

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Bureau of Export Administration****Regulations and Procedures Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting**

The Regulations and Procedures Technical Advisory Committee (RPTAC) will meet March 6, 2001, 9 a.m., Room 3884, in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on implementation of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and provides for continuing review to update the EAR as needed.

Agenda*Public Session*

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman.
2. Presentation of papers or comments by the public.
3. Update on pending regulations.
4. Discussion of deemed export rule/status of DEL process.
5. Update on Bureau of Export Administration initiatives.

Closed Session

6. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent that time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate the distribution of public presentation materials to the Committee members, the Committee suggests that presenters forward the public presentation materials prior to the meeting to the following address: Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter, OSIES/EA/BXA MS:3876, 14th St. & Constitution Ave., NW., U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on February 12, 2001, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to

public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC. For more information, call Lee Ann Carpenter at (202) 482-2583.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

Lee Ann Carpenter,

Committee Liaison Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3510-JT-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Bureau of Export Administration****National Defense Stockpile Market Impact Committee Request for Public Comments on the Potential Market Impact of Proposed Stockpile Sales of Palladium**

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment on the potential market impact of a proposed increase in the disposal level of palladium from the National Defense Stockpile under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 Annual Materials Plan (AMP) and the proposed FY 2002 AMP.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise the public that the National Defense Stockpile Market Impact Committee (co-chaired by the Departments of Commerce and State) is seeking public comments on the potential market impact of a proposed increase in the disposal of palladium from the National Defense Stockpile under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 Annual Materials Plan (AMP) and the proposed FY 2002 AMP.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 22, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Richard V. Meyers, Co-Chair, Stockpile Market Impact Committee, Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, Room 3876, Bureau of Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; FAX: (202) 482-5650; E-Mail: rmeyers@bxa.doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard V. Meyers, Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, Bureau of Export Administration, U.S.

Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3634; or Terri L. Robl, Office of International Energy and Commodity Policy, U.S. Department of State, (202) 647-3423; co-chairs of the National Defense Stockpile Market Impact Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act of 1979, as amended, (50 U.S.C. 98 *et seq.*), the Department of Defense (DOD), as National Defense Stockpile Manager, maintains a stockpile of strategic and critical materials to supply the military, industrial, and essential civilian needs of the United States for national defense. Section 3314 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 1993 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (50 U.S.C. 98h-1) formally established a Market Impact Committee (the Committee) to "advise the National Defense Stockpile Manager on the projected domestic and foreign economic effects of all acquisitions and disposals of materials from the stockpile * * *." The Committee must also balance market impact concerns with the statutory requirement to protect the Government against avoidable loss.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Commerce, State, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Interior, Treasury, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and is co-chaired by the Departments of Commerce and State. The FY 1993 NDAA also directs the Committee to "consult from time to time with representatives of producers, processors and consumers of the types of materials stored in the stockpile."

The National Defense Stockpile Administrator has proposed revising both the current FY 2001 Annual Materials Plan (AMP) and the proposed FY 2002 AMP (both AMPs previously approved by Committee) to increase the disposal quantity of palladium from 300,000 tr. oz. to 600,000 tr. oz. The proposed increase will permit additional quantities of palladium to be sold at historically high prices for the material and will also provide a supply of the material into a world market currently experiencing a severe shortage. The Committee is seeking public comment on the potential market impact of this proposed increase.

The quantity of palladium (including the proposed increase) listed in both the FY 2001 and proposed FY 2002 AMPs are not sales target disposal quantities. They are only a statement of the proposed maximum disposal quantity of the material that may be sold in a particular fiscal year. The quantity of