at 1 p.m. and adjourn at approximately 4 p.m. (EST) at the International Civil Rights Center, 134 S. Elm Street, Greensboro, NC 27401. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to discuss its report on disparate discipline of minority youth by public school districts.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments. The comments must be received in the Southern Regional Office by August 14, 2010. The mailing address is Southern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 61 Forsyth Street, Suite 18740, Atlanta, GA 30301. Persons wishing to e-mail their comments may do so to pminarik@usccr.gov. Persons that desire additional information should contact Peter Minarik, Regional Director, Southern Regional Office, at (404) 562–7000 (or for hearing impaired TDD 913–551–1414).

Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Southern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission’s Web site, http://www.usccr.gov, or to contact the Southern Regional Office at the above e-mail or street address.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission and FACA.

Dated in Washington, DC, June 18, 2010.

Peter Minarik,
Acting Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 2010–15262 Filed 6–23–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6355–01–P
CENTURY will consist of three panel discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities presented, changes in the intellectual property enforcement landscape, and interagency cooperation. A panel on regulatory authority will address enforcement policy involving counterfeiting and the regulatory response. A second panel on criminal procedure will involve a discussion of enforcement policy involving the investigation and prosecution of counterfeit goods involving health and safety concerns. A third panel on the United States Government’s domestic and international training efforts relating to counterfeiting and public awareness is the final panel.

Government agencies that provide enforcement training and public awareness programs will be featured. Should there be time during the symposium, questions from members of the public in attendance may be addressed.

The USPTO plans to make the symposium available via Web cast. Web cast information will be available on the USPTO’s Internet Web site, http://www.uspto.gov, before the symposium.

Dated: June 18, 2010.

David J. Kappos,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2010–15307 Filed 6–23–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2010–0048]

Expansion and Extension of the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice in the Federal Register providing an additional temporary basis (the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan) under which a small entity applicant may have an application accorded special status for examination if the applicant expressly abandons another pending unexamined application. The Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan allows small entity applicants having multiple applications currently pending before the USPTO to have greater control over the priority with which their applications are examined while also stimulating a reduction of the backlog of unexamined patent applications pending before the USPTO. The USPTO is expanding the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan to permit all applicants to participate by eliminating the small entity status requirement and adding a few new requirements in view of the expansion. The program is also being extended until December 31, 2010, or the date that 10,000 applications have been accorded special status for examination under the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan, whichever occurs earlier. These changes allow more applicants to take advantage of the program.

DATES: Effective Date: The changes in this notice are effective on June 24, 2010. The Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan became effective on November 27, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pinchus M. Laufer, Office of the Associate Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at 571–272–7726; or via e-mail addressed to: Pinchus.Laufer@uspto.gov; or by mail addressed to: Box Comments Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO published a notice in the Federal Register providing an additional temporary basis (the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan) under which a small entity applicant may have an application accorded special status for examination if the applicant expressly abandons another pending unexamined application. See Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan, 74 FR 62285 (Nov. 27, 2009), 1349 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off. 304 (Dec. 22, 2009) (hereinafter “Backlog Reduction Notice”). The Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan allows small entity applicants having multiple applications currently pending before the USPTO to have greater control over the priority with which their applications are examined while also stimulating a reduction of the backlog of unexamined patent applications pending before the USPTO. The USPTO indicated that the USPTO may further extend the procedures set forth in this notice to all applicants (on either a temporary or permanent basis), or may also discontinue the procedures set forth in this notice after June 30, 2010, depending upon the results of the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan.

The Backlog Reduction Notice required inter alia that the application for which special status is sought is a nonprovisional application that has an actual filing date earlier than October 1, 2009, in which the applicant has established small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27. The program is being expanded to permit all applicants to participate by eliminating the small entity status requirement and adding a few new requirements in view of the expansion. The modifications set forth in this notice will apply to any petitions that are filed on or after the publication date of this notice. This will permit more applications to qualify for the program and result in a greater reduction of the patent application backlog. Applicants may obtain special status for examination for as many as fifteen applications under this program.

Effective immediately, the USPTO will accord special status for examination to a patent application that has an actual filing date earlier than October 1, 2009, if the new requirements set forth in this notice are satisfied, and the conditions set forth in the Backlog Reduction Notice published on November 27, 2009, other than the small entity status requirement, are also satisfied. In view of the expansion, the following new requirements are added to the program: (1) The letter of express abandonment filed in the pending nonprovisional application must also include a statement that the applicant has not and will not file a new application that claims the same invention claimed in the expressly abandoned application (the phrase “same invention” has the same meaning as used in the context of statutory double patenting under 35 U.S.C. 101); (2) the applicant has not received special status for more than fourteen other applications under this program; and (3) the petition under 37 CFR 1.102 must also: (i) Include a specific identification of the relationship between the applications that qualifies the application for special status (e.g., identifying, by name of a common inventor, assignee or owner); (ii) identify, by application number if