

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Export Trade Certificate of Review**

ACTION: Notice of application to amend certificate.

SUMMARY: The Office of Export Trading Company Affairs ("OETCA"), International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, has received an application to amend an Export Trade Certificate of Review. This notice summarizes the proposed amendment and requests comments relevant to whether the amended Certificate should be issued.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: W. Dawn Busby, Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, (202) 482-5131. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title III of the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 (15 U.S.C. 4001-21) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to issue Export Trade Certificates of Review. A Certificate of Review protects the holder and the members identified in the Certificate from state and federal government antitrust actions and from private, treble damage antitrust actions for the export conduct specified in the Certificate and carried out in compliance with its terms and conditions. Section 302(b)(1) of the Act and 15 CFR 325.6(a) require the Secretary to publish a notice in the Federal Register identifying the applicant and summarizing its proposed export conduct.

Request for Public Comments

Interested parties may submit written comments relevant to the determination whether an amended Certificate should be issued. An original and five (5) copies should be submitted no later than 20 days after the date of this notice to: Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, Room 1800H, Washington, D.C. 20230. Information submitted by any person is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). Comments should refer to this application as "Export Trade Certificate of Review, application number 85-6A018."

U.S. Shippers Association's ("USSA") original Certificate was issued on June 3, 1986 (51 FR 20873, June 9, 1986), and previously amended on January 16, 1990 (55 FR 2543, January 25, 1990); November 13, 1990 (55 FR 48664,

November 21, 1990); September 22, 1993 (58 FR 51061, September 30, 1993); and on June 28, 1994 (59 FR 34411, July 5, 1994). A summary of the application for an amendment follows.

Summary of the Application

Applicant: U.S. Shippers Association ("USSA"), 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

Contact: Andrew J. Shapiro, Counsel, Telephone: (202) 662-5447.

Application No.: 85-6A018.

Date Deemed Submitted: January 10, 1997.

Proposed Amendment

USSA seeks to amend its Certificate to add the following companies as new "Members" of the Certificate within the meaning of Section 325.2(1) of the Regulations (15 C.F.R. 325.2(1)): NOVA Chemicals Inc., Monaca, PA (Controlling Entity: NOVA Corporation, Calgary, Alberta, Canada); Pecten Chemicals Inc., Houston, TX (Controlling Entity: Royal Dutch Petroleum Company, The Hague, The Netherlands); and Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville, OK.

Dated: January 11, 1997.

W. Dawn Busby,

Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-1574 Filed 1-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 960227052-6355-02]

RIN 0693-ZA06

Continuation of Fire Research Grants Program; Availability of Funds

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to inform potential applicants that the Fire Research Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, is continuing its Fire Research Grants Program.

DATES: Proposals must be received no later than the close of business September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must submit one signed original and two (2) copies of the proposal along with the Application for Federal Assistance, Standard Form 424, (Rev. 4-92), as referenced under the provisions of OMB Circular A-110 to: Building and Fire Research Laboratory (BFRL), Attention: Sonya Parham, Building 226, Room B206

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical questions concerning the NIST Fire Research Grants Program should be directed to Sonya Parham, (301) 975-6854. Administrative questions concerning the NIST Fire Research Grants Program may be directed to the NIST Grants Office at (301) 975-6329. Additional information can be found in the Extramural Fire Research Program: Program Announcement and Preparation Guide. Copies may be downloaded from the BFRL web site (<http://www.bfrl.nist.gov>) or obtained from Sonya Parham at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Name and Number: Measurement and Engineering Research and Standards; 11.609.

Authority: As authorized by section 16 of the Act of March 3, 1901, as amended (15 U.S.C. 278f), the NIST Building and Fire Research Laboratory conducts directly and through grants and cooperative agreements, a basic and applied fire research program. The annual budget for the Fire Research Grants Program is approximately \$1.4 million. Because of commitments for the support of multi-year programs, only a portion of the budget is available to initiate new programs in any one year. Most grants and cooperative agreements are in the \$10,000 to \$100,000 per year range. The Fire Research Program is limited to innovative ideas generated by the proposal writer, who chooses the topic and approach. The issuance of awards is contingent upon the availability of funding.

All grants proposals submitted must be in accordance with the programs and objectives listed below.

Program Objectives**A. Fire Modeling and Applications**

To perform research, develop, and demonstrate the application of analytical models for the quantitative prediction of the consequences of fires and the means to assess the accuracy of those models. This includes: develop methods to assess fire hazard and risk; create advanced, usable models for the calculation of the effluent from building fires; model the ignition and burning of furniture, contents, and building elements such as walls; develop methods of evaluating and predicting the performance of building safety design features; develop a protocol for determining the accuracy of algorithms and comprehensive models; develop data bases to facilitate use of fire models, and develop methodologies to acquire, model, and display fire information.

B. Large Fire Research

To perform research on and develop techniques to measure, predict the behavior of, and mitigate large fire events. This includes: understanding the mechanisms of large fires that control gas phase combustion, burning rate, thermal and chemical emissions, transport processes; developing field measurement techniques to assess the near- and far-field impact of large fires and their plumes; performing research on the use of combustion for environmental cleanup; predicting the performance and environmental impact of fire protection measures and fire fighting systems and techniques; and developing and operating the Fire Research Program large-scale experimental facility.

C. Advanced Fire Measurements

Produces the scientific basis and robust measurement methods for characterizing fires and their effluents at full- and reduced-scales.

This includes discrete point, volume-integrated, and time- and space-resolved measurements for such properties as temperature, smoke density, chemical species and flow velocity. Laboratory and computational research is also performed to understand the underpinning fire phenomena to ensure the soundness of the developed measurement techniques.

D. Materials Fire Research

Performs research to enable the confident development by industry of new, less-flammable materials and products. This capability is based on understanding fundamentally the mechanisms that control the ignition, flame spread, and burning rate of materials and the chemical and physical characteristics that affect these aspects of flammability. This includes: Developing methods of measuring the response of a material to fire conditions that enable assured prediction of the full-scale performance of the final product; developing computational molecular dynamics and other mechanistic approaches to understand flame retardant mechanisms and the effect of polymer chemical structure on flammability; characterizing the burning rates of charring and non-charring polymers and composites; delineating and modeling the enthalpy and mass transfer mechanisms of materials combustion.

E. Fire Sensing and Extinguishment

Develops understanding, metrology, and predictive methods to enable high-performance fire sensing and extinguishment systems; devises new

approaches to minimizing the impact of unwanted fires and the suppression process. This includes: research for the identification and insitu measurement of the symptoms of pending and nascent fires and the consequences of suppression; devising or adapting monitors for these variables and the intelligence for timely interpretation of the data; developing methods to characterize the performance of new approaches to fire detection and suppression; determining mechanisms for deflagration and detonation suppression by advanced agents and principles for their optimal use; and modeling the extinguishment process.

Award Period

Proposals will be considered for research projects from one to three years. When a proposal for a multi-year grant is approved, funding will initially be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, DoC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of DoC. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent on satisfactory progress, fit to the NIST Fire Research Program, and the availability of funds.

Matching Requirements

The Fire Research Grants Program does not involve the payment of any matching funds and does not directly affect any state or local government.

Eligibility

Academic institutions, non-Federal agencies, and independent and industrial laboratories and research organizations.

Proposal Review Process

All proposals are assigned to the appropriate group leader of the five programs listed above. Both technical value of the proposal and the relationship of the work proposed to the needs of the specific program are taken into consideration in the group leader's recommendation to the Division Chief. Applicants should allow up to 90 days processing time. Proposals are evaluated for technical merit by at least three reviewers chosen from NIST professionals, technical experts from other interested government agencies and experts from the fire research community at large.

Evaluation Criteria

a. Technical quality of the research: 0-35.

b. Potential impact of the results: 0-25.

c. Staff and institution capability to do the work: 0-20.

d. Match of budget to proposed work: 0-20.

Selection Procedure

The results of these evaluations are transmitted to the group leader of the appropriate research unit in the Building and Fire Research Laboratory who prepares an analysis of comments, considers overall program balance and objective, and makes a recommendation to the Division Chief.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and LLL mentioned in this notice are subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act and have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, (OMB), under Control Numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Application Kit

An application kit, containing all required application forms and certifications is available by calling Sonya Parham, NIST Fire Research Grants Program (301) 975-6854. An application kit includes the following: SF-424 (Rev. 4/92)—Application for Federal Assistance
SF-424A (Rev. 4/92)—Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs
SF-424B (Rev. 4/92)—Assurance-Non-Construction Programs
CD-511 (7/91)—Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters: Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying
CD-512 (7/91)—Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusions-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying
SF-LLL—Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Additional Requirements

Past Performance

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

Preaward Activities

Applicants who incur any costs prior to an award being made do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal assurance that may have been provided, there is no obligation on the part of NIST to cover preaward costs.

Primary Application Certification

All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided:

1. Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension. Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F., "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

2. Drug-Free Workplace. Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F., "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

3. Anti-Lobbying. Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater, and;

4. Anti-Lobbying Disclosure. Any applicant that has been paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

5. Lower Tier Certifications. Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted

to NIST. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to NIST in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

Name Check Reviews

All for-profit and non-profit applicants will be subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing, criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

False Statements

Applicants are reminded that a false statement may be grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by fine or imprisonment.

Delinquent Federal Debts

No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

1. The delinquent account is paid in full;
2. A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or;
3. Other arrangements satisfactory to DoC are made.

No Obligation for Future Funding

If an application is accepted for funding, DoC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award, increased funding, or extending the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST.

Federal Policies & Procedures

Recipients and subrecipients under the Fire Research Grants Program are subject to all applicable Federal laws and Federal and Departmental policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards. The Fire Research Grant Program does not directly affect any state or local government.

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Purchase of American-Made Equipment and Products

Applicants are hereby notified that they are encouraged, to the greatest extent practicable, to purchase American-made equipment and

products with funding provided under this program.

Indirect Costs

The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 100 percent of the total proposed direct cost dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

Executive Order Statement

This funding notice was determined to be "not significant" for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: January 16, 1997.

Elaine Bunten-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-1653 Filed 1-22-97; 8:45 am]

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011497A]

Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery; 1995 Survey of Atlantic Striped Bass Fisheries

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability and summarizes the results of a survey of the Atlantic coast striped bass fisheries for 1995. The Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (Act), requires NMFS to provide information on the status of the fisheries.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the survey results are available from Paul Perra, NOAA/NMFS/FX2, 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 245, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Perra, (301) 427-2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Act requires the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive annual survey of the Atlantic striped bass fisheries. The following is a summary of the survey for 1995. Management measures that severely restricted the harvest of striped bass by commercial and recreational fisheries were moderately relaxed in 1995, as the stocks continue to rebuild.

The 1995 commercial harvest of striped bass was 3,810,608 lb (1.728.5 mt), an increase of 98 percent above the landings of 1,923,000 lb (872.3 mt) in