

Dated: February 4, 2000.

James C. Kearney,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 00-3831 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Freedom Power Station Plant, Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794), has made a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a project proposed by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., (SEC) of Greenville, Illinois. The proposed project consists of constructing a natural gas-fired simple cycle, combustion turbine power generation facility near Wright's Corner in Fayette County, Illinois. The primary purpose of the facility is to meet SEC peak electrical load. The unit will have a peak capacity of 45 MW. The facility will be located on a 1.5 acre tract of land on the East Side of County Highway 4 approximately six miles north of the City of Elmo, Illinois. The power generated from the facility will be distributed through an existing transmission line owned and operated jointly by SEC and Ameren. No additional construction of the transmission facility will be required. Kansas-Nebraska Energy will provide natural gas fuel for the facility. The Kansas-Nebraska Energy gas pipeline is located about 50 feet from the plant site. RUS may provide financing assistance to SEC for the project.

RUS has concluded that the impacts from the proposed project would not be significant and that the proposed action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1414. His e-mail

address is nislam@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from Mr. Joe Richardson, Business Development and Marketing Manager, SEC, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, Illinois 62246, telephone (618) 664-1025.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RUS, in accordance with its environmental policies and procedures, required that SEC prepare an Environmental Report (ER) reflecting the potential impacts of the proposed facilities. The ER, which includes input from Federal, State, and local agencies, has been reviewed and adopted as RUS's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project in accordance with 7 CFR 1794.41. RUS and SEC published notices of the availability of the EA and solicited public comments per 7 CFR 1794.42. No comments were received. Based on the EA, RUS has concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect to various resources, including important farmland, floodplains, wetlands, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat, air and water quality, and noise. RUS has also determined that there would be no negative impacts of the proposed project on minority communities and low-income communities as a result of the construction of the project.

Copies of the EA and FONSI can be reviewed at the headquarters of SEC and the RUS, at the addresses provided above in this notice.

Dated: February 10, 2000.

Lawrence R. Wolfe,

Acting Director Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 00-3829 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 3-2000]

Foreign-Trade Zone 148, Knoxville, TN; Application for Subzone Status, Matsushita Electronic Components Corporation of America Plant (Capacitors, Automotive Audio Speakers)

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Industrial Development Board of Blount County, grantee of FTZ 148, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the electrolytic capacitor and automotive audio speaker manufacturing plant of Matsushita Electronic Components Corporation of America (ACOM) (a subsidiary of

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., of Japan), located in Knoxville, Tennessee. 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 February 10, 2000.

The ACOM plant (40 acres/370,000 sq.ft.) is located within the Forks of the River Park at 5105 South National Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee. The facility is used to produce aluminum electrolytic capacitors (HTSUS# 8532.22.0020-85), aluminum etched capacitor foil (7607.19.1000), and automotive audio speakers (8518.29.8000), for export and the domestic market. The production process involves design, assembly, testing, and warehousing. Components purchased from abroad (representing 10 to 100% of overall material value) include: adhesives (epoxide, phenolic), cone paper, cushions, dust caps, flexible wire, eyelets, gaskets, grille, magnets, plates, fasteners, nets, sub cones, supporters, dampers, terminals, tweeters, voice coils, cord assemblies, aluminum etched foil, ammonium adipate, electrolyte, aluminum cases and washers, terminal boards, vent plugs, vinyl sleeves, insulation boards, wax, adhesive tape, positive/negative leads, and separator paper (duty rate range: free-6.5%).

FTZ procedures would exempt ACOM from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production. On its domestic sales, the company would be able to choose the duty rate that applies to finished aluminum electrolytic capacitors (duty free), aluminum etched capacitor foil (5.3%), and automotive audio speakers (4.9%) for the foreign inputs noted above. On ACOM's automotive original equipment sales, the motor vehicle duty rate (2.5%) would apply to the finished automotive audio speakers that are shipped in-bond to U.S. motor vehicle assembly plants with subzone status. The application indicates that subzone status would help improve the plant'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 April 17, 2000. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period

may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period May 2, 2000.

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

Office of the Port Director, U.S. Customs Service-Knoxville, 3286 Northpark Blvd., Alcoa, TN 37701

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4008, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230-0002

Dated: February 10, 2000.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-3847 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1071]

Grant of Authority; Establishment of a Foreign-Trade Zone Martinsburg (Berkeley County), West Virginia

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Foreign-Trade Zones Act provides for “* * * the establishment * * * of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes,” and authorizes the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs ports of entry;

Whereas, the West Virginia Economic Development Authority (the Grantee), has made application to the Board (FTZ Docket 9-99, filed 2/19/99), requesting the establishment of a foreign-trade zone in the Martinsburg (Berkeley County), West Virginia area, adjacent to the Front Royal, Virginia, Customs port of entry;

Whereas, notice inviting public comment has been given in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 9473, 2/26/99); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations are satisfied, and that approval of the application is in the public interest;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby grants to the Grantee the privilege of establishing a foreign-trade zone, designated on the records of the Board

as Foreign-Trade Zone No. 240, at the site described in the application, subject to the Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.28.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 7th day of February 2000.

Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

William M. Daley,

Secretary of Commerce, Chairman and Executive Officer.

Attest:

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-3848 Filed 2-16-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[(A-538-802)(A-570-003)(C-535-001)]

Continuation of Antidumping Duty Orders and Countervailing Duty Order: Cotton Shop Towels From Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, and Pakistan

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of continuation of antidumping duty orders and countervailing duty order: cotton shop towels from Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, and Pakistan.

SUMMARY: On August 5, 1999, the Department of Commerce (“the Department”), pursuant to sections 751(c) and 752 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Act”), determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on cotton shop towels from Bangladesh and the People's Republic of China (“China”), and of the countervailing duty order on cotton shop towels from Pakistan, is likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping or a countervailing subsidy (64 FR 42658, 42656, 42672, respectively). On February 3, 2000, the International Trade Commission (“the Commission”), pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act, determined that revocation of these antidumping and countervailing duty orders on cotton shop towels would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time (65 FR 5369). Therefore, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.218(e)(4), the Department is publishing notice of the continuation of the antidumping duty orders on cotton shop towels from Bangladesh and China, and of the countervailing duty

order on cotton shop towels from Pakistan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 17, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Martha V. Douthit or Melissa G. Skinner, Office of Policy for Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482-5050 or (202) 482-1560, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Background

On January 4, 1999, the Department initiated, and the Commission instituted, sunset reviews (64 FR 364 and 64 FR 371, respectively) of the antidumping duty orders on cotton shop towels from Bangladesh and China, and of the countervailing duty order on cotton shop towels from Pakistan, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act. As a result of its reviews, the Department found that revocation of the antidumping duty orders would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping and notified the Commission of the magnitude of the margin likely to prevail were the orders to be revoked (*see Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review: Cotton Shop Towels From Bangladesh*, August 5, 1999 (64 FR 42658) and *Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review: Cotton Shop Towels From the People's Republic of China*, August 5, 1999 (64 FR 42656)). Additionally, the Department determined that revocation of the countervailing duty order would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of a countervailing subsidy and notified the Commission of the net countervailable subsidy likely to prevail were the order revoked (*see Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review: Cotton Shop Towels From Pakistan*, August 5, 1999 (64 FR 42672)).

On February 3, 2000, the Commission determined, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act, that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on cotton shop towels from Bangladesh, China, and of the countervailing duty order on cotton shop towels from Pakistan, would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time (*see Cotton Shop Towels From Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan*, 65 FR 5369 (February 3, 2000) and USITC Pub. 3267, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-202 (Review) and 731-TA-103 and 514 (Review) (January 2000)).