

The TPSC invites written comments from the public on the important institutional issues raised about the WTO in terms of its openness and accountability, including its outreach to citizens. The Administration has been active in seeking institutional improvements to the WTO, while preserving its intergovernmental nature. For example, the United States has consistently called for the WTO to build upon past progress by (i) expanding the range of WTO documents available to the public; (ii) strengthening the guidelines for consultations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs); (iii) enhancing the WTO's program of symposia and consultations on specific topics of mutual interest; (iv) expanding and improving the use of Internet facilities to reach more stakeholders in more creative ways; and (v) broadening the range of WTO meetings and events that would be open to the public. Last year, the United States specifically called upon the WTO membership to agree upon methods to permit the organizations of civil society (including businesses, labor organizations, agricultural producers, environmental groups, academic associations and others) to observe meetings, as appropriate, and share views as Member delegations develop policy. The United States has proposed updating the 1996 WTO General Council Decisions on Document Derestriction and Relations with NGOs as a near term opportunity for making progress in certain of these areas, but additional opportunities and progress should be pursued—including with respect to opening dispute settlement panel proceedings to public observation and clarifying procedures for acceptance of amicus curiae submissions from interested non-governmental parties.

In terms of dispute settlement, the United States has proposed that the WTO procedures include a mechanism to permit non-governmental stakeholders to present their written views on disputes, and that the WTO allow the public to observe WTO panel and appellate proceedings. The United States continues to urge other WTO Members to work with the United States to enhance the transparency of the WTO dispute settlement process, through changes in the working procedures applied in individual disputes, and through an ongoing assessment of the operation of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.

The United States has taken many steps on its own to improve the transparency of the WTO dispute settlement process. USTR seeks public comment, through a **Federal Register**

notice, on every dispute settlement proceeding where the United States is a party. USTR also makes its written submissions to panels and the WTO Appellate Body available to the public as soon as they are submitted. The United States routinely requests the parties to any WTO case (even cases in which it is not a party) to provide it with a copy of their submissions or non-confidential summaries for release to the public.

USTR makes WTO panel reports available to the public upon receipt, and the WTO makes WTO panel and Appellate Body reports available on the Internet for downloading the day after they are circulated in Geneva, and sometimes the same day. This is also true of other WTO documents regarding disputes. The consultation requests and panel requests in every dispute are circulated to all WTO Members in all three official languages (English, French and Spanish) as public documents, and immediately put on the WTO website. Any member of the public can access WTO documents through the Internet and follow the progress of WTO disputes on that website. In this way, members of the public can find out from these WTO documents that there will be a panel proceeding and what issues the panel will address, even before the panel is established.

Written Comments

Comments are welcome with as much specificity as the respondent can provide on the range of opportunities which should be sought for achieving greater transparency and openness as well as on the nature of achievements to be sought. The Administration is particularly interested in determining if there are additional mechanisms that can be utilized to ensure broader interaction with consumer and other parties interested in developments in the WTO and the trading system. This is part of a broader dialogue initiated by the Administration these issues. Submissions need not duplicate submissions provided in response to the March 28 solicitation regarding objectives for the mandated negotiations in agriculture and services and potential industrial market access negotiation.

Persons submitting written comments should provide twenty (20) copies no later than July 10, 2000 to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Room 122, 600 17th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20508. Written comments submitted in connection with this request, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR

2003.6, will be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, Northwest, Washington, DC. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling Brenda Webb at 202-395-6186. The Reading Room is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR 2003.6. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or page and each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof. If the submission contains business confidential information, twenty copies of a public version that does not contain confidential information must be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially must be included in the submission. In addition, any submissions containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "Confidential" at the top and bottom of the cover page (or letter) and each succeeding page of the submission. The version that does not contain confidential information should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each page "Public Version" or "Non-Confidential."

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 2000-6950]

Information Collection Under Review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): 2115-0614 and 2115-0545

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this request for comments announces that the Coast Guard has forwarded the two Information Collection Reports (ICRs) abstracted below to OMB for review and comment. Our ICRs describe the information that we seek to collect from the public. Review and comment by OMB ensure that we impose only

paperwork burdens commensurate with our performance of duties.

DATES: Please submit comments on or before July 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments to both (1) the Docket Management System (DMS), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, and (2) the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, to the attention of the Desk Officer for the USCG.

Copies of the complete ICRs are available for inspection and copying in public docket USCG 2000-6950 of the Docket Management Facility between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays; for inspection and printing on the internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>; and for inspection from the Commandant (G-SII-2), U.S. Coast Guard, room 6106, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Davis, Office of Information Management, 202-267-2326, for questions on this document; Dorothy Walker, Chief, Documentary Services Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, 202-366-9330, for questions on the docket.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory History

This request constitutes the 30-day notice required by OMB. The Coast Guard has already published [65 FR 10143 (February 25, 2000)] the 60-day notice required by OMB. That request elicited no comments.

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard invites comments on the proposed collections of information to determine whether the collections are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department. In particular, the Coast Guard would appreciate comments addressing: (1) The practical utility of the collections; (2) the accuracy of the Department's estimated burden of the collections; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information that is the subject of the collections; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of collections on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments, to DMS or OIRA, must contain the OMB Control Numbers of all ICRs addressed. Comments to DMS must contain the docket number of this

request, USCG 2000-6950. Comments to OIRA are best assured of having their full effect if OIRA receives them 30 or fewer days after the publication of this request.

Information Collection Requests

1. *Title:* Alteration of Unreasonable Obstructive Bridges.

OMB Control Number: 2115-0614.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Owners of bridges.

Form(s): N/A.

Abstract: The collection of information requires the owner of a bridge whose bridge the Coast Guard has found to be an unreasonable obstruction to navigation to prepare, and submit to the Coast Guard, general plans and specifications of that bridge.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: The estimated burden is 120 hours annually.

2. *Title:* Financial Responsibility for Water Pollution (Vessels).

OMB Control Number: 2115-0545.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Vessels operators or owners of vessels over 300 gross tons.

Forms: CG-5585, CG-5586, CG-5586-1, CG-5586-2, CG-5586-3, CG-5586-4, CG-5586-5.

Abstract: The collection of information requires operators of vessels over 300 gross tons to submit to the Coast Guard evidence of their financial responsibility to meet the maximum amount of liability in case of an oil spill or hazardous substance incident.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: The estimated burden is 2,162 hours annually.

Dated: May 31, 2000.

Daniel F. Sheehan,

Director of Information and Technology.

[FR Doc. 00-14505 Filed 6-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 30, 2000.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department

Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

Bureau of the Public Debt (PD)

OMB Number: 1535-0012.

Form Number: PD F 1455.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Request by Fiduciary for Reissue of United States Savings Bonds/Notes.

Description: PD F 1455 is use by fiduciary to request distribution of U.S. Savings Bonds/Notes to the person(s) entitled.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 72,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden Hours: 36,000 hours.

OMB Number: 1535-0025.

Form Number: PD F 3360.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Request for Reissue of United States Savings Bonds/Notes in the Name of a Person or Persons Other Than the Owner (Including Legal Guardian, Custodian for a Minor Under a Statute, etc.).

Description: This form is used by the owner to request reissue of Savings Bonds/Notes in the name of another person.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden Hours: 8,350 hours.

OMB Number: 1535-0032.

Form Number: PD F 3565.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Application for Disposition of Retirement Plan and/or Individual Retirement Bonds Without Administration of Deceased Owner's Estate.

Description: This form is used by heirs of deceased owners of Retirement Plan and/or Individual Retirement bonds to request disposition when no beneficiaries are designated.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.