

arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-PCX-97-34 and should be submitted by September 24, 1997.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-23260 Filed 9-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #2979]

State of Ohio

Hocking County and the contiguous Counties of Athens, Fairfield, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, and Vinton in the State of Ohio constitute a disaster area as a result of damages caused by severe thunderstorms and flash flooding which occurred August 16 through 18, 1997. Applications for loans for physical damages may be filed until the close of business on October 24, 1997 and for economic injury until the close of business on May 26, 1998 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rates are:

For Physical Damage:

HOMEOWNERS WITH CREDIT
AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE—
8.000%

HOMEOWNERS WITHOUT CREDIT
AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE—
4.000%

BUSINESSES WITH CREDIT
AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE—
8.000%

BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT
CREDIT AVAILABLE
ELSEWHERE—4.000%

OTHERS (INCLUDING NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS) WITH CREDIT
AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE—
7.250%

For Economic Injury:

BUSINESSES AND SMALL
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES
WITHOUT CREDIT AVAILABLE
ELSEWHERE—4.000%

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 297906 and for economic injury the number is 958100.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: August 25, 1997.

John T. Spotila,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-23345 Filed 9-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #2962]

State of Texas; Amendment #2

In accordance with a notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency dated August 21, 1997, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to include Goliad County, Texas as a disaster area due to damages caused by severe thunderstorms and flooding beginning on June 21, 1997 and continuing through July 15, 1997.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties in the State of Texas may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location: Bee, DeWitt, Karnes, Refugio, and Victoria.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is September 5, 1997 and for economic injury the termination date is April 7, 1998.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: August 22, 1997.

James E. Rivera,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 97-23344 Filed 9-2-97; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Information Technology Agreement; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

Trade Policy Staff Committee; Public Comments for Multilateral Negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Review and Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) or "ITA II" and Global Economic Commerce (GEC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is requesting written public comments with respect to the implementation and expansion of the Information Technology Agreement, in particular: (1) Discrepancies between current tariff nomenclature and emerging technology which may affect the expected market access benefits to the United States of the ITA; (2) additional information technology products which it would be in the interests of the United States to include in the ITA; (3) expansion of the ITA to ensure a tariff-free environment for information products and services transmitted via the Internet; (4) non-tariff barriers affecting trade in ITA products; and (5) possible acceleration of ITA duty reductions previously agreed. Comments received will be considered by the Executive Branch in formulating U.S. positions and objectives for further development of the ITA, in particular the procedures for consultations and review of product coverage provided for by participants to the ITA on March 26, 1997. They will be also be considered by the Executive Branch in developing U.S. positions and objectives for implementing the President's "Framework for Global Electronic Commerce" of July 1, 1997.

DATES: Public comments are due by noon, September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Ellis, Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs, USTR, (202-395-6843); Barbara Chatten, Director for Tariff Negotiations, USTR, (202-395-5097); or Matt Rohde, Director for Customs Affairs, USTR, (202-395-3063).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Chairman of the TPSC invites written comments from the public on issues to be addressed in the course of

¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

negotiations on review and expansion of the ITA. Any amendments to the ITA resulting from these negotiations will be subject to approval by all of the 42 current ITA participants (Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, European Communities (on behalf of 15 Member States), Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and the United States). It is expected that other participants to the ITA will be conducting similar consultations with their private sectors.

BACKGROUND: During the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the United States sought, but did not achieve, the reciprocal elimination by WTO members of tariffs on information technology products. With the encouragement and support of a broad coalition of major U.S. information technology manufacturers, the Administration continued to pursue this objective after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. In December 1996, United States and 36 other countries and separate customs territories reached agreement to eliminate tariffs on a wide range of information technology products. The resulting agreement covers computers and computer equipment, semiconductors and integrated circuits, computer software products, telecommunications equipment, semiconductor manufacturing equipment and computer-based analytical instruments. The Information Technology Agreement (ITA), the recently concluded WTO agreement on basic telecommunications services, and other trade initiatives are all elements of the "Framework for Global Electronic Commerce" issued by President Clinton and Vice President Gore on July 1, 1997. The Administration's goal is to establish a seamless global electronic marketplace free from tariff and other market access barriers (such as those created by standards-related activities). The Framework report can be downloaded from the Internet, at http://www.iitf.nist.gov/electronic_commerce.htm.

The ITA is being implemented under the auspices of the WTO. The WTO estimates that products covered by the ITA are worth approximately \$500 billion in 1995 global trade. Industry sources estimate that U.S. exports account for approximately one-fifth of this total. Detailed information on the

ITA, including the December 1996 Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products and its "product coverage" annex and the March 1997 decision which also includes detailed information on the ITA review can be found on the Internet at <http://www.wto.org/wto/goods/infotech.htm>.

On June 30, 1997, under the authority provided in Section 111(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the President proclaimed the reduction and eventual elimination, no later than the year 2000, of duties on products covered by the ITA. As required by the agreement, the United States implemented the initial ITA duty reductions on July 1, 1997. Likewise, other ITA participants will continue to reduce their tariffs on the covered products in stages, achieving complete tariff elimination for most products by the year 2000. The ITA, the recently concluded WTO agreement on basic telecommunications services, and other trade initiatives are all elements of the Administration's framework for establishing a seamless global electronic marketplace.

At the March 26, 1997 meeting at the WTO in Geneva, ITA participants agreed on a timetable for the first round of "ITA-II" negotiations. Beginning in October 1997, there will be a three month "open season," in which participants will identify their priorities for this process. Multilateral negotiations will begin in January 1998, with a view to reaching agreement on any amendments or modifications to the ITA by July 1998 and to implementing those changes on January 1, 1999.

Working with appropriate industry associations, the interagency TPSC committee led by USTR is in the process of preparing negotiating positions for these consultations. Interested U.S. parties are invited to submit comments, by noon, September 30, 1997, on the following: (1) Discrepancies between current tariff nomenclature and emerging technology which may affect the expected market access benefits to the United States of the ITA; (2) additional information technology products which it would be in the interests of the United States to include in the ITA; (3) expansion of the ITA to ensure a tariff-free environment for information products and services transmitted via the Internet; (4) non-tariff barriers imposed by other ITA participants which may hinder expected market access benefits to U.S. exporters on products covered by the ITA; and (5) possible acceleration of ITA duty reductions previously agreed. We are

requesting this advice pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2155.

All comments will be consistent in developing U.S. positions and objectives for ITA-II negotiations, and for implementing the President's "Framework for Global Electronic Commerce." Information on products or practices subject to these negotiations should include, whenever appropriate, the import or export tariff classification number for the product concerned.

Persons submitting written comments should provide a statement, in twenty copies, by noon, September 30, 1997, to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 503, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20508. Non-confidential information received will be available for public inspection by appointment in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For an appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-395-6186. Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR § 2003.6. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or page and each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
[FR Doc. 97-23368 Filed 9-2-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Process: Clark County, Nevada

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the previously noticed environmental process for the Northern and Western Las Vegas Beltway, Clark County, Nevada (57 FR 37863 dated August 20, 1992), is being terminated and withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John T. Price, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Nevada Division, 705 N. Plaza St., Suite 220, Carson City, NV 89701, Telephone: 702-687-5320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 20, 1992, the FHWA issued a notice of intent in the **Federal Register** to advise that a Tier 1 environmental impact