This is a decision on the "PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.181(a)(3) TO INVOKE THE SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR," filed on September 2, 2010, 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.


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 consider a patentee's initial request for PTA determination.

The present renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.183 is granted to the extent that the decision of August 3, 2010, 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 matter should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Douglas I. Wood at (571) 272-3231.

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