

Contract, the initial stumpage rate adjustment procedure was changed to the current formula which provides for stumpage prices to increase by 50 percent of the change in lumber prices when lumber prices are rising and to decrease by 100 percent of the change in lumber prices when lumber prices are falling. The purpose of this new adjustment was to account for increased costs to timber sale purchasers during the course of the contract term.

Originally, the use of the stumpage rate adjustment procedure was not used in western Washington and Oregon. On March 31, 1983, it was expanded to include western Washington and Oregon, as a means of reducing a purchaser's risk from excessive bidding and to adjust for decreases in lumber prices during the term of timber sales contracts.

In September 1991, the Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, issued a report (Audit Report No. 08099-122-SF dated 9/91—Stumpage Rate Adjustment on Timber Sales) which states that the 50 percent upwards and 100 percent downwards stumpage rate adjustment procedure lowers the risk of market fluctuations to the purchaser at the monetary expense of the Government. The audit recommended either eliminating the stumpage rate adjustment procedure or modifying it so that adjustments to stumpage are the same percentage for both periods of rising and falling lumber prices.

In response to the Office of Inspector General audit, the Forest Service is proposing to eliminate the stumpage rate adjustment procedure by amending internal agency direction. Under this proposal, timber sale contracts would be advertised and awarded with fixed (flat) stumpage rates in the future, and the lumber price indices currently used by the Forest Service would not be used after December 31, 1996. In accordance with contract provision C(T)3.21—Unavailable Index, purchasers with stumpage rate adjustment contracts still in effect when the policy is adopted would be offered the opportunity to convert to flat rates or to a suitable replacement index for lumber prices developed from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Producer Price Index or appropriate trade journals.

Summary

The Forest Service is seeking comment on the following proposed direction that would be issued to agency personnel in chapter 2430 of the Forest Service Manual:

FSM 2431.34—Stumpage Rate Adjustment. Stumpage rate adjustment procedures are no

longer to be included in Forest Service timber sale contracts. Instead, advertise all timber sales on a flat rate basis.

Comments received on this proposed policy will be considered in adoption of the final policy, notice of which will be published in the Federal Register.

Regulatory Impact

This proposed policy has been reviewed under USDA procedures and Executive Order 12866 on Regulatory Planning and Review. It has been determined that this is not a significant policy. This policy will not have an annual effect of \$100 million or more on the economy nor adversely affect productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, nor State or local governments. This policy will not interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency nor raise new legal or policy issues. Finally, this action will not alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients of such programs. Accordingly, this proposed policy is not subject to OMB review under Executive Order 12866.

Moreover, this proposed policy has been considered in light of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), and it is hereby certified that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined by that act.

Pursuant to Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, which the President signed into law on March 22, 1995, the Department has assessed the effects of this policy on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sectors. This action does not compel the expenditure of \$100 million or more by any State, local, or tribal governments or anyone in the private sector. Therefore, a statement under section 202 of the Act is not required.

Environmental Impact

This proposed action falls within a category of actions excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement and an Environmental Assessment. Section 31.1b of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 (57 FR 43180; September 18, 1992) excludes from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement "rules, regulations, or policies to establish Service-wide administrative procedures, program processes, or instructions." The agency's preliminary assessment is that this policy falls within this category of actions and that no extraordinary circumstances exist which would require preparation of an

environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. A final determination will be made upon adoption of the final policy.

Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public

The proposed policy does not require any recordkeeping or reporting requirements or other information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320 not already approved for use and, therefore, imposes no additional paperwork burden on the public.

Accordingly, the review provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and implementing regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 do not apply.

Comments Invited

The Forest Service invites written comments on the proposed policy. The agency will analyze and consider comments received in adopting the final policy. Notice of the final policy, including discussion of comments received, will be published in the Federal Register.

Dated: August 1, 1996.

David G. Unger,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 96-20099 Filed 8-6-96; 8:45 am]

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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Hearing on Racial and Ethnic Tensions in American Communities: Poverty, Inequality, and Discrimination—Los Angeles

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of Hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994, Section 3, Pub. L. 103-419, 108 Stat. 4338, as amended, and 45 CFR section 702.3, that a public hearing of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commence on Thursday, September 12 through September 13, 1996, beginning daily at 8:00 a.m., in the Crowne Ballroom, Center Wing, at the Crowne Plaza, 3540 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90007.

The purpose of the hearing is the collect information within the jurisdiction of the Commission, under 45 CFR section 702.2, related particularly to the administration of justice, police-community relations, possible racial and gender bias within law enforcement, and the interaction between Federal and local law

enforcement agencies in Los Angeles in order to examine underlying causes of racial and ethnic tensions in the United States.

The Commission is authorized to hold hearings and to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and the attendance of witnesses pursuant to 45 CFR section 701.2(c). The Commission is an independent bipartisan, factfinding agency authorized to study, collect, and disseminate information, and to appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government, and to study and collect information with respect to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

Hearing impaired persons who will attend the hearing and require the services of a sign language interpreter, should contact Betty Edmiston, Administrative Services and Clearinghouse Division, at (202) 376-8105 (TDD (202) 376-8116), at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 376-8312.

Dated: August 1, 1996.

Stephanie Y. Moore,

Acting Solicitor.

[FR Doc. 96-20119 Filed 8-6-96; 8:45 am]

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Hearing on Racial and Ethnic Tensions in American Communities: Poverty, Inequality, and Discrimination—Mississippi Delta

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of Hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994, section 3, Pub. L. 103-419, 108 Stat. 4338, as amended, and 45 CFR section 702.3, that a public hearing of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commence on Wednesday, September 18, through Friday, September 20, 1996, beginning daily at 8:00 a.m., in the Mississippi Room at the Ramada Inn, 2700 U.S. Highway 82 East, Greenville, Mississippi 38704.

The purpose of the hearing is to collect information within the jurisdiction of the Commission, under 45 CFR Section 702.2, related particularly to voting rights, public

education, and equality of economic opportunity in the Mississippi Delta region in order to examine underlying causes of racial and ethnic tensions in the United States.

The Commission is authorized to hold hearings and to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and the attendance of an independent bipartisan, factfinding agency authorized to study, collect, and disseminate information, and to appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government, and to study and collect information with respect to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

Hearing impaired persons who will attend the hearing and require the services of a sign language interpreter, and should contact Betty Edmiston, Administrative Services and Clearinghouse Division at (202) 376-8105 (TDD (202) 376-8116), at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 376-8312.

Dated: August 1, 1996.

Stephanie Y. Moore,

Acting Solicitor.

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BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-821-802; A-834-802; A-844-802]

Suspension Agreements on Uranium from the Russian Federation, Kazakstan, and Uzbekistan

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of final decision.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce's final decision regarding natural uranium from the Russian Federation, Kazakstan, and Uzbekistan which is enriched in a third country prior to importation into the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 7, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Doyle or Alexander Braier, Office of Agreements Compliance, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of

Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230, telephone: (202) 482-0172 or (202) 482-1324, respectively.

Background

On March 27, 1995, the Department of Commerce (the Department) and the Republic of Kazakstan signed an amendment to the Kazakstani uranium suspension agreement. In part, this amendment provided that the quantitative restraints on Kazakstani-origin uranium include all uranium ore from Kazakstan that is milled into U₃O₈ and/or converted into UF₆ and/or enriched in U²³⁵ in another country prior to direct and/or indirect importation into the United States (60 FR 25692, 25693 (May 12, 1995)). In light of the fact that similar amendments were being considered for Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation, on September 22, 1995, the Department solicited contract-specific information from U.S. utilities which hold contracts for Kazakstani, Uzbek, or Russian uranium in order to assess the effect such an amendment has on importations pursuant to such contracts (60 FR 49259). The Department received five responses to its Federal Register notice.

On October 13, 1995, the Department and the Government of Uzbekistan signed an amendment providing the same quantitative restraints on Uzbek-origin uranium as those contained in the Kazakstani amendment (60 FR 55004 (October 27, 1995)). From January 22 to 26, 1996, and from February 19 to 23, 1996, the Department and the Ministry of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation (MINATOM) held the fourth and fifth rounds of consultations regarding, among other issues, the enrichment of Russian-origin uranium in third countries. Consultations between MINATOM and the Department are ongoing.

On March 19, 1996, the Department published a proposed solution on the third country enrichment issue and solicited comments on this proposal by April 8, 1996 (61 FR 11185). The Department received 13 responses to its Federal Register notice. Based upon analysis of the parties' comments, discussion with the Petitioners and representatives for the affected utilities, and significant internal consideration, the Department detailed certain adjustments to the March 19, 1996, Federal Register proposed solution in its May 14, 1996, memorandum of Final Department Action on the Grandfathering of Third Country Enrichment of Subject Natural Uranium from Joseph A. Spetrini to Paul L. Joffe.