

Social Security numbers, and telephone numbers.

The Committee's sessions from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2000, will be closed in accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463). The agenda calls for discussions of agency declassification decisions concerning the Foreign Relations series. These are matters not subject to public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and the public interest requires that such activities be withheld from disclosure. The remaining session of the Committee will meet in open session from 9:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2000, to discuss transfer of Department of State electronic records to the National Archives and Records Administration and the modernization of the Foreign Relations series.

Questions concerning the meeting should be directed to David Patterson, Acting, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation, Department of State, Office of the Historian, Washington, DC, 20520, telephone (202) 663-1127, (e-mail history@state.gov).

Dated: November 17, 2000.

David Patterson,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-30141 Filed 11-24-00; 8:45 am]

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**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Implementation of the Third Round of
Accelerated Tariff Eliminations Under
Provisions of the North American Free
Trade Agreement**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notification of articles proposed for accelerated tariff elimination under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

SUMMARY: Section 201(b) of the North American Free Trade Agreement

Implementation Act ("the Act") (19 U.S.C. 3331(b)) grants the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 3313(a)), the authority to proclaim any accelerated schedule for duty elimination that may be agreed to by the United States, Mexico and Canada under Article 302(3) of the North American Free Trade Agreement ("the NAFTA"). This notice is intended to inform the public of the list of products with respect to which the United States has provisionally agreed to accelerate the elimination of duties as a result of the third round of consultations with Mexico and Canada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Shigetomi, Director, Mexico and NAFTA Affairs, Office of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Room 523, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20508; telephone: (202) 395-3412; fax: (202) 395-9517. The list of products with respect to which the United States has provisionally agreed to accelerate tariff elimination, as well as the lists for Mexico can be obtained from the USTR Internet Web Page, at www.ustr.gov under [World Regions/Western Hemisphere/North American Free Trade Agreement/NAFTA Reports and Publications].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Article 302(3) of the NAFTA provides that the Parties may consider and agree to accelerate the elimination of customs duties set out in their schedules. Pursuant to this provision, on May 27, 1999, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative ("USTR") published a **Federal Register** notice (64 FR 28857) soliciting petitions from interested persons regarding products for which accelerated tariff elimination would be appropriate. For trade between the United States and Canada, all duties subject to tariff reductions were eliminated on January 1, 1998. Therefore, this acceleration round has resulted in two parallel agreements, one between the United States and Mexico and another between Mexico and Canada.

Section 201(b) of the Act authorizes the President to proclaim such modifications in NAFTA duty treatment as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions provided in the NAFTA, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the Act. Pursuant to section 103(a), a report has been submitted to the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees that sets forth the proposed action to be proclaimed, the reasons therefore, and the advice obtained from the U.S. International Trade Commission ("USITC") and appropriate advisory committees. After expiration of the 60-day consultation and layover period, the President may proclaim the proposed changes in NAFTA duty treatment. In developing the list of products proposed for tariff acceleration, USTR considered the advice of the USITC and consulted with the appropriate private sector trade advisory groups. As was the practice under the prior NAFTA and United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement tariff acceleration processes, the United States did not agree to provide accelerated tariff elimination for any products with respect to which the domestic industry opposed tariff elimination. The United States has agreed to accelerated tariff elimination, effective January 1, 2001, on the products listed in the Annex to this notice. These products currently are dutiable when entered from Mexico under the NAFTA. Each of these products was considered during the second round of tariff acceleration discussions, but no agreement was reached at that time. However, the Governments agreed to continue appropriate domestic procedures with the goal of reaching agreement at a later date (63 FR 32036). Such agreements have now been reached on the products listed.

Peter Allgeier,

Associate U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere.

LIST OF HTS SUBHEADINGS FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS PROVISIONALLY AGREED TO ACCELERATE ELIMINATION OF DUTIES FOR NAFTA QUALIFYING GOODS OF MEXICO

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2905.17.00 | 6402.99.18 | 6403.51.90 | 6403.99.40 |
| 2921.30.10 | 6403.19.10 | 6403.59.30 | 6403.99.60 |
| 6402.19.05 | 6403.19.30 | 6403.59.60 | 6403.99.75 |
| 6402.30.30 | 6403.19.50 | 6403.59.90 | 6403.99.90 |
| 6402.91.40 | 6403.40.30 | 6403.91.30 | 6405.10.00 |
| 6402.99.05 | 6403.40.60 | 6403.91.60 | 6405.20.30 |
| 6402.99.10 | 6403.51.30 | 6403.91.90 | 6405.20.90 |
| | 6403.51.60 | 6403.99.20 | 6405.90.90 |

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Cooperative Agreement DTRS656-00-H-0004]

Quarterly Performance Review Meeting on the Cooperative Agreement "Better Understanding of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines"

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: RSPA has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Gas Research Institute (GRI) to co-fund a two year research program to identify and characterize mechanical damage, the leading cause of reportable accidents in both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, using the technology of magnetic flux leakage (MFL) oriented in the circumferential direction on an in-line inspection tool. RSPA along with GRI invite the pipeline industry, in-line inspection ("smart pig") vendors, and the general public to a quarterly performance review meeting hosted by RSPA to report on progress with the research "Better Understanding of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines." The meeting is open to anyone, and no registration is required. This work is being managed by GRI and performed by Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), along with the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). The meeting will cover a review of the overall project plan, the status of the contract tasks, progress made during the past quarter, and projected activity for the next quarter.

DATES: The quarterly performance review meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2000 beginning at 9 a.m. and ending around 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The quarterly review meeting will be held in room 6244 of the Department of Transportation Headquarters Building, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Non-federal personnel must enter the building through the southwest entrance at 7th and E Streets, SW., in order to receive a temporary building pass.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lloyd W. Ulrich, Agreement Officer's Technical Representative, Office of Pipeline Safety, telephone: (202) 366-4556, FAX: (202) 366-4566, e-mail: lloyd.ulrich@rspa.dot.gov. You may also contact Harvey Haines, Principal

Investigator, GRI, telephone: (773) 399-8223, FAX: (773) 864-3495, e-mail: harvey.haines@gastechnology.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

RSPA has entered into a Cooperative Agreement (Cooperative Agreement DTRS656-00-H-0004) with the Gas Research Institute (GRI) to co-fund a two year research program to identify and characterize mechanical damage, the leading cause of reportable accidents in both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, using the technology of magnetic flux leakage (MFL) oriented in the circumferential direction on an in-line inspection tool.

We plan to conduct public semi-annual quarterly performance review meetings for the duration of this research. This meeting is the first semi-annual one to be conducted to update the public and interested governmental parties on the research, such as pipeline operators, vendors, RSPA technical and regional staff and the National Transportation Safety Board. Semi-annual meetings in the future will be held in conjunction with industry meetings, such as the American Petroleum Institute Pipeline Conference, in order to reach a broad audience. We want the pipeline industry and especially that segment of the pipeline industry involved with in-line inspection to be aware of the status of this research. The meetings allow disclosure of the results to interested parties and provide an opportunity for interested parties to ask questions concerning the research. Attendance at this meeting is open to all and does not require advanced registration nor advanced notification to RSPA. Each of the semi-annual meetings will be announced in the **Federal Register** at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

The quarterly performance review meetings held between the semi-annual meetings described above will be held in conjunction with meetings of the joint GRI/PRCI Technical Committee.

II. The Research

This research continues work that DOT supported at Battelle to improve In-Line Inspection NDE measurements of mechanical damage and more closely coordinates work that GRI is supporting at SwRI to develop a critical assessment criteria based on these NDE measurements. This program extends the work conducted under the DOT-funded contract "Detection of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines"

(Contract DTRS-56-96-C-0010)¹ by looking at the circumferential magnetic flux leakage field instead of the traditional axial field and extends the critical assessment criteria research to work with full scale samples that are being used for MFL measurements. The goal of the research is to evaluate and develop techniques for assessing pipeline metal loss, mechanical damage, and cracks using circumferential MFL. These techniques are expected to complement the techniques used for axial MFL systems.

The research will extend the failure assessment methodology for mechanically damaged pipes to include the influence of local cold working due to the gouging/denting process on the pipe's remaining life. The program will combine full scale tests and MFL monitoring of pipes, laboratory tests and elastic-plastic finite element analyses to develop a validated methodology for determining the remaining life of a damaged pipe. The proposed SwRI research will complement the work at Battelle in developing MFL methods for detecting and characterizing mechanical damage.

III. Agenda for the Meeting

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

- "Overview of DOT/GRI project for finding and characterizing in-line inspection for mechanical damage"—Lloyd Ulrich-DOT (15 min)
- "Project History and Impact of the In-Line Inspection for Mechanical Damage."—Harvey Haines-GRI (15 min)
- "Defect Manufacture and installation"—Tom Bubenik-Battelle (30 min)
- "Circumferential Magnetizer design and construction"—Bruce Nestleroth-Battelle (30 min)
- Break
- "Non-Linear Harmonics Measurement and test set-up"—Al Crouch-SwRI (30 min)
- "Burst test Setup"—Al Crouch-SwRI (10 min)
- "Tool Development for Implementation in Actual Pipelines"—Carl Torres-Tuboscope (30 min)
- "Wrap up and comments"—Ulrich & Haines (10-15 min)

Issued in Washington, DC on November 20, 2000.

Jeffrey D. Wiese,

Manager, Program Development, Office of Pipeline Safety.

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¹ The final report on this research dated June 2000 is available on the OPS web site, <http://ops.dot.gov>.