

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Request for Comments on the National Park Service Franchise Fee Determination Guideline

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) is considering revising that portion of its concession management guideline (NPS-48) that concerns the franchise fees to be charged NPS concessioners. This portion of NPS-48 (Chapter 24, Section D) was adopted on December 31, 1986, after receipt and consideration of public comment solicited by an August 7, 1985 **Federal Register** notice. It was amended on July 20, 1995, after consideration of public comment received in response to a January 17, 1995, **Federal Register** notice. It was clarified on August 11, 1997, after consideration of public comment received in response to a May 28, 1997, **Federal Register** notice.

NPS invites further public comment on Section D, Chapter 24, or NPS-48 in order to assist it in considering possible revisions to the document. Comments may suggest, among other matters, specific proposed changes to Section D as it now exists or alternative methods, in concept or in detail, for dealing with concession contract franchise fees. All written comments received will be duly considered by NPS.

COMMENT DATE: Comments on this notice must be received no later than January 5, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NPS notes that NPS-48 is an agency staff manual and as such is not required to be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 nor promulgated as a rule after public notice and comment pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553. In addition, NPS notes that the rulemaking requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553, even if otherwise applicable to an agency staff manual such as NPS-48, are expressly not applicable to matters relating to agency management or personnel or to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts. NPS-48, as a matter concerning the administration of public property and contracts, falls within this exemption to the extent it may be considered a rule or regulation within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 553. Nonetheless, NPS, as a matter of policy, seeks further public comment on Section D of Chapter 24, NPS-48, for the reasons stated above.

Dated: November 14, 1997.

Robert K. Yearout,

Concession Program Manager.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE
COMMISSION

[Investigation 332-387]

North American Free Trade Agreement: Probable Economic Effect on U.S. Industries and Consumers of Accelerated Elimination of U.S. Tariffs on Certain Articles From Mexico, Round Two

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Amendment to scope of the investigation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1997.

SUMMARY: Following receipt on November 25, 1997, of a request from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission amended the scope of its investigation No. 332-387, North American Free Trade Agreement: Probable Economic Effect on U.S. Industries and Consumers of Accelerated Elimination of U.S. Tariffs on Certain Articles from Mexico, Round Two, to add three subheadings of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS), 2918.90.05, 2918.90.43, and 2918.90.47, to the list of articles for which the USTR is seeking the Commission's advice. The purpose of the investigation, conducted under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), is to provide the President, with respect to specified articles, of the Commission's judgment as to the probable economic effect of the immediate elimination of the U.S. tariff under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles and on consumers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: General information may be obtained from the project leader, Carl Seastrum (202-205-3493), Minerals, Metals, Machinery, and Miscellaneous Manufactures Division, Office of Industries, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20436. For information on the products listed in this expanded scope notice, contact Elizabeth Howlett (202-205-3365) of the Energy, Chemicals, and Textiles Division of the Office of Industries. For information on the legal aspects of this investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091). The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations (202-205-1819). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810.

Background

The Commission's notice of institution of the investigation and the scheduling of a public hearing was published in the **Federal Register** of November 6, 1997 (62 FR 60100). As stated by the USTR in her letter of October 20, 1997, requesting the investigation, the Governments of the United States, Mexico, and Canada have agreed to enter into consultations to consider accelerated elimination of the import duty on certain articles. The accelerated elimination of tariffs in this second round of negotiations between the United States and Mexico will be pursued on a reciprocal basis in response to petitions submitted to the Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The USTR included with its original request a list of products to be considered for immediate reciprocal elimination of tariffs. The Commission will submit its report no later than February 17, 1998. USTR has indicated that it may classify all or part of the Commission's report as Confidential.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on January 7, 1998, and continuing, if necessary on January 8, 1998, as announced in the notice published on November 6, 1997. Persons wishing to appear at the public hearing to offer testimony concerning the probable economic effect of the immediate elimination of the U.S. tariffs on HTS subheadings 2918.90.05, 2918.90.43, and 2918.90.47 should file a request to testify with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, not later than 5:15 p.m., December 18, 1997. Any prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., December 19, 1997. For all other articles subject to this investigation, all the dates announced in the notice published on November 6, 1997, will remain the same.

Written Submissions

In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements concerning the investigation. Written statements should be submitted by the close of business on January 14, 1998. Commercial or financial information that a submitter desires the