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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 7,344,541 :
Issued: March 18, 2008 : DECISION ON APPLICATION
Application No. 10/756,817 : FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Filed: January 13, 2004 :
Attorney Docket No.: 3293.03US10 :
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This is a decision on the "Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.181," filed October 27, 2009, requesting suspension of the time limit for consideration of an application for patent term adjustment ("PTA"). The response is properly treated as a request for reconsideration of petition under 37 CFR 1.183.

This petition is hereby **DENIED**. This decision is a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704 for purposes of seeking judicial review. See, MPEP 1002.02.

The petition for recalculation/reconsideration of the USPTO's PTA determination for U.S. Patent No. 7,344,541 is dismissed as untimely. On February 1, 2010, the USPTO published a Federal Register notice that, *inter alia*, announced a limited waiver of the two-month deadline for filing a petition for reconsideration of a PTA determination under 37 CFR sec. 1.705(d). See *Interim Procedure for Patentees to Request a Recalculation of the Patent Term Adjustment to Comply with the Federal Circuit Decision in Wyeth v. Kappos Regarding Overlapping Delay Provisions of 35 U.S.C. sec. 154(b)(2)(A)*, 75 Fed. Reg. 5043 (Feb. 1, 2010) (notice).

Specifically, patent owners were permitted to request recalculation of a patent's PTA in view of the Federal Circuit decision *Wyeth v. Kappos*, 591 F.3d 1364 (Fed. Cir. 2010) up to 180 days after the grant of the patent. The USPTO determined not to accept any requests for PTA recalculation initially filed more than 180 days after patent grant, however, in view of the statutory judicial-review provisions of 35 U.S.C. sec. 154(b)(4), which require that any civil action to challenge the USPTO's PTA determination be brought within 180 days of patent grant. The USPTO believes that the statutory 180-

day period for seeking court review of the USPTO's PTA determinations, particularly in view of the six-year statute of limitations that otherwise is applicable for actions under the Administrative Procedure Act, indicates a congressional intent that PTA issues be resolved shortly after a patent issues. The USPTO does not consider it likely that Congress created a scheme under which the time period to seek initial USPTO review of a PTA determination extends beyond the time period provided for a dissatisfied patentee to seek judicial review of the USPTO's PTA determination. Thus, the USPTO believes that the 180-day period in 35 U.S.C. sec. 154(b)(4) represents the outer limit on the USPTO's ability to conclude its PTA determination.

Applicants request to reconsider the August 27, 2009 decision of the Office of Petitions with respect to U.S. Patent No. 7,344,541, in accordance with the requirements of justice, is granted to the extent that the decision of August 27, 2009 has been reconsidered; however, the renewed petition requesting suspension of the time limit for consideration of an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.183 is **DENIED**.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Patricia Faison-Ball at (571) 272-3212.



Anthony Knight
Director
Office of Petitions