

Steel Corporation, United States Steel Corporation, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, USS-Posco Industries, and National Steel Corporation, we believe there is information sufficient to warrant initiation of this changed circumstances review.

The Department will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of preliminary results of changed circumstances review, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(c), which will set forth the factual and legal conclusions upon which our preliminary results are based, and a description of any action proposed based on those results. Interested parties may submit comments for consideration in the Department's preliminary results not later than 14 days after publication of this notice. Responses to those comments may be submitted not later than 7 days following submission of the comments. All written comments must be submitted in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303, and must be served on all interested parties on the Department's service list in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303. The Department will also issue its final results of review within 270 days after the date on which the changed circumstances review is initiated, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.216(e), and will publish these results in the **Federal Register**. While the changed circumstances review is underway, the current requirement for a cash deposit of estimated antidumping duties on all subject merchandise, including the merchandise that is the subject of this changed circumstances review, will continue unless and until it is modified pursuant to the final results of this changed circumstances review or other administrative review.

This notice is in accordance with sections 751(b)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.216 and 351.222.

Dated: October 21, 2002.

Faryar Shirzad,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 02-27394 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Geographic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOD).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS or Sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following two vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council): Fishing and Native Hawaiian. The Sanctuary will choose two applicants as members and two as alternates to those members. Members are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the conservation and management of marine resources; and the length of residence in the area affected by the Sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve two-year terms, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by November 20, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained on our website www.hihwnms.nos.noaa.gov or from Amy Glester at the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6700 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Suite 104, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Glester at (808) 397-2655, or amy.glester@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HIHWNMS Advisory Council was established in March 1996 (the current Council has served since July 1998) to assure continued public participation in the management of the Sanctuary. Since its establishment, the Council has played a vital role in the decisions affecting the Sanctuary surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands.

The Council's twenty-four voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public, plus ten local, state and Federal governmental jurisdictions.

The Council is supported by three subcommittees: a Research Committee chaired by the Research Representative, an Education Committee chaired by the Education Representative, and a Conservation Committee chaired by the Conservation Representative, each respectively dealing with matters concerning research, education and resource protection.

The Council represents the coordination link between the Sanctuary and the state and federal management agencies, user groups,

researchers, educators, policy makers, and other various groups that help to focus efforts and attention on the humpback whale and its habitat around the main Hawaiian Islands.

The council functions in an advisory capacity to the Sanctuary Manager and is instrumental in helping to develop policies and program goals, and to identify education, outreach, research, long-term monitoring, resource protection and revenue enhancement priorities. The Council works in concert with the Sanctuary Manager by keeping him or her informed about issues of concern throughout the Sanctuary, offering recommendations on specific issues, and aiding the Manager in achieving the goals of the Sanctuary program within the context of Hawaii's marine programs and policies.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program).

Dated: October 15, 2002

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Oceans and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 02-27368 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 2003-C-002]

Request for comments and notice of round table meetings regarding Small Business Views on Additional Harmonization of Patent Laws

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for input and notice of round table meetings.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) seeks comments from small businesses, experts in global patent issues and other interested parties on achieving additional harmonization of patent laws. As a part of this effort, USPTO announces the scheduling of three round table meetings to receive views on patent law harmonization issues.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 19, 2002, to ensure consideration. Requests to participate in round table meetings must be received by November 22, 2002. If it becomes necessary to limit the number of participants, preference will be given to first-in-time requests. The round table meetings are tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2002, in the greater Los

Angeles, California area; December 4, 2002, in the greater Chicago, Illinois area; and December 19, 2002, in the greater Washington, DC area.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to participate in the round table meetings should be addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of International Relations, Room 902, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. *Attn:* Jon Santamauro, Small Business/Harmonization; faxed to Jon Santamauro's attention at (703) 305-8885; or sent via electronic mail to sbpatentharmonization@uspto.gov. Specific times and locations for the round table meetings will be determined based on responses received from persons who express an interest in participation. Details as to those times and locations will be communicated to participants and posted on USPTO's Web site at www.uspto.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jon Santamauro by telephone at (703) 305-9300 or by electronic mail at sbpatentharmonization@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In response to a request by the Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, the General Accounting Office (GAO) analyzed and prepared a report on (1) whether small businesses face impediments in obtaining foreign patent protection; (2) what impact any impediments have on their foreign patent decisions; and (3) whether any Federal actions could help small businesses overcome the impediments they may face in obtaining foreign patents. The Congressional requesters expressed concern that some small businesses, particularly high-technology firms, were not obtaining patent protection overseas and thus were losing potential sales in foreign markets.

The GAO completed its report, captioned Federal Action Needed to Help Small Businesses Address Foreign Patent Challenges (GAO-02-789), in July 2002 and made it available to the public in August 2002. The report is available on-line at www.gao.gov.

According to the report, foreign patent costs are the most significant impediment that small businesses face in trying to protect their inventions abroad. The conclusion is based on information received from small businesses and patent attorneys consulted by GAO in preparation of the report. The report also identifies

impediments including companies' limited foreign patent knowledge; differences among foreign patent systems; and the existence of challenging business climates and weak patent enforcement in certain countries.

To help address these impediments, GAO recommends that USPTO obtain input from small businesses, experts in global patent issues, and other interested parties in order to assess the advantages and disadvantages of various options for achieving additional patent law harmonization. In addition, GAO recommends that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, with assistance of USPTO, collect and make available information about key aspects of foreign patent laws, requirements, procedures, and costs that would be useful to small businesses that are considering whether to obtain foreign patent protection.

Consistent with the GAO recommendation, the Congressional requesters of the GAO report have requested that the USPTO convene a series of round table meetings with small business owners and policy experts by December 31, 2002, to hear views on the harmonization of global patent laws. They further request a synopsis of the proceedings and findings by March 31, 2003.

Round Table Meetings and Request for Comments

The USPTO requests that interested parties submit comments and/or recommendations on achieving additional harmonization of patent laws. It is suggested that this input be categorized as follows:

- (1) Cost and fee related issues.
- (2) Procedural and administrative issues.
- (3) Substantive patent law issues.
- (4) Enforcement issues.
- (5) Miscellaneous issues.

Comments must be received by December 19, 2002, to ensure consideration, and should be addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of International Relations, Room 902, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, *Attn:* Jon Santamauro, Small Business/Harmonization; faxed to Jon Santamauro's attention at (703) 305-8885; or sent via electronic mail to sbpatentharmonization@uspto.gov.

In addition, the USPTO will conduct round table meetings to hear views on the harmonization of international patent laws. The round table meetings are tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2002, in the greater Los Angeles, California area; December 4, 2002, in the greater Chicago, Illinois area; and

December 19, 2002, in the greater Washington, DC area.

Requests to participate in round table meetings must be received by November 22, 2002, and should be addressed as indicated above. If it becomes necessary to limit the number of participants, preference will be given to first-in-time requests. Specific times and locations for the round table meetings will be determined based on responses received from persons who express an interest in participation. Details as to those times and locations will be communicated to participants and posted on USPTO's Web site at www.uspto.gov.

Dated: October 22, 2002.

James E. Rogan,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 02-27323 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**American Statistical Association
Committee on Energy Statistics;
Notice of Renewal**

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), I hereby certify that the renewal of the charter of the American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of Energy by law. This determination follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, pursuant to section 102-3.60, title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rachel M. Samuel at (202) 586-3279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice on a continuing basis to the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA), including:

1. Periodic review of and advice on Energy Information Administration data collections and analysis programs;
2. Advice on technical and methodological issues in planning, operation, and the review of Energy Information Administration statistical programs and their relative priorities; and
3. Advice on matters concerning improved energy modeling and forecasting tools, particularly regarding their functioning, relevancy, and results.