

for Management has determined that the Council is necessary and in the public interest.

The Council consists of representatives from four (4) U.S. Government agencies and twenty-one (21) American private sector companies and organizations. The Council will follow the procedures prescribed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Public Law 92-463). Meetings will be open to the public unless a determination is made in accordance with Section 10(d) of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (1) and (4), that a meeting or a portion of the meeting should be closed to the public. Notice of each meeting will be provided in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

For more information contact Nick Proctor, Executive Director, Overseas Security Advisory Council, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20522-1003, phone: 202-663-0533.

Dated: November 26, 1996.

William D. Clarke,

*Acting Director of the Diplomatic Security Service.*

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**[Public Notice No. 2481]**

**Renewal of the Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting**

The Department of State is renewing the Shipping Coordinating Committee to solicit the view of interested members of the public and government agencies on maritime policy issues, for the guidance of U.S. delegations to international meetings on these matters. The Under Secretary for Management has determined that the committee is necessary and in the public interest.

Membership includes representatives from the maritime industry, labor unions, environmental groups and government bureaus and agencies. The Committee will follow the procedures prescribed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Meetings will be open to the public unless a determination is made in accordance with the FACA Section 10(d), 5 U.S.C. 552(b) (1) and (4) that a meeting or a portion of the meeting should be closed to the public. Notice of each meeting will be provided in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

For further information, contact Stephen Miller, Executive Secretary of the Committee at (202) 647-6961.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

Stephen M. Miller,

*Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee.*

[FR Doc. 96-31918 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

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**[Public Notice 2479]**

**Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Preparation of Second U.S. Climate Action Report**

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** In June 1992, the United States signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Pursuant to the reporting requirements under Articles 4.2 and 12 of the Convention and to proposed format guidelines later adopted by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) at its first session, the United States submitted the U.S. Climate Action Report (USCAR) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. At its second session, the COP to the UNFCCC agreed that the second national communications from developed country Parties would be due on April 15, 1997. The U.S. government has initiated a process to complete its submission within the given timeframe.

As part of that process, we are soliciting public comment on the first USCAR, which will be used as the basis for the second submission due in April.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

In June 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the "Earth Summit"), the United States signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The ultimate objective of this Convention is to: "achieve \* \* \* stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

In accordance with the UNFCCC's reporting requirements as specified in Articles 4.2 and 12, and following reporting guidelines developed (and adopted by the UNFCCC COP at its first session), the United States prepared the U.S. Climate Action Report (USCAR)

and submitted it to the UNFCCC Secretariat in October 1994.

The USCAR provided a description of the U.S. program designed to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. The initial USCAR incorporated much of the information contained in the first Climate Change Action Plan announced by President Clinton and Vice President Gore on October 19, 1993. The revised USCAR will review key elements contained in the initial Climate Change Action Plan including: An update on key baseline assumptions; a review and assessment of activities to date under the almost 50 actions listed in the plan; and update of the list of actions reflecting changes initiated by responsible agencies since the plan was first proposed in 1993. The revised USCAR will also reflect information submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality in response to a request for comments on the original Climate Change Action Plan that was published in the Federal Register on August 24, 1995 (60 FR 44022) and information presented at a subsequent public hearing held on September 22, 1995.

In keeping with international guidelines, the USCAR provided an inventory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks, estimated effects of mitigation measures and policies on future emissions levels, and described U.S. involvement in international programs including associated contributions and funding efforts.

In addition, the USCAR included a discussion of U.S. national circumstances which affect U.S. vulnerability and responses to climate change. Information on the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the largest climate change research program in the world, and on adaptation programs was also presented.

At the Second COP, the Parties agreed to request developed country Parties to the Convention to submit to the UNFCCC Secretariat, in accordance with Articles 12.1 and 12.2 of the Convention, a second national communication by April 15, 1997. Parties that submitted first reports in 1996 are to provide an update by the 1997 deadline and Parties with economies in transition are to provide their second communication by April 15, 1998. Developing country Parties have different guidelines and due dates for their first communications.

The Parties to the UNFCCC also adopted revisions to the guidelines for the reports at their second session. Among other modifications, the revised guidelines encourage Parties to provide information on actions implemented by