

associated with the proposal and (3) any possible impacts associated with proposal based on an individual's civil rights (race, color, national origin, age, relation, gender, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status). We are especially interested in information that might identify a specific undesired result of implementing the proposed actions. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously, will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decisions under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any persons may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under FOIA confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and, should the request be denied, return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 90 days.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final

environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: September 14, 2004.

Mary Beth Adams,

Project Leader, NE-4353.

[FR Doc. 04-21046 Filed 9-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Northwest Sacramento Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Northwest Sacramento Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on October 18, and 19, 2004, in Redding and Willows, California. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct annual implementation monitoring of two projects completed in previous years, relating to standards and guidelines in the Northwest Forest Plan (NFWP).

DATES: The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. October 18 and 19, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the field both days, beginning at the Trinity Conference Room in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Headquarters, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA, 96002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Nelson, Northwest Sacramento PAC staff liaison, USDA, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA, 96002; (530) 226-2429; e-mail: jknelson@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The two projects to be monitored are: (1) Green Mountain Prescribed Fire, Shasta Lake Ranger District of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest; and (2) Salt Log Timber Sale Burn, Grindstone Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest. The meeting is open to the public.

Dated: September 14, 2004.

Thomas Contreras,

Acting Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 04-21047 Filed 9-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

President's Export Council Subcommittee on Export Administration; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The President's Export Council Subcommittee on Export Administration (PECSEA) will meet on October 20, 2004, 10 a.m., at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 4832, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW., Washington, DC. The PECSEA provides advice on matters pertinent to those portions of the Export Administration Act, as amended, that deal with United States policies of encouraging trade with all countries with which the United States has diplomatic or trading relations and of controlling trade for national security and foreign policy reasons.

Public Session

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman.
2. Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and Export Administration update.
3. Export Enforcement update.
4. Presentation of papers or comments by the public.

Closed Session

5. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the PECSEA. Written statements may be

submitted at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to PECSEA members, the PECSEA suggests that public presentation materials or comments be forwarded before the meeting to Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter at Lcarpent@bis.doc.gov.

A Notice of Determination to close meetings, or portions of meetings, of the PECSEA to the public on the basis of 5 U.S.C. 522(c)(1) was approved on October 8, 2003, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

For more information, call Ms. Carpenter on (202) 482-2583.

Dated: September 13, 2004.

Matthew S. Borman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-21044 Filed 9-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JT-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Separate-Rates Practice in Antidumping Proceedings Involving Non-Market Economy Countries

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

ACTION: Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: On May 3, 2004, the Department of Commerce published a notice in the **Federal Register** requesting comments on its separate rates practice. This practice refers to the Department's long-standing policy in antidumping proceedings of presuming that all firms within a non-market economy country ("NME") are subject to government control and thus should all be assigned a single, country-wide rate unless a respondent can demonstrate an absence of both *de jure* and *de facto* control over its export activities. In that case, the Department assigns the respondent its own individually calculated rate or, in the case of a non-investigated or non-reviewed firm, a weighted-average of the rates of the fully analyzed companies, excluding any rates that were zero, de minimis, or based entirely on facts available. In response to its May 3, 2004, request for comments on its separate rates policy and practice and on its options for changes (69 FR 24119), the Department received 23 submissions from interested parties.

Taking into account the submissions in response to its first notice requesting comments on various changes to its separate rates policy and practice, this

notice outlines revised options for such changes in order to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on whether those changes would be consistent with the statute and would redress problems that have been identified concerning separate rates appropriately. The Department intends to consider additional modifications to its NME practice and may solicit additional public comment on other potential changes, as appropriate.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by October 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments (original and six copies) should be sent to James J. Jochum, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Central Records Unit, Room 1870, Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence Norton, Economist, or Anthony Hill, Senior International Economist, Office of Policy, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington DC, 20230, 202-482-1579 or 202-482-1843.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In an NME antidumping proceeding, the Department presumes that all companies within the country are subject to governmental control and should be assigned a single antidumping duty rate unless an exporter demonstrates the absence of both *de jure* and *de facto* governmental control over its export activities. See *Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Bicycles from the People's Republic of China*, 61 FR 19026, 19027 (April 30, 1996). The Department's separate rates test is not concerned, in general, with macroeconomic border-type controls (e.g., export licenses, quotas, and minimum export prices), particularly if these controls are imposed to prevent the dumping of merchandise in the United States. Rather, the test focuses on controls over the decision-making process on export-related investment, pricing, and output decisions at the individual firm level. See *Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from Ukraine*, 62 FR 61754, 61757 (November 19, 1997); *Tapered Roller Bearings and Parts Thereof, Finished and Unfinished, from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 62 FR 61276, 61279 (November 17, 1997); and *Preliminary Determination of Sales at*

Less Than Fair Value: Honey from the People's Republic of China, 60 FR 14725, 14727 (March 20, 1995).

To establish whether a firm is sufficiently independent from government control in its export activities to be entitled to a separate rate, the Department analyzes each exporting entity under a test arising from the *Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Sparklers from the People's Republic of China*, 56 FR 20588 (May 6, 1991), as modified in the *Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Silicon Carbide from the People's Republic of China*, 59 FR 22585, 22587 (May 2, 1994) (*Silicon Carbide*). Under this test, the Department assigns separate rates in NME cases only if an exporter can demonstrate the absence of both *de jure* and *de facto* governmental control over its export activities. See *Silicon Carbide and Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Furfuryl Alcohol from the People's Republic of China*, 60 FR 22544, 22545 (May 8, 1995). In order to request and qualify for a separate rate, a company must have exported the subject merchandise to the United States during the period of investigation or review, and it must provide information responsive to the following considerations:

1. Absence of *De Jure* Control: The Department considers the following *de jure* criteria in determining whether an individual company may be granted a separate rate: (1) An absence of restrictive stipulations associated with an individual exporter's business and export licenses; (2) any legislative enactments decentralizing control of companies; and (3) any other formal measures by the government decentralizing control of companies.
2. Absence of *De Facto* Control: Typically, the Department considers four factors in evaluating whether each respondent is subject to *de facto* governmental control of its export functions: (1) Whether the export prices are set by, or subject to the approval of, a governmental authority; (2) whether the respondent has authority to negotiate and sign contracts and other agreements; (3) whether the respondent has autonomy from the central, provincial, or local governments in making decisions regarding the selection of its management; and (4) whether the respondent retains the proceeds of its export sales and makes independent decisions regarding disposition of profits or financing of losses.

In an antidumping investigation or review, the Department will usually assign a weighted-average of the