

contained therein with respect to commercial remote sensing space capabilities. A fact sheet regarding the new policy directive may be found on the web site of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, at <http://www.ostp.gov/html/new.html>. The fundamental goal of the policy is "to advance and protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests by maintaining the nation's leadership in remote sensing space activities, and by sustaining and enhancing the U.S. remote sensing industry."

As part of the implementation of the new policy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is seeking public comment on all aspects of its licensing program for commercial remote sensing satellite systems. NOAA is seeking comments on topics such as:

- the current regulations on commercial remote sensing satellite systems;
- the current thresholds for commercial operations of U.S. systems;
- the U.S. Government's manner of conditioning operations of U.S. system operators;
- issues of foreign availability and competition; and,
- possible alternative approaches to address U.S. national security, foreign policy, and commercial interests.

For public reference, the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, the Licensing of Private Land Remote-Sensing Space Systems (15 CFR part 960), and other relevant materials may be found in the "Reference Materials" section on the NOAA Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing Web site, at <http://www.licensing.noaa.gov>. Comments should be received by NOAA no later than August 15, 2003, by postal service to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Timothy Stryker, NOAA/NESDIS International and Interagency Affairs, 1335 East West Highway, Room 7311, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; telephone (301) 713-2024 x.205, fax (301) 713-2032, e-mail Timothy.Stryker@noaa.gov, or Bernard Crawford at telephone (301) 713-2024 x204, e-mail Bernard.Crawford@noaa.gov.

Gregory W. Withee,

Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Chicago Mercantile Exchange: Proposed Amendments to the Live Cattle Futures Contract Restricting Delivery to Cattle Born and Raised in the United States

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability for public comment of the proposed amendments to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's live cattle futures contract restricting delivery to cattle born and raised in the United States.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME or Exchange) has requested that the Commission approve the subject proposed amendments for the live cattle futures contract. The proposals were submitted pursuant to the provisions of Section 5c(c)(2) of the Commodity Exchange Act (Act) and Commission Regulation 405.5. The proposals will require that all cattle delivered on the futures contract must be born and raised exclusively in the United States, and the seller must provide supporting documentation that conforms to industry standards at the time of delivery. The amendments are contingent upon the promulgation by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) of regulations implementing Country Of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements pursuant to Section 10816 of Public Law 107-171 (the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002), which by statute is intended to take effect on September 30, 2004.

The Director of the Division of Market Oversight (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the Exchange's proposed amendments for comment is in the public interest, and will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to (202) 418-5521 or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to "CME Live Cattle Amendments."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please contact Martin G. Murray of the

Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581, (202) 418-5276. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail: mmurray@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The CME's live cattle futures contract calls for delivery at par of 40,000 pounds of live steers at specified CME-approved livestock yards in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.¹ Under current contract terms, there is no country of origin requirement.

The proposed amendments will require that all cattle delivered on the futures contract must be born and raised exclusively in the United States, and the seller must provide supporting documentation that conforms to industry standards at the time of delivery. The amendments are contingent upon the promulgation by the USDA of final regulations implementing the COOL provisions (Section 10816 of Public Law 107-171), which by statute is intended to take effect on September 30, 2004. The Exchange intends to implement the amendments with respect to all newly listed futures contract months beginning with the October 2004 contract month.²

In support of the proposed amendments, the Exchange states the following:

[T]hese amendments are based on input from the Exchange's Ad Hoc Live Cattle Advisory Group, which includes a cross-section of industry representatives. This Group was convened on Monday, June 2nd specifically to discuss the implications associated with the impending adoption of COOL regulations. The Group agreed that the Live Cattle contract delivery specifications should be modified to require that all delivered cattle must be born and raised exclusively in the United States. Further, the seller (short) must provide documentation that conforms to industry standards at the time of delivery, verifying country of origin information. Finally, a contingency clause has been adopted in the event that COOL is postponed or repealed.

The Division is requesting comment on the proposals. The Division is particularly interested in comments assessing the potential impact of the proposals on available deliverable supplies for the live cattle futures contract and the consequential effects

¹ At the buyer's option, cattle may be graded on a live basis at the delivery stockyard, or on a carcass basis at a CME-approved packaging plant located within the originating stockyard's delivery region.

² The Exchange intends to list the October 2004 futures contract month on September 2, 2003.

on the susceptibility of the futures contract to manipulation.

The Division notes that the COOL provisions, which the USDA is charged with implementing and enforcing, require country of origin labeling by specified large retailers of fresh beef (muscle cuts and ground beef).³ The labeling must identify the country (or countries) of origin in which the cattle was born, raised, and slaughtered. The COOL provisions also define the criteria for a covered commodity such as beef to be labeled as "U.S. Country of Origin." To receive this label, beef must be derived exclusively from animals born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States.⁴ The COOL provisions also require any person supplying beef to a retailer to provide information to the retailer indicating the country of origin of the cattle. The provisions further provide USDA with the authority to require persons in the distribution chain to maintain a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail to verify compliance. The USDA must issue final regulations implementing the COOL provisions by September 30, 2004, when the labeling requirement takes effect.

Copies of the Exchange's proposed amendments will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581. Copies of the proposed amendments can also be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address or by phone at (202) 418-5100.

Other materials submitted by the CME in support of the request for approval may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations there under (17 CFR Part 145 (2000)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 7 CFR 145.5 and 145.9 Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments pertaining to the proposed amendments or with respect to other materials submitted by the CME should send such

³ The legislation also requires country of origin labeling for other specified commodities, including pork, lamb, fish, shellfish, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, and peanuts.

⁴ There is an exception for beef from cattle born and raised in Alaska or Hawaii and transported through Canada for not longer than 60 days before slaughter in the United States.

comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 9, 2003.

Michael Gorham,

Director, Division of Market Oversight.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Availability of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Extended Test Range Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Missile Defense Agency's Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Extended Test Range Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), that analyzes the potential for environmental impacts associated with establishing an extended test range capability providing more realistic operational flight testing capability in support of development of the GMD element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The current capability includes missile launch sites and array of sensors and other test equipment located at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Test Site (RTS) at Kwajalein Atoll, the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Hawaii, and Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) in California.

A Record of Decision will be issued no earlier than 30 days from the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments provided on or before August 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the document or to provide comments on the FEIS should be addressed to: U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, ATTN: SMDC-EN-V (Mrs. Julia Hudson-Elliott), P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35805, by e-mail at gmdetreis@smdc.army.mil, or by phone at 1-800-823-8823.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please call Mr. Rick Lehner, MDA Director of Communications at (703) 697-8997.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(cooperating agency) announced the availability of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Extended Test Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on February 7, 2003 (68 FR 26 6420) providing notice that the DEIS was available for comment. The DEIS public review period was from February 7, 2003 through April 15, 2003. Public hearings were held February 24 through March 6, 2003. Comments from the DEIS review and public hearings have been considered and included along with responses in the FEIS.

The proposed action and alternatives examined in the FEIS include development of the capability for single and dual launches of interceptor and target missiles at the Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) Alaska, RTS, and/or Vandenberg AFB, with intercepts over the Pacific Ocean. Development of these capabilities would entail construction of two interceptor launchers, one additional target launch pad and construction/alteration of launch support facilities at KLC; target pad modifications at RTS; modification of support facilities at Vandenberg AFB; construction of In-Flight Interceptor Communication System (IFICS) Data Terminals and military and commercial satellite communications in the mid-Pacific and at KLC or Vandenberg AFB; additional range instrumentation (tracking and range safety radars) in the vicinity of sites; and use of either existing Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2) facilities at RTS, or new BMC2 facilities that may be developed at Fort Greely, Alaska and/or Shriever AFB, or Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colorado, in the validation of the GMD operational concept effort.

Additionally, the proposed action and alternatives include the construction and operation of a Sea-Based Test X-Band Radar (SBX) that would operate in the Pacific broad ocean area and would be home-based in either Alaska, California, Washington, RTS, or Hawaii.

Copies of the FEIS have been distributed to Federal, State, and local agencies; public officials; and organizations and individuals that previously requested copies of the DEIS or FEIS. Copies of the FEIS will be available at the following public libraries:

- Anchorage Municipal Library, 3600 Denali St., Anchorage, AK 99503
- Everett Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave., Everett, WA 98201
- Kodiak City Library, 319 Lower Mill Bay Rd., Kodiak, AK 99615
- Lompoc Public Library, 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc, CA 93436
- Mountain View Branch Library, 150 S. Bragaw St., Anchorage, AK 99508