

of 10–15 U.S. company executives from three industry sectors: electronics, environmental technologies, and medical technologies.

The business purpose of the mission is the promotion of U.S. trade and investment interests in Northern Ireland, and in the European Union. The present state of the Northern Ireland economy and the ready access to the \$7.8 trillion European market provides strong and growing markets for U.S. products and services.

The itinerary of the mission will include stops in Belfast and Londonderry (Derry), the largest and second largest cities, respectively, and the two major industrial centers in Northern Ireland.

The private sector participants will be offered: (1) One-on-one pre-screened business appointments; (2) expert market briefings with senior U.K. (Northern Ireland) Government officials and development authorities; (3) site visits to U.S. companies operating in Northern Ireland; and, (4) logistical support, transportation in Belfast and Londonderry, and ground tours of the two cities.

Mission Goals

The goals of the mission are to increase U.S. exports and to promote trade and investment in Northern Ireland through strategic alliances, joint ventures, and other partnerships between U.S. and Northern Ireland companies.

Participation Criteria

A maximum of 15 companies will be selected to participate in the mission. Participants must fall into one of the three sectors of environmental technologies, medical technologies, and electronics identified for the mission, and must be U.S. companies providing U.S. origin goods and/or services that are export-ready. Participant executives ideally will be at the level of president or vice president. Each firm participating in this mission will have been recruited by U.S. DOC in Washington and reviewed by our U.S. Embassy in London, our commercial representative in Belfast, and Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board (IDB) for: (1) Consistency of the company's goals with the scope, nature and desired outcome of the mission (as described herein); (2) relevance of the company's sector to the mission; (3) past, present, or prospective business activity in the U.K., Ireland, or Europe; (4) diversity of company size, type, location, demographics and traditional under-representation in business; and, (5) timeliness of completed application

by company (including payment of participation fee).

An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are entirely irrelevant to selection of mission participants.

Endorsements/Referrals

Third parties may nominate or endorse potential applicants, but companies that are nominated or endorsed must themselves submit an application in order to be eligible for consideration. Referrals from political organizations will not be considered.

Costs

The fee to participate in the mission is \$1800. The participation fee does not cover the participant's travel, lodging or other personal expenses.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1512.

Dated: May 19, 1997.

Franklin Vargo,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Market Access and Compliance, International Trade Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-13662 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Public Meeting To Gather Information for an Assessment of the State-of-Knowledge of the Properties of Possible SF₆ Replacement Gases

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce Department.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice of public meeting to gather information for an assessment of the state-of-knowledge of the properties of possible sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) replacement gases.

DATES: The meeting will be on Wednesday, June 18, 1997 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Lecture Room B at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Olthoff, 301-975-2431.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Standards and Technology is in the process of evaluating available data on the properties of dielectric gases and mixtures, in order to assess the potential use of these gases or mixtures in high-voltage applications which currently utilize sulfur hexafluoride. The end

purpose of this investigation is to provide a thorough assessment of the state-of-knowledge of the properties of possible SF₆-replacement gases. This report is intended for use by high voltage equipment manufacturers, electric utilities, and the Environmental Protection Agency in making decisions about the future use of SF₆ by the electric-power industry. The purpose of the meeting is to gather information from informed individuals from within equipment manufacturing companies, electric utilities, gas companies, and academia. Four major areas will be discussed during the meeting: (1) Possible "drop-in" gases or mixtures that could substitute for SF₆ in existing equipment; (2) the identification of gases or gas mixtures that may be likely candidates for use in further designs of high voltage equipment; (3) the identification of gases which have potentially useful dielectric properties, but for which insufficient data is currently available to allow a decision as to their practical use; and (4) areas of research required for the development of environmentally acceptable alternatives to pure SF₆ use. A draft copy of the NIST report will be provided to participants, upon request. The tentative meeting schedule is as follows.

9:00 a.m. Introduction

9:20 a.m. Possible universal application "drop-in" gas mixtures

10:00 a.m. Likely gases for arc interruption and high voltage insulation

11:00 a.m. Future Research and Development: Continue search for substitutes

11:40 a.m. Comments, input, further discussion

Input from the discussions may be incorporated into the NIST final report prior to its publication.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-13565 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Federal Approval of the Ohio Coastal Management Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,