Hi Rob:

Thanks for briefly discussing potential application of the tracks to design patents. Some design applicants may like Track III, i.e., the ability to delay publications. As you may know, design applications issue relatively quickly now. Some applicants may want to delay issuance (and therefore publication) for business purposes at least until the applicant can enter the market.

Thanks, Will
Will - does it apply to design patent applications, if you know?

-----Original Message-----
From: Simmons, William J.
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 9:23 AM
To: _ATTORNEYS

Under the proposed “Three-Track” initiative, for applications filed first in the United States, an applicant may request:

Track I: prioritized examination
Track II: traditional examination under the current procedures
Track III: for non-continuing applications first filed in the USPTO, an applicant-controlled delay for up to 30 months prior to docketing for examination.