

purpose of the meeting is to plan future projects.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Joseph Mathewson, 312-360-1110, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, September 24, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-27111 Filed 10-8-98; 8:45 am]

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COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on October 29, 1998, at the Comfort Suites-Fargo, 1415 35th Street, South, Fargo, North Dakota 58103. The purpose of the meeting is to provide orientation for new members and review draft of a Committee report concerning civil rights enforcement efforts in North Dakota.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact John Dulles, Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 303-866-1040 (TDD 303-866-1049). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, September 24, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 980729251-8251-01]

RIN 0607-AA19

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Automated Export System (AES) Program Status

AGENCIES: Census, Commerce, and Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: On June 19, 1995, the Department of the Treasury's Customs Service announced the implementation of the Automated Export System (AES), a reporting system jointly developed by the Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) and the Customs Service (Customs) allowing for the electronic transmission of shipper's export information, in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 32040). This notice informs the public of the current status of the AES program and enhancements that will be made to the AES as a result of Interest Based Negotiations (IBN) between Customs, the Census Bureau, and representatives of the trade community to create a more viable export reporting program. This notice also informs the public that the present Automated Export Reporting Program (AERP), a Census Bureau program, will expire on December 31, 1999, and that the AES Post-Departure Authorized Special Status (AES-PASS) program, a feature of AES developed to address specific concerns of the trade community, will cease operation. This notice further announces that the Census Bureau and Customs are developing regulations to implement provisions and requirements for filing export information electronically using the AES.

The continuing development of the AES functions is designed to facilitate trade by reducing the administrative costs for both industry and government in the reporting, collection, and processing of required export information, and providing the government with better law enforcement opportunities in the administration of export laws by allowing for the earlier collection and review of export information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: At Customs: John Dagostino, Office of Field Operations, Outbound Process, 7501 Boston Boulevard, Mail stop 208/d-98, Springfield, VA 22153; by phone at (703) 921-7464. At Census: C. Harvey

Monk, Jr., Chief, Foreign Trade Division, Bureau of the Census, Room 2104, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20223-6700; by phone at (301) 457-2255; by fax on (301) 457-2645; or by e-mail at c.h.monk.jr@ccmail.census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Export Filing Requirements

Pursuant to Title 13, United States Code (U.S.C.) 301, the Secretary of Commerce is required to collect information from all persons engaged in foreign commerce or trade; the Census Bureau has been delegated this responsibility by the Secretary of Commerce. The filing requirements applicable to vessel outward manifests are contained in Section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 U.S.C. App. 91). The regulations that implement the Census Bureau's procedures regarding the submission of Shipper's Export Declarations (SEDs) for commodity information are contained in the Foreign Trade Statistics Regulations, 15 CFR Part 30.

The Census Bureau is responsible for collecting, compiling, and publishing export trade statistics. However, Customs physically collects the outward manifest and SED documents and forwards the SEDs to the Census Bureau for processing (see 13 U.S.C. 303). The regulations that provide for Customs procedures regarding the submission of outbound manifests are found in Parts 4 (for Sea Carriers) and 122 (for Air Carriers) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR Parts 4 and 122). Customs uses the information contained in outward manifests to enforce export laws and regulations administered by the Bureau of Export Administration, the Office of Defense Trade Controls, the Office of Foreign Asset Controls, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of the Treasury, and other local and federal agencies.

Current Filing Procedures

Current Census Bureau export filing requirements provide for the reporting of information by exporters using the paper SED (15 CFR 30.3). Normally, the exporter is required to submit SED information prior to the exportation of the merchandise (15 CFR 30.12). Census Bureau Regulations (15 CFR 30.39(b)) also provide for the alternate reporting of certain export information electronically after departure through the AERP. The AERP allows certain participating exporters to report their export information electronically to the Census Bureau on a monthly basis, in a