

Change all references to "The Office of Regional Program and Integrity Reviews" to "The Office of Regional Quality Assurance and Performance Assessment" and all references to "ORPIR" to "ORQAPA" throughout Subchapter S1K.

Dated: May 13, 1998.

**Paul D. Barnes,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources.*

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BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### Office of International Energy Policy

[Public Notice 2832]

#### Notice of Receipt of Application for a Permit for Pipeline Facilities To Be Constructed and Maintained on the Borders of the United States

**AGENCY:** Office of International Energy Policy, Department of State.

The Department of State has received an application from Boise Cascade Corporation, a Delaware corporation, for a Presidential Permit, pursuant to Executive Order 11423 of August 16, 1968, as amended by Executive Order 12847 of May 17, 1993, seeking authorization for the continued operation and maintenance of four existing pipelines at the International Dam at International Falls, Minnesota on the U.S.-Canada border. The dam extends across the border between International Falls and Fort Frances, Ontario.

The pipelines were constructed in the 1915-40 period and have been in use since that time. The pipelines traverse the International Dam for a distance of approximately 1030 feet and convey water, steam, and filler material between the applicant's paper mill and a pulp and paper mill located in Fort Frances, Ontario. There will be no construction and no changes in the present use of the pipelines.

**DATES:** Interested parties are invited to submit, in duplicate, comments relative to this proposal on or before July 13, 1998.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel L. Martinez, Office of International Energy Policy, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520. Tel: (202) 647-4557.

Dated: May 28, 1998.

**William A. Weingarten,**

*Director, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy.*

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Implementation of the Second Round of Accelerated Tariff Eliminations Under Provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement

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

**ACTION:** Notification of articles proposed for accelerated tariff elimination under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

**SUMMARY:** Section 201(b) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993 ("the Act") grants the President, subject to the consultation and lay-over requirements of section 103(a) of the Act, the authority to proclaim any accelerated schedule for duty elimination that may be agreed to by the United States, Mexico and Canada under Article 302(3) of the North American Free Trade Agreement ('the NAFTA'). This notice is intended to inform the public of those articles on which the United States has provisionally agreed to accelerate the elimination of duties as a result of the second round of talks.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Office of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Room 522, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508; telephone: (202) 395-3412; fax: (202) 395-9517. The list of products for which the United States will accelerate tariff elimination, as well as the lists for Mexico and Canada and can be obtained from the USTR Internet Web Page, at [www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov) under "Reports.".

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Two *Federal Register* notices provide information on the second round. A notice soliciting petitions appeared May 12, 1997 (62 FR 25992) and a request for comments on the list of products to be considered appeared October 21, 1997, (62 FR 54671).

Article 302 of the NAFTA provides that the Parties may consider and agree to accelerate the elimination of customs duties on goods of a Party. Pursuant to this provision, the United States, Canada and Mexico solicited requests from interested parties in May 1997. As a result, approximately 1,500 8-digit tariff subheadings were considered by the three Parties. For trade between the United States and Canada, all duties subject to tariff reductions were eliminated on January 1, 1998. Therefore, this acceleration round resulted in two parallel agreements, one between the United States and Mexico

and another between Mexico and Canada.

Section 201 of the Act authorizes the President to proclaim such modifications in NAFTA duty treatment as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions provided in the NAFTA, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103 of the Act. Pursuant to section 103, on May 29, 1998, a report was submitted to the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees that sets forth the proposed action to be proclaimed, the reasons therefore, and the advice obtained from the International Trade Commission and appropriate advisory committees. After expiration of the 60-day consultation and layover period, the President may proclaim the proposed changes in NAFTA duty treatment.

As a part of the process, USTR requested the advice of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) and consulted with private sector trade advisory groups. As was the practice under the first NAFTA tariff acceleration and the three rounds conducted under the provisions of the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, the United States did not agree to provide accelerated tariff elimination for those products subject to negative advice. In a similar manner, the governments of Canada and Mexico declined to agree to acceleration for products subject to negative comments by their interested parties.

The Parties agreed to accelerated tariff elimination on the remaining products, involving all or parts of approximately 600 8-digit tariff lines for which one or more of the Parties have provisionally agreed to eliminate duties at the conclusion of the necessary domestic procedures.

As noted above, the relevant private sector advisory committees were consulted throughout this process, and have expressed no objection to eliminating tariffs for the products appearing in the Annex. In addition, the USITC provided a report to USTR indicating that the proposed eliminations would have no harmful impact on the United States.

The attached list shows the tariff subheadings for which the United States proposes to eliminate the remaining tariffs on imports of NAFTA-qualifying goods from Mexico, effective August 1, 1998.

Regarding future tariff acceleration activity, trilateral work to date has brought about a positive process of consultations and communication among the private sectors of the NAFTA