

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that on March 1, 2002, the United States requested consultations with Japan under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), regarding measures imposed by Japan on the importation of U.S. apples to protect against the introduction of fire blight. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although the USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before April 30, 2002, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (i) electronically to japanapples@ustr.gov or (ii) by mail to Sandy McKinzy, Attn: Japan—Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, with a confirmation copy sent electronically or by fax to (202) 395-3640.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juan A. Millán, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC, (202) 395-3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)) requires that notice and opportunity for comment be provided after the United States submits or receives a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel. Consistent with this obligation, but in an effort to provide additional opportunity for comment, USTR is providing notice that consultations have been requested pursuant to the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). If such consultations should fail to resolve the matter and a dispute settlement panel is established pursuant to the DSU, such panel, which would hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, would be expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the United States

The United States has requested WTO consultations with Japan regarding its quarantine restrictions on U.S. apples imported into Japan to protect against the introduction of fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*). These restrictions include, *inter alia*, the prohibition of imported

apples from orchards in which any fire blight is detected, the requirement that export orchards be inspected three times yearly for the presence of fire blight, the disqualification of any orchard from exporting to Japan should fire blight be detected within a 500 meter buffer zone surrounding such orchard, and a post-harvest treatment of exported apples with chlorine. None of these restrictions is supported by scientific evidence.

The United States contends that Japan's measures are inconsistent with the obligations of Japan under Article XI of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, Articles 2.2, 2.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 6.1, 6.2, and 7 and Annex B of the *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, and Article 14 of the *Agreement on Agriculture*. Japan's measures also appear to nullify or impair the benefits accruing to the United States directly or indirectly under the cited agreements.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Comments must be in English. Commenters should send either one copy by U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid, to Sandy McKinzy at the address listed above, or transmit a copy electronically to japanapples@ustr.gov. For documents sent by U.S. mail, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy, either electronically or by fax to (202) 395-3640. USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format, as attachments to an electronic mail.

A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy. For any document containing business confidential information submitted by electronic transmission, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P". The "P" or "BC" should be followed by the name of the commenter. Interested persons who make submission by electronic mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the

extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself and not as separate files.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitter believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitter—

(1) Must so designate the information or advice;

(2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and

(3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the dispute; if a dispute settlement panel is convened, the U.S. submissions to that panel, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the panel; and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/DS-245, Japan—Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples) may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Christine Bliss,

Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 02-7736 Filed 3-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Salt Lake County, UT

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an

environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Salt Lake County, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Punske, Project Development Engineer, Federal Highway Administration 2520 West 400 South Suite 9a, Salt Lake City, Utah 84118-1847, Telephone: (801) 963-0182.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Transportation, the city of West Valley City, Utah, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to improve a portion of State Route 171 on 3500 South. The proposed improvement would involve the reconstruction of 3500 South between Redwood Road and 8400 West in West Valley City and Salt Lake County for a distance of 12.9 km (8.0 miles). Most of the proposed project lies within the corporate limits of West Valley City, Utah. The west most portion, from 7200 West for 8400 West, lies in the Magna area, an unincorporated area of Salt Lake County.

Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to provide for the existing and projected travel demand as indicated in the long range plan developed by the Wasatch Front Regional Council. Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) using alternative travel modes; (3) transportation systems management strategies (TSM); (4) mass transit options, and (5) reconstruction of the existing roadway, including control of access. Also under consideration is the proposed construction of grade separated interchange type facilities located at several heavily used intersections in the project corridor.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings, including scoping meetings, will be held. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be

directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on March 26, 2002.

William R. Gedris,

Structural Environmental Engineer, Salt Lake City, Utah.

[FR Doc. 02-7761 Filed 3-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 587]

Information Quality Guidelines

Authority: Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Pub. L. 106-554; 114 Stat. 2763).

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of guidelines and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is seeking comments on its draft Information Quality Guidelines (I.Q. Guidelines). The I.Q. Guidelines contain the Board's information resource management procedures for reviewing and substantiating the quality of information before it is disseminated to the public, and the procedures by which an affected person may obtain correction of information disseminated by the Board that does not comply with the I.Q. Guidelines. The Board will consider comments in developing its final I.Q. Guidelines.

DATES: Comments are due May 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send comments (an original plus 10 copies) referring to Ex Parte No. 587 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John M. Atkisson (202) 565-1710. [TDD for hearing impaired: (800) 877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board's draft I.Q. Guidelines are posted on its website, www.stb.dot.gov. In addition, copies of the I.Q. Guidelines may be purchased from Da-2-Da Legal Copy Service by calling 202-293-7776 (assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services at 800-877-8339) or visiting Suite 405, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

Decided: March 27, 2002.

By the Board, John M. Atkisson, Designated Official.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-7792 Filed 3-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 25, 2002.

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 May 1, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

OMB Number: 1512-0089.

Form Number: ATF F 5100.24.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Application for Basic Permit Under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act.

Description: ATF F 5400.24 will be completed by persons intending to engage in a business involving beverage alcohol operations at distilled spirits plants, bonded wineries, or wholesaling/importing businesses. The information allows ATF to identify the applicant and the location of the business and to determine whether the applicant qualifies for a permit.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,600.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 1 hour, 45 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 2,800 hours.

OMB Number: 1512-0090.

Form Number: ATF F 5100.18 (1643).

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Application for Amended Basic Permit Under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act.