

protection by making available, via BrokerCheck, information regarding the professional background, business practices, and conduct of firms and associated persons that were members solely of a national securities exchange. Making this information available via BrokerCheck harmonizes the disclosure across the securities industry. The information is relevant to investors and members of the public who wish to educate themselves with respect to a firm or the professional history of a current or formerly associated person of a CRD Exchange. Further, the public's ability to access information regarding a firm or current or former associated person, whether the individual is or was associated with FINRA or with any national securities exchange that uses CRD for registration purposes, may serve to protect investors, the integrity of the marketplace, and the public interest. The Commission urges the public to utilize BrokerCheck as well as all other sources of information, particularly the databases of the state regulators, as well as legal search engines, and records searches, to conduct a thorough search of a firm or any associated person's activities.

Furthermore, the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(i)(1) of the Act,¹⁶ which require, among other things, that FINRA maintain a toll-free telephone listing and a readily accessible electronic or other process to receive and promptly respond to inquiries regarding registration information on CRD Exchange members and their associated persons. The proposed amendments require FINRA to release information through BrokerCheck about CRD Exchange members and their associated persons,¹⁷ harmonizing the information available about broker-dealers and their associated persons across the industry.

Finally, the Commission reiterates the need for FINRA to continuously strive to improve BrokerCheck to enhance its value as a tool for the public to use in deciding whether to work with a firm or a particular associated person.¹⁸ The suggestions for enhancement made by the commenter while outside the scope of this proposal should be considered.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁹ that the

proposed rule change (SR-FINRA-2013-047), be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Lynn M. Powalski,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013-31420 Filed 1-2-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #13839 and #13840]

Texas Disaster #TX-00418

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a Notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of Texas (FEMA-4159-DR), dated 12/20/2013.

Incident: Severe Storms and Flooding.
Incident Period: 10/30/2013 through 10/31/2013.

Effective Date: 12/20/2013.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 02/18/2014.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 09/22/2014.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the President's major disaster declaration on 12/20/2013, Private Non-Profit organizations that provide essential services of governmental nature may file disaster loan applications at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties:

Caldwell, Hays, Travis.
The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
<i>For Physical Damage:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations With Credit Available Elsewhere	2.625
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.625

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

	Percent
<i>For Economic Injury:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.625

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 138396 and or economic injury is 138406.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

James E. Rivera,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 2013-31504 Filed 1-2-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

2014 Special 301 Review: Identification of Countries Under Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974: Request for Public Comment and Announcement of Public Hearing

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for written submissions from the public and announcement of public hearing.

SUMMARY: Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2242) requires the United States Trade Representative (Trade Representative) to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on intellectual property protection. The provisions of Section 182 are commonly referred to as the "Special 301" provisions of the Trade Act. The Trade Act requires the Trade Representative to determine which, if any, of these countries to identify as Priority Foreign Countries. Acts, policies, or practices that are the basis of a country's identification as a Priority Foreign Country can be subject to the procedures set out in sections 301-305 of the Trade Act.

In addition, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has created a "Priority Watch List" and "Watch List" to assist the Administration in pursuing the goals of the Special 301 provisions. Placement of a trading partner on the Priority Watch List or Watch List indicates that particular problems exist in that country with respect to IPR protection, enforcement, or market access for persons that rely on intellectual property protection. Trading partners

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(i)(1).

¹⁷ See Section 15A(i) of the Act.

¹⁸ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 59916 (May 13, 2009), 74 FR 23750 (May 20, 2009) and 62476 (July 8, 2010), 75 FR 41254 (July 15, 2010).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

placed on the Priority Watch List are the focus of increased bilateral attention concerning the problem areas.

USTR chairs the Special 301 Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (Subcommittee). The Subcommittee reviews information from many sources, and consults with and makes recommendations to the Trade Representative on issues arising under Special 301. Written submissions from interested persons are a key source of information for the Special 301 review process. In 2014, USTR again will conduct a public hearing as part of the review process as well as offer the opportunity, as described below, for hearing participants to provide additional information relevant to the review. At the conclusion of the process, USTR will publish the results of the review in a "Special 301" Report.

USTR is hereby requesting written submissions from the public concerning foreign countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on intellectual property protection. USTR requests that interested parties provide the information described below in the "Public Comments" section, and identify whether a particular trading partner should be named as a Priority Foreign Country under Section 182 of the Trade Act or placed on the Priority Watch List or Watch List. Foreign governments that have been identified in previous Special 301 Reports or that are nominated for review in 2014 are considered interested parties, and are invited to respond to this request for public submissions. Interested parties, including foreign governments, wishing to submit information to be considered during the review or testify at the public hearing must adhere to the procedures and deadlines set forth below.

Dates/Deadlines: The schedule and deadlines for the 2014 Special 301 review are as follows:

Friday, February 7, 2014—Deadline for interested parties, except foreign governments, to submit written comments, notice of intent to testify at the Special 301 Public Hearing, and hearing statements.

Friday, February 14, 2014—Deadline for foreign governments to submit written comments, notice of intent to testify at the Special 301 Public Hearing, and, although not mandatory, any prepared hearing statements.

Monday, February 24, 2014—Public Hearing—The Special 301 Subcommittee will hold a Public Hearing for interested parties, including representatives of foreign governments,

at the offices of USTR, 1724 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20508. No later than Wednesday, February 19, 2014, USTR will confirm the date and location of the hearing and provide the schedule at <http://www.ustr.gov>.

Friday, March 7, 2014—Deadline for submitting post-hearing written comments. Interested parties may provide written comments after the hearing. To ensure consideration, comments must be received no later than Friday, March 7, 2014. Please submit additional written comments electronically via <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number USTR-2013-0040.

On or about April 30, 2014—USTR will publish the 2014 Special 301 Report within 30 days of the publication of the National Trade Estimate (NTE) Report.

Procedures/Addresses: All written comments, notices of intent to testify at the public hearing, hearing statements and post-hearing written responses must be in English and submitted electronically via <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number USTR-2013-0040. Please specify "2014 Special 301 Review" in the "Type Comment" field on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan F. Wilson, Director for Intellectual Property and Innovation, Office of the United States Trade Representative, at Special301@ustr.eop.gov. Information on the Special 301 annual review is also available at <http://www.ustr.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

USTR requests that interested persons identify through the process outlined in this notice those countries that deny adequate and effective protection for intellectual property rights or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on intellectual property protection.

Section 182 further requires the Trade Representative, to identify any act, policy or practice of Canada that affects cultural industries, is adopted or expanded after December 17, 1992, and is actionable under Article 2106 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The public is invited to submit views relevant to this aspect of the review.

Section 182 requires the Trade Representative to identify all such acts, policies or practices within 30 days of the publication of the National Trade Estimate (NTE) Report. In accordance with this statutory requirement, USTR

will publish the annual Special 301 Report on or about April 30, 2014.

2. Comments From the Public

a. Requirements for Written Comments

To facilitate the review, written comments should be as detailed as possible and provide all necessary information for identifying and assessing the effect of the acts, policies, and practices. USTR requests that interested parties provide specific references to laws, regulations, policy statements, executive, presidential or other orders, administrative, court or other determinations that should factor in the review. USTR also requests that, where relevant, submissions mention particular regions, provinces, states, or other subdivisions of a country in which an act, policy, or practice is believed to warrant special attention. Finally, submissions proposing countries for review should include data, loss estimates, and other information regarding the economic impact on the United States, U.S. industry and the U.S. workforce caused by the denial of adequate and effective intellectual property protection. Comments that include quantitative loss claims should be accompanied by the methodology used in calculating such estimated losses.

b. Filing Instructions

Comments must be in English. All comments should be sent electronically via <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number USTR-2013-0040. To submit comments to <http://www.regulations.gov>, locate the docket (folder) by entering the number USTR-2013-0040 in the "Enter Keyword or ID" window at the <http://www.regulations.gov> home page and click "Search." The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Locate the reference to this notice by selecting "Notice" under "Document Type" on the left side of the search-results page, and click on the link entitled "Comment Now!"

The <http://www.regulations.gov> site provides the option of submitting comments by filling in a "Type comment" field, or by attaching a document. USTR requests that comments be provided in an attached document. If a document is attached, please type "2014 Special 301 Review" in the "Type Comment" field. Please submit documents prepared in (or compatible with) Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) formats. If the submission was prepared in a compatible format, please indicate the

name of the relevant application in the "Type comment" field. For further information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site, please select "How to use Regulations.gov" on the bottom of any page.

3. Public Hearing

a. Notice of Public Hearing

The Special 301 Subcommittee will hold a hearing at the offices of USTR, 1724 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20508 for interested parties, including representatives of foreign governments, on February 24, 2014. The hearing will be open to the public. Please consult <http://www.ustr.gov> to confirm the date and location of the hearing, and to obtain copies of the hearing schedule and transcript of the event.

b. Submission of Notice of Intent To Testify and Hearing Statements

Prepared oral testimony before the Special 301 Subcommittee must be delivered in person, in English, and will be limited to five minutes. Subcommittee member agencies may ask questions following the prepared statement.

Interested parties, except foreign governments, wishing to testify at the hearing must submit a "Notice of Intent to Testify" and "Hearing Statement" to <http://www.regulations.gov> (following the procedures set forth in "Filing Instructions" above). The filing deadline is Friday, February 7, 2014. The Notice of Intent to Testify must include the name of the witness, name of the organization (if applicable), address, telephone number, fax number, and email address. A Hearing Statement must accompany the Notice of Intent to Testify. There is no requirement regarding the length of the Hearing Statement; however, the content of the testimony must be relevant to the Special 301 review.

All interested foreign governments that wish to testify at the hearing must submit a "Notice of Intent to Testify" to <http://www.regulations.gov> (following the procedures set forth in "Filing Instructions" above). The Notice of Intent to Testify must be filed by Friday, February 14, 2014, and include the name of the witness, name of the organization (if applicable), address, telephone number, fax number, and email address. Although not mandatory, government witnesses may submit a Hearing Statement when filing the Notice of Intent to Testify.

4. Business Confidential Information

A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential

business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the submitter. The filenames of both documents should reflect their status—"BCI" for the business confidential version and "PUBLIC" for the public version. In the document, confidential business information must be clearly designated as such, the submission must be marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page, and the submission should indicate, via brackets, the specific information that is confidential. Additionally, the submitter should write "Business Confidential" in the "Type Comment" field. Anyone submitting a comment containing business confidential information must also submit, as a separate submission, a non-business confidential version of the submission, indicating where the business confidential information has been redacted. The non-business confidential version will be placed in the docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and be available for public inspection.

5. Inspection of Comments

USTR will maintain a publicly accessible docket for the 2014 Special 301 Review. This public file will include all non-business confidential comments, notices of intent to testify, and hearing statements that USTR receives from the public, including foreign governments, in conjunction with the 2014 Special 301 Review. Comments will be placed in the docket upon receipt and be open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13. Comments containing confidential business information are exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. However, USTR will require submission of non-business confidential versions of such documents, as described above, and will post non-business confidential versions to the public docket. Comments may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering docket number USTR-2013-0040 in the search field on the home page.

Susan F. Wilson,

Director for Intellectual Property and Innovation.

[FR Doc. 2013-31487 Filed 1-2-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3290-F4-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2013 0153]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel NORTHWIND; Invitation for Public Comments

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As authorized by 46 U.S.C. 12121, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before February 3, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2013-0153. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Williams, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W23-453, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0903, Email Linda.Williams@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel NORTHWIND is:

Intended Commercial Use Of Vessel: "Sailing charters with captain and crew in the San Juan islands of Washington state."

Geographic Region: "Washington" The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2013-0153 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this