?
- What is the role for Institutional Biosafety Committees in biosecurity at your facility?
- To what extent has the cost of implementing biosecurity procedures had an impact on your facility/institution? Do existing facilities make retrofitting to accommodate biosecurity difficult? Have you found alternative methods to achieve compliance?
- What personnel requirements are applied toward biosecurity at your facility? Are these measures appropriate for small institutions? Do you have suggestions for compliance guidance in this area?
- Can you provide examples of how low cost measures have been put in place that have precluded the need for ''high-tech'' solutions? An example might be a protocol for assuring personnel reliability, instead of mounting and monitoring cameras.)
- How best can biosecurity measures be instituted in clinical microbiological labs so as to avoid interfering with patient care?
- What have been the positive impacts of biosecurity implementation in your institution?
- What have been the negative impacts of biosecurity implementation in your institution?
- If you represent a company that has not yet incorporated biosecurity as part of its overall business plan, how difficult would it be to do so, and how would it impact business planning and intellectual property protection?

The public comment time is designed for substantive commentary on the successes and challenges of biosecurity implementation at laboratory facilities. Please submit a request for the opportunity to make an oral public comment five (5) days in advance of the meeting. The time for oral public comments will be limited to no more than 5 minutes per person. Written comments are also welcome and will be distributed at the meeting if provided electronically at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting. Please submit your request to make an oral comment or copy of written comments to: Rachel E. Levinson, OSTP, at *levinson@ostp.eop.gov*, or fax your request/comments to (202) 456–6027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, please call (202) 456–6130, prior to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 2004. Please note that public seating for this meeting is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The publication entitled, ''Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories,'' better known as the BMBL, is a publication of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that outlines recommended safety practices for research and clinical laboratories and research animal facilities. It describes the combinations of standard and special microbiological practices, safety equipment, and facilities constituting Biosafety Levels 1–4, which are recommended for work with a variety of infectious agents in various laboratory settings. The recommendations in the BMBL are advisory. They are intended to provide a voluntary guide or code of practice as well as goals for upgrading operations. They also are offered as a guide and reference in the construction of new laboratory facilities and in the renovation of existing facilities.

The most current version, the Fourth Edition, was published in May 1999. The 4th edition of the BMBL was the first edition to address laboratory security concerns. Appendix F of the BMBL was updated in December 2002 to provide assistance to facility managers with meeting the Select Agent regulatory mandate of 42 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 73. These guidelines are intended for laboratories where select agents are used. Appendix F (Dec. 2002) provides a summary of issues that should be considered when evaluating laboratory security in facilities that utilize Select Agents. An electronic copy of the BMBL 4thed. is available at: *http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/bmbl4/bmbl4toc.htm*.

In September 2003, CDC and NIH initiated efforts to update the BMBL. This revision process occurs every 5-years extending over an 18–24 month period. Completion of the 5th edition is anticipated by Summer 2005. This new edition will include for the first time a chapter on biosecurity.

This workshop is an opportunity for the public to provide input into the chapter on biosecurity, as well as an appendix providing supplementary information related to select agents. Public comments on the successes and challenges in implementing biosecurity will be taken into consideration when drafting the new chapter.

Dated: March 18, 2004.

Stanley S. Sokul,

Counsel, Office of Science and Technology Policy.

[FR Doc. 04–6517 Filed 3–22–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3170–01–P

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

Sunshine Act Meeting

ACTION: Notice of a partially open meeting of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

TIME AND PLACE: Thursday, April 1, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at Ex-Im Bank in Room 1143, 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20571.

OPEN AGENDA ITEM: Extension of Ex-Im Bank's Environmental Procedures & Guidelines and the Nuclear Procedures & Guidelines.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting will be open to the public participation for Item No. 1 only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of the Secretary, 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20571 (Tele. No. 202–565–3957).

Peter B. Saba,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 04–6573 Filed 3–19–04; 12:45 pm]

BILLING CODE 6690–01–M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Petition No. P4–04]

Petition of FEDEX Trade Networks Transport & Brokerage, Inc. for Exemption From the Tariff Publishing Requirements of Sections 8 and 10 of the Shipping Act of 1984, as Amended; Notice of Filing

This is to provide notice of filing and to invite comments on or before April 2, 2004, with regard to the Petition described below.

FedEx Trade Networks Transport & Brokerage, Inc. (''Petitioner'') has petitioned, pursuant to Section 16 of the Shipping Act of 1984, 46 U.S.C. app. § 1715, for an exemption from the tariff publishing and adherence requirements of the Shipping Act in order to permit Petitioner to depart from the provisions of its tariff and enter into confidential agreements for ocean transportation services with shippers.

In order for the Commission to make a thorough evaluation of the Petition, interested persons are requested to submit comments on the Petition no later than April 2, 2004. Comments on this Petition shall consist of an original and 15 copies, be directed to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20573–0001, and be served on Petitioner's counsel