

national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

Retaliation against an employee or applicant for making a protected disclosure is prohibited by 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(8). If you believe that you have been the victim of whistleblower retaliation, you may file a written complaint (Form OSC-11) with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel at 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036-4505 or online through the OSC Web site—<http://www.osc.gov>.

Retaliation for Engaging in Protected Activity

A Federal agency cannot retaliate against an employee or applicant because that individual exercises his or her rights under any of the Federal antidiscrimination or whistleblower protection laws listed above. If you believe that you are the victim of retaliation for engaging in protected activity, you must follow, as appropriate, the procedures described in the Antidiscrimination Laws and Whistleblower Protection Laws sections or, if applicable, the administrative or negotiated grievance procedures in order to pursue any legal remedy.

Disciplinary Actions

Under the existing laws, each agency retains the right, where appropriate, to discipline a Federal employee for conduct that is inconsistent with Federal Antidiscrimination and Whistleblower Protection Laws up to and including removal. If OSC has initiated an investigation under 5 U.S.C. 1214, however, according to 5 U.S.C. 1214(f), agencies must seek approval from the Special Counsel to discipline employees for, among other activities, engaging in prohibited retaliation. Nothing in the No FEAR Act alters existing laws or permits an agency to take unfounded disciplinary action against a Federal employee or to violate the procedural rights of a Federal employee who has been accused of discrimination.

Additional Information

For further information regarding the No FEAR Act regulations, refer to 5 CFR Part 724. You may also contact the Office of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity (Headquarters), the appropriate Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity office (Regions), or the Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Manager (Office of Disability Adjudication and Review). Additional information regarding Federal antidiscrimination, whistleblower protection and retaliation laws can be found at the EEOC Web site—[http://](http://www.eeoc.gov)

www.eeoc.gov and the OSC Web site—<http://www.osc.gov>.

Existing Rights Unchanged

Pursuant to section 205 of the No FEAR Act, neither the Act nor this notice creates, expands or reduces any rights otherwise available to any employee, former employee or applicant under the laws of the United States, including the provisions of law specified in 5 U.S.C. 2302(d).

Dated: October 25, 2006.

Mark A. Anderson,

Associate Commissioner, Office of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity.

[FR Doc. E6-19140 Filed 11-13-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5590]

Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy; Notice of Open Meeting

The Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy (ACIEP) will meet from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2006, in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will be hosted by Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Daniel S. Sullivan and Committee Chairman R. Michael Gadbaw. The ACIEP serves the U.S. Government in a solely advisory capacity concerning issues and problems in international economic policy. The meeting will focus on transformational economic diplomacy, including a discussion of U.S. international economic objectives in South and Central Asia.

This meeting is open to the public as seating capacity allows. Entry to the building is controlled; to obtain pre-clearance for entry, members of the public planning to attend should provide, by November 24, 2006, their name, professional affiliation, valid government-issued ID number (i.e., U.S. government ID (agency), U.S. military ID (branch), passport (country), or driver's license (state)), date of birth, and citizenship to La Keisha Barner by fax (202) 647-5936, e-mail (BarnerLR@state.gov), or telephone (202) 647-0847. One of the following forms of valid photo identification will be required for admission to the State Department building: U.S. driver's license, passport, or U.S. Government identification card. Enter the Department of State from the C Street lobby. In view of escorting

requirements, non-Government attendees should plan to arrive not less than 15 minutes before the meeting begins.

For additional information, contact David Freudenwald, Office of Economic Policy and Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, at (202) 647-2231 or FreudenwaldDJ@state.gov.

Dated: November 7, 2006.

David R. Burnett,

Office Director, Office of Economic Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-19178 Filed 11-13-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5592]

Announcement of Meetings of the International Telecommunication Advisory Committee

SUMMARY: This notice announces meetings of the International Telecommunication Advisory Committee (ITAC) to continue to prepare advice on the U.S. position on ITU budget shortfalls and related matters.

The International Telecommunication Advisory Committee (ITAC) will meet to continue to prepare advice on the U.S. position on ITU budget shortfalls, their impact on the structure of the ITU study programs, and the impact on the U.S. preparatory process on December 1, 2006 from 9:30 to noon Eastern Time at a location in the metropolitan Washington area. A conference bridge will be provided.

This meeting is open to the public. Further information may be obtained from the secretariat minardje@state.gov, telephone 202 647-3234.

Dated: November 7, 2006.

James G. Ennis,

Foreign Affairs Officer, International Communications & Information Policy, Multilateral Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-19181 Filed 11-13-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Notice and Request for Comments

ACTION: 30-Day Notice of Information Collection Under Review: Maps in Abandonment Exemption Proceedings.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board), as part of its continuing