

cigars (CBI-duty free) to the foreign-sourced aluminum tubes and packaging materials (duty rate: free-4.1%). The company would also be able to defer duty payments on other foreign items noted above until the merchandise is transferred from the proposed subzone for Customs entry. In addition, FTZ status would make the facility eligible for certain local tax exemptions provided under state/local programs. The application indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures would help improve the facility's competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ staff has been appointed examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is July 23, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to August 9, 1999).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

U.S. Department of Commerce Export Assistance Center, Suite 903, 213 Court Street, Middletown, CT 06457-3346

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230

Dated: May 14, 1999.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 22-99]

Foreign-Trade Zone 21—Charleston, SC, Request for Removal of Board Order Restriction Hubner Manufacturing Corporation (Industrial Bellows/Molded Parts)

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA), grantee of FTZ 21, requesting authority, on behalf of Hubner Manufacturing Corporation (HMC), to extend its authority to

manufacture industrial bellows and plastic/rubber molded parts under FTZ procedures, subject to restriction. It was formally filed on May 12, 1999.

Board Order 828 (61 FR 33094, 6-26-96) was granted authority for the manufacture of textile/rubber industrial bellows and plastic/rubber molded parts under FTZ procedures, subject to restrictions (1) requiring that privileged foreign status shall be elected on all foreign-origin merchandise admitted to FTZ 21 for the HMC operation; and, (2) limiting initial approval to a period of three years from the date of activation of FTZ procedures (ending August 7, 1999) at the HMC plant, subject to extension. SCSPA is now requesting that the manufacturing authority for HMC be extended on a permanent basis by removing Restriction No. 2. Foreign-sourced components used in HMC's manufacturing include: rubberized fabric, trimming bands, articulation/electronic/hydraulic parts, aluminum profiles, treat plate and kinematic systems, plastic resins, and rubber compounds (about 40% of finished product value).

FTZ procedures exempt HMC from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production. On its domestic sales, the company is able to defer duty payments on the foreign components noted above until the finished bellows and molded parts are processed for Customs entry. The request indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures will continue to help improve the facility's international competitiveness. In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is July 23, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to August 9, 1999).

A copy of the application and the accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at the following location:

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3716, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230-0002.

Dated: May 12, 1999.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 23-99]

Foreign-Trade Zone 149—Freeport, TX, Application for Subzone, Equistar Chemicals, LP (Oil Refinery), Brazoria County, TX

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District, grantee of FTZ 149, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the petrochemical complex of Equistar Chemicals, LP (Equistar), located in Brazoria County, Texas. Equistar is a limited partnership jointly owned by Lyondell Petrochemicals, Millenium Chemicals, and Occidental Petroleum. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on May 11, 1999.

The petrochemical complex and connecting pipelines (366 acres) are located at two sites in Brazoria County, Texas: *Site 1* (366 acres)—Chocolate Bayou—main petrochemical complex, located at F.M. 2917, some 60 miles southwest of Houston; *Site 2* (6 leased tanks, 1.6 million barrel capacity)—located at the Intercontinental Terminal Corporation storage facility in Deer Park. The complex (250 employees) produces a variety of petrochemical feedstocks and fuel products, including ethylene (1.1 billion lb. capacity), propylene (730 million lb. capacity), benzene (500 million lb. capacity), butadiene (140 million lb. capacity), toluene (160 million lb. capacity), pyrolysis gas (340 million lb. capacity), propane, butylenes, resin oils, dicyclopentadiene, isoprene, and fuel oils. The complex also produces MTBE and hydrogen, but they will not be produced under zone procedures. Some 55 percent of the inputs, including gas oil, naphtha, condensate, and natural gasoline, are sourced abroad.

Zone procedures would exempt the refinery from Customs duty payments on the foreign products used in its exports. On domestic sales, the company would be able to choose the Customs duty rates that apply to certain petrochemical feedstocks by admitting