

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[AK-910-1310-PB]

Notice of Public Meeting, Alaska Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 5–6, 2004, at the Anchorage Federal Office Building, located at 7th and C Street, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The public comment period will begin at 1 p.m. February 5.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teresa McPherson, Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, AK 99513. Telephone (907) 271-3322 or e-mail tmcphers@ak.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Alaska. At this meeting, topics we plan to discuss include:

- Status of land use planning in Alaska
- National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) integrated activity plans
- Accelerated land transfer program
- Election of officers
- Other topics the Council may raise

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allotted for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, transportation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact BLM.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

Peter J. Ditton,

Acting State Director.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. TA-421-4]

Certain Ductile Iron Waterworks Fittings From China**Determination**

On the basis of information developed in the subject investigation, the United States International Trade Commission determines, pursuant to section 421(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974,¹ that certain ductile iron waterworks fittings² from the People's Republic of China are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities or under such conditions as to cause market disruption to the domestic producers of like or directly competitive products (68 FR 69421, December 12, 2003).

Recommendations on Proposed Remedies

Chairman Deanna Tanner Okun, Commissioner Stephen Koplan, Commissioner Charlotte R. Lane, and Commissioner Daniel R. Pearson propose that the President impose a tariff-rate quota on imports of the subject ductile iron waterworks fittings from China as follows: in the first year, a tariff of 50 percent *ad valorem*, in addition to the current rate of duty, on imports over 14,324 short tons; in the second year, a tariff of 40 percent *ad valorem*, in addition to the current rate of duty, on imports that exceed 15,398 short tons; and in the third year of relief, a tariff of 30 percent *ad valorem* on imports that exceed 16,553 short tons. They further recommend that, if applications are filed, the President direct the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Labor to provide expedited consideration of trade adjustment assistance for firms and/or workers affected by the subject imports.

Vice Chairman Jennifer A. Hillman proposes that the President impose a quota, for a three-year period, on imports of the subject ductile iron waterworks fittings from China as follows: 14,324 short tons in the first year of relief, 15,398 short tons in the second year of relief, and 16,553 short tons in the third year of relief.

¹ 19 U.S.C. 2451(b)(1).

² The products subject to this investigation are cast pipe or tube fittings of ductile iron (containing 2.5 percent carbon and over 0.02 percent magnesium or magnesium and cerium, by weight) with mechanical, push-on (rubber compression) or flanged joints attached. Included within this definition are fittings of all nominal diameters and of both full-bodied and compact designs. The imported products are provided for in statistical reporting number 7307.19.3070 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

Commissioner Marcia E. Miller proposes that the President impose a duty, in addition to the current rate of duty, for a three-year period, on imports of the subject ductile iron waterworks fittings from China as follows: 50 percent *ad valorem* in the first year of relief, 40 percent *ad valorem* in the second year of relief, and 30 percent *ad valorem* in the third year of relief.

Background

Following receipt of a petition, on September 5, 2003, on behalf of McWane, Inc.,³ Birmingham, AL, the Commission instituted investigation No. TA-421-4, *Certain Ductile Iron Waterworks Fittings from China*, under section 421(b) of the Act to determine whether certain ductile iron waterworks fittings from China are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities or under such conditions as to cause market disruption to the domestic producers of like or directly competitive products. The petition also alleged under section 421(i)(1)(A) of the Act, that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of the subject product from China, and on October 20, 2003, the Commission made a negative determination^{4,5} with respect to whether delay in taking action under this section would cause damage to the relevant domestic industry which would be difficult to repair (68 FR 61013, October 24, 2003).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigation and of the scheduling of a public hearing to be held in connection therewith was given by posting a copy of the notice on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.usitc.gov>) and by publishing the notice in the **Federal Register** of September 15, 2003 (68 FR 54010). The hearing was held on November 6, 2003 in Washington, DC; all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 3657 (December 2003), entitled *Certain Ductile Iron Waterworks Fittings from China: Investigation No. TA-421-4*.

Issued: December 24, 2003.

³ McWane operates three subsidiaries that produce the subject products including: Clow Water Systems Co., Coshocton, OH; Tyler Pipe Co., Tyler, TX; and Union Foundry Co., Anniston, AL.

⁴ Commissioner Lane made an affirmative critical circumstances determination.

⁵ Commissioner Pearson did not participate in the critical circumstances determination.