

needs documentation to legally advance loan funds and conduct other business activities with the new or surviving entity. The specific documents required vary according to state law and the particular circumstances of the merger. Most of the information required by RUS consists of copies of documents that the borrower must file with state and local authorities.

The second concerns transitional assistance. Short-term financial stress can follow mergers and consolidations that will in the long term benefit rural America and enhance government loan security. Title 7 CFR part 1717, subpart D, offers transitional assistance to mitigate these stresses. This information collection includes documentation from borrowers requesting such assistance.

Third are the unusual situations where RUS approval of a merger is required. This collection includes the list of documents that RUS needs to approve a merger. Except for a formal transmittal letter and board resolution from each of the companies involved, RUS believes that the information required is prepared by any prudent business attempting to enter into a merger.

RUS may not require borrower to either merge or to study the possibility of merger. The provisions of the rule may be utilized only at the borrower's request. This collection of information encompasses the procedures for borrowers who wish to enter into mergers or who request transitional assistance.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hour per response.

*Respondents:* Small cooperatives or similar organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 25.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 249 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Dawn Wolfgang, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-0812.

Comments are invited on (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumption used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who

are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques on other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 30, 1999.

**Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-20173 Filed 8-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* Office of the Secretary.

*Title:* Survey of Business Leaders Accompanying the Secretary on Trade Missions.

*Agency Form Number:* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0690-0017.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement of a collection previously approved.

*Burden:* 5 hours.

*Number of Respondents:* 100 (approximately 20 per trade mission).

*Average Hours Per Response:* 3 minutes.

*Needs and Uses:* Trade missions are one of the most visible means for the Secretary to provide support to the business community in expanding exports. When he leads a mission, a quick survey of business leaders who accompany him on the trip is made. Its purpose is to assess their opinions on the market area they are visiting. The information is used to stimulate discussions during the trip.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for profit organizations.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection program can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: July 30, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of Export Administration

[Docket No.: 97-BXA-20]

#### Re: Aluminum Company of America

On Friday, February 26, 1999, the **Federal Register** published the Decision and Order issued by the Under Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Export Administration, United States Department of Commerce (BXA) on February 19, 1999 (64 FR 9471). However, the Recommended Decision and Order of the Administration Law Judge (ALJ) was inadvertently not included with the Order of the Under Secretary. This notice is to hereby publish the December 21, 1998, Recommended and Decision Order of the ALJ.

Dated: July 21, 1999.

**William A. Reinsch,**

*Under Secretary for Export Administration.*

#### Recommended Decision and Order

Appearance for Respondents: Edward L. Rubinoff, Esq., Samuel C. Straight, Esq., of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., Michael D. Scott, Aluminum Company of America.

Appearance for Agency: Jeffrey E.M. Joyner, Esq., Office of the Chief Counsel for Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Before: Hon. Parlen L. McKenna, United States Administrative Law Judge.

#### Preliminary Statement

This is a civil penalty proceeding initiated pursuant to the legal authority contained under the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C.A. §§ 2401-2420 (1991 & Supp. 1997) (hereinafter known as the "ACT"). It was conducted in accordance with the procedural requirements as found in 15 CFR Parts 768-799 (1991-1995). Those