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(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of December 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Joseph A. Murphy,**

*Director, Division of Regulatory Applications,  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

[FR Doc. 98-655 Filed 1-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold the following meeting during the week of January 12, 1998.

A closed meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters may also be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4), (8), (9)(A) and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(4), (8), (9)(i) and (10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the closed meeting.

Commissioner Carey, as duty officer, voted to consider the items listed for the closed meeting in a closed session.

The subject matter of the closed meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., will be:

Institution and settlement of injunctive actions.

Institution and settlement of administrative proceedings of an enforcement nature.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact:

The Office of the Secretary at (202) 942-7070.

Dated: January 8, 1998.

**Jonathan G. Katz,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-776 Filed 1-8-98; 12:39 pm]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[License No. 02/72-0577]

### Exeter Capital Partners IV, L.P.; Notice of Issuance of a Small Business Investment Company License

On December 20, 1995, an application was filed by Exeter Capital Partners IV, L.P., at 10 East 53rd Street, 32nd Floor, New York, New York 10022, with the Small Business Administration (SBA) pursuant to Section 107.300 of the Regulations governing small business investment companies (13 CFR 107.300 (1996)) for a license to operate as a small business investment company.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 301(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended, after having considered the application and all other pertinent information, SBA issued License No. 02/72-0577 on December 4, 1997, to Exeter Capital Partners IV, L.P. to operate as a small business investment company.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59.011, Small Business Investment Companies)

Dated: December 16, 1997.

**Don A. Christensen,**

*Associate Administrator for Investment.*

[FR Doc. 98-503 Filed 1-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Interest Rates

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the optional "peg" rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This rate will be 6 1/8 percent for the January-March quarter of FY 98.

Pursuant to 13 CFR 120.921(b), the maximum legal interest rate for a commercial loan which funds any portion of the cost of a project (see 13 CFR 120.801) shall be the greater of 6% over the New York prime rate or the limitation established by the constitution or laws of a given State. The initial rate for a fixed rate loan shall be the legal rate for the term of the loan.

**Jane Palsgrove Butler,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 98-504 Filed 1-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of Georgia as a Beneficiary Developing Country Under the GSP; Solicitation of Public Comments Relating to the Designation Criteria

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice and solicitation of public comment with respect to the eligibility of Georgia for the GSP program.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of Georgia as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 518, Washington, D.C. 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The government of Georgia has requested that it be granted eligibility for beneficiary status under the GSP program. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review to determine if Georgia should be designated as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program. A Country may not be designated a beneficiary developing country, absent a finding that such designation would be in the economic interests of the United States, if any one of several elements are found, including: the participation by the country in a commodity cartel that causes serious disruption to the world economy; the provision by the country of preferential treatment to products of other developed countries which has a significant adverse effect on U.S. commerce; the expropriation by the country of U.S.-owned property without compensation; a failure by the country to enforce arbitral awards in favor of U.S. persons; the support by the country of international terrorism; or a failure by the country to take steps to protect internationally recognized worker rights. Other factors taken into account in determining whether a country will be designated a beneficiary developing country include: the extent to which the country has assured the United States that it will provide market access of U.S. goods; the extent to which the country has taken action to reduce trade-distorting investment practices and policies; and the extent to which the country is providing adequate and

effective protection of intellectual property rights. The criteria for designation are set forth in full in section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et. seq.*).

Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of Georgia for designation as a GSP beneficiary developing country. Submission of comments must be made in English in 14 copies to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, and be received in Room 518 at 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508, no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 1998. Except for submissions granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6, information and comments submitted regarding Georgia will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room. For an appointment, please call Ms. Brenda Webb at 202/395-6186. If the document contains business confidential information, 14 copies of a nonconfidential version of the submission along with 14 copies of the confidential version must be submitted. In addition, the submission should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top and bottom of each page of the document. The version which does not contain business confidential information (the public version) should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each page (either "public version" or "non-confidential").

**Frederick L. Montgomery,**

*Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

[FR Doc. 98-671 Filed 1-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. 29113]

#### Procedures for Processing Petitions for Interim Compliance Waivers

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document presents a review of the procedures and information necessary for an operator of a Stage 2 noise level airplane subject to the phaseout regulations, promulgated pursuant to the Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990, to submit a request for a compliance waiver. As a result of its experience preceding the first two interim Stage 2 phaseout compliance dates, December 31, 1994,

and December 31, 1996, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reminds all affected operators of the procedures for applying for interim compliance waivers.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William W. Albee, Policy and Regulatory Division (AEE-300), Office of Environment and Energy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591; telephone (202) 267-3553, facsimile (202) 267-5594.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Sections 91.865 and 91.867 of 14 CFR each require that as of December 31, 1998, an operator of Stage 2 airplanes either reduce the number of Stage 2 airplanes it operates by 75% from its base level, achieve a fleet mix of airplanes that is 75% Stage 3 airplanes, or in the case of a new entrant, achieve a fleet mix that is 75% Stage 3 airplanes. Section 91.871 allows operators to request waivers from interim compliance dates in limited circumstances. In order to facilitate compliance with the December 31, 1998, requirement, the FAA is summarizing the regulatory requirements for waiver requests from the Stage 3 transition regulations.

##### Filing Requests

As stated in § 91.871, applications for waivers must be filed at least 120 days prior to the compliance date from which the waiver is requested. This means that applications must be filed no later than Thursday, September 3, 1998, to ensure that they will be considered before the December 31, 1998, compliance date.

Each petition for an interim compliance waiver will be reviewed to determine whether it meets the basic criteria listed § 91.871. If the criteria are not met, the petitioner will receive a letter indicating that all of the required information has not been submitted. Petitioners will have an opportunity to submit missing information before any disposition is final.

##### Criteria (14 CFR 91.871)

All applications for a waiver must contain all of the following:

1. The operator's plan to achieve interim and final compliance;
2. An explanation of the operator's efforts to date to achieve compliance; and
3. Evidence or other information showing that a grant of the requested waiver is in the public interest.

In addition to the three criteria listed above, each petitioner must also explain

why compliance with the December 31, 1998, requirement would be at least one of the following:

1. Financially onerous;
2. Physically impossible;
3. Technologically infeasible; or
4. Have an adverse effect either on competition or service to small communities.

##### Scope of Request

Each waiver will be considered only for the airplanes operated by the petitioner on the date the petition was submitted to the FAA. Operators are expected to have submitted viable compliance plans and abided by them. The FAA's analysis of any petition will take into account the total circumstances of the operator, including all actions taken up to the date of the petition.

##### Publication

Upon completion of the review and determination that the petition is complete in accordance with the criteria described above, a summary of the petition will be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment for a minimum of 14 days. A docket will be opened that contains the petition, any other pertinent information, and any comments received.

##### Response

After the close of the comment period, the Office of Environment and Energy (AEE) will analyze each request and draft a response that contains a narrative analysis of each required element. If the results of the analysis show that the petitioner has met the criteria, AEE will prepare documentation to grant the petition for waiver. If the analysis shows that the petitioner has failed to meet the criteria, AEE will prepare documentation to deny the petition. Part of a request may also be granted at the agency's discretion, depending on the circumstances. A copy of the approval or denial document will be placed in the docket, and it will be made available for public inspection.

##### Length of Waiver

Any waiver granted will be for the shortest possible time as required by the circumstances presented by the petitioner and the findings of the FAA. If the petitioner cannot achieve compliance within the time frame provided in a waiver, the petitioner must submit a new petition that will be evaluated under the same criteria as the original petition. New petitions that fail to provide more information than the original will be denied.