DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; “Third-Party Submissions and Protests”


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/ or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 12, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:
- Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651–0062 Third-Party Submissions and Protests” in the subject line of the message.
- Mail: Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by telephone at 571–272–7728; or by email to Raul.Tamayo@uspto.gov with “Paperwork” in the subject line.

Additional information about this collection is also available at http://www.reginfo.gov under “Information Collection Review.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is required by 35 U.S.C. 131 et seq. to examine an application for patent and, when appropriate, issue a patent. The provisions of 35 U.S.C. 122(c), 122(e), 131, and 151, as well as 37 CFR 1.290 and 1.291, limit the ability of a third party to have information entered and considered in, or to protest, a patent application pending before the Office. 37 CFR 1.290 provides a mechanism for third parties to submit to the USPTO, for consideration and inclusion in the record of a patent application, any patents, published patent applications, or other printed publications of potential relevance to the examination of the application.

A preissuance submission under 37 CFR 1.290 may be made in any non-provisional utility, design, and plant application, as well as in any continuing application. A preissuance submission under 37 CFR 1.290 must include a concise description of the asserted relevance of each document submitted, and must be submitted within a certain statutorily specified time period.

37 CFR 1.291 permits a member of the public to file a protest against a pending application. Protests pursuant to 37 CFR 1.291 are supported by a separate statutory provision from third-party submissions under 37 CFR 1.290 (35 U.S.C. 122(c) v. 35 U.S.C. 122(e)). As a result, there are several differences between protests and third-party submissions.

For example, 37 CFR 1.291 permits the submission of information that is not permitted in a third-party submission under 37 CFR 1.290. Specifically, 37 CFR 1.291 provides for the submission of information other than publications, including any facts or information adverse to patentability, and arguments to that effect. Further, 37 CFR 1.291 requires a protest to include a concise explanation of the relevance of each item of information submitted. Unlike the concise description of relevance required for a preissuance submission under 37 CFR 1.290, which is limited to a description of a document’s relevance, the concise explanation for a protest under 37 CFR 1.291 allows for arguments against patentability. Additionally, the specified time period for submitting a protest differs from the time period for submitting third-party submissions, and is impacted by whether the protest is accompanied by the written consent of the applicant.

This information collection (the information collected via third-party submissions under 37 CFR 1.290 and protests under 37 CFR 1.291) is necessary so that the public may contribute to the quality of issued patents. The USPTO will use this information, as appropriate, during the patent examination process to assist in evaluating the patent application.

II. Method of Collection

Electronically when using the USPTO online filing system EFS-Web, or by mail or hand delivery.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651–0062.

IC Instruments: The individual instruments in this collection, as well as their associated forms, are listed in the table below.

Table 1—Information Collection Instruments and Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IC No.</th>
<th>Information collection instrument</th>
<th>Form number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ....</td>
<td>Third-Party Submissions in Nonissued Application; electronic.</td>
<td>• No Form Associated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ....</td>
<td>Third-Party Submissions in Nonissued Application; paper.</td>
<td>• PTO/SB/429.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ....</td>
<td>Protests by the Public Against Pending Applications Under 37 CFR 1.291; paper.</td>
<td>• No Form Associated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,560 responses per year.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 10 hours to gather the necessary information, prepare the appropriate form or other documents, and submit the information to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 15,600 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden (Hourly): $6,068,400. The USPTO expects that attorneys will complete the instruments associated with this information collection. The professional hourly rate for an attorney is $389. Using this hourly rate, the USPTO
estimates $6,068,400 per year for the total hourly costs associated with respondents.

**TABLE 2—HOURLY COST BURDEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IC Number</th>
<th>Information collection instrument</th>
<th>Estimated time for response (minutes)</th>
<th>Estimated annual responses (a)</th>
<th>Estimated annual burden hours (a) × (b) = (c)</th>
<th>Rate ($/hr) (d)</th>
<th>Total cost ($/hr) (c) × (d) = (e)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ..........</td>
<td>Third-Party Submissions in Nonissued Applications (electronic).</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>$389.00</td>
<td>$5,835,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ..........</td>
<td>Third-Party Submissions in Nonissued Applications (paper).</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>389.00</td>
<td>194,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ..........</td>
<td>Protests by the Public Against Pending Applications Under 37 CFR 1.291 (paper).</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>389.00</td>
<td>38,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals ...</td>
<td>........................................</td>
<td>...........................</td>
<td>1,560</td>
<td>15,600</td>
<td>................</td>
<td>6,068,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden (Non-Hourly): $237,619.25 per year.**

There are no capital start-up, recordkeeping or maintenance costs associated with this information collection. There are, however, annual (non-hour) costs associated with this information collection in the form of filing fees and postage costs.

When submitting the information in this collection to the USPTO electronically, the applicant is strongly urged to retain a copy of the file submitted to the USPTO as evidence of authenticity in addition to keeping the acknowledgment receipt as clear evidence of the date the file was received by the USPTO. The USPTO does not, however, require this recordkeeping, and thus does not consider this action to be a recordkeeping cost imposed on the applicant.

This collection has a non-hourly annual cost burden in the form of filing fees. 37 CFR 1.290 requires the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(o) for every ten documents, or fraction thereof, listed in each third-party preissuance submission. The USPTO provides an exemption from this fee requirement where a preissuance submission listing three or fewer total documents is the first preissuance submission submitted in an application by a third party, or a party in privity with the third party.

Taking the fee and exemption into account, the USPTO estimates that the average fee per submission for the third-party submissions is $180, with the average fee for small entities totaling $90.

There is no fee for filing protests under 37 CFR 1.291 unless the filed protest is the second or subsequent protest by the same real party in interest, in which case the 37 CFR 1.17(i) fee of $130 must be included (the USPTO estimates 1 of the 10 protests filed per year will trigger this fee). The table below illustrates the total amount of and distribution of filing fees associated with this collection.

**TABLE 3—NON-HOURLY COST BURDEN—FILING FEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IC Number</th>
<th>Information collection instrument</th>
<th>Responses (yr)</th>
<th>Filing fee ($)</th>
<th>Total non-hour cost burden (yr) (a) × (b) = (c)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–2 ........</td>
<td>Third-Party Submissions in Nonissued Applications</td>
<td>1,085</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>$195,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 ........</td>
<td>Third-Party Submissions in Nonissued Applications (small entity)</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>41,850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ..........</td>
<td>Protests by the public against pending applications under 37 CFR 1.291.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals ...</td>
<td>.....................................................</td>
<td>1,551</td>
<td>................</td>
<td>237,280.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This collection also has a non-hourly annual cost burden in the form of postage costs. Customers may incur postage costs when submitting the Information Collection instruments contained within this collection to the USPTO by mail through the United States Postal Service. The USPTO estimates that the average first class postage cost for a one-pound submission mailed in a flat-rate envelope to be $5.75. The USPTO further estimates that the vast majority—roughly 98 percent—of all paper submissions will be delivered by mail, with the remainder delivered by hand delivery, for an estimate that approximately 59 submissions will require postage. Therefore, the estimated postage cost for this collection will be $339.25.

The total non-hour respondent cost burden for this collection in the form of filing fees ($237,280) and postage costs ($339.25) is approximately $237,619.25 per year.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and
clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 9, 2015.

Marcie Lovett,
Records Management Division Director, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015–05775 Filed 3–12–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB); Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB). OEAB members will discuss and provide advice on Federal ocean exploration programs, with a particular emphasis on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) activities, in the areas of: Strategic planning, current and future exploration priorities, the competitive grants process, citizen exploration, the next National Forum on Ocean Exploration, and other matters as described in the agenda found on the OEAB Web site at http://oeab.noaa.gov.

Time and Dates: The announced meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2015, from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. PDT, and Wednesday, April 1, 2015, from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. PDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Seaside Forum, 8610 Kennel Way, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. PDT (please check the agenda on the Web site to confirm the time).

The OEAB expects that public statements at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three minutes. The Designated Federal Officer should receive written comments by March 24, 2015, to provide sufficient time for OEAB review. Written comments received after March 24, 2015, will be distributed to the OEAB but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Special Accommodations: These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to David McKinnie, Designated Federal Officer, at (206) 526–6950 by March 16, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David McKinnie, Designated Federal Officer, Ocean Exploration Advisory Board, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 7600 Sand Point Way NW, Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526–6950.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA established the OEAB under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and legislation that gives the agency statutory authority to operate an ocean exploration program and to coordinate a national program of ocean exploration. The OEAB advises NOAA leadership on strategic planning, exploration priorities, competitive ocean exploration grant programs and other matters as the NOAA Administrator requests.

OEAB members represent government agencies involved in ocean exploration, the private sector, academic institutions, and not-for-profit institutions involved in all facets of ocean exploration—from advanced technology to citizen exploration.

In addition to advising NOAA leadership, NOAA expects the OEAB to play a leadership role in helping to define and develop a national program of ocean exploration—a network of stakeholders and partnerships advancing national priorities for ocean exploration.

Dated: March 6, 2015.

Jason Donaldson,
Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2015–05775 Filed 3–12–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–KA–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration


AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: On November 5, 2014, the Department of Commerce (“the Department”) published the Preliminary Results of the fifth administrative review of the antidumping duty order on steel wire garment hangers from the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”).1 We invited parties to comment on the Preliminary Results. Based on our analysis of the comments and information received, we have not made changes to the final margin calculations of Shanghai Wells Hanger Co., Ltd. (“Shanghai Wells”).2 Listed below in the “Final Results of the Administrative Review” section of this notice are the final dumping margins. The period of review (“POR”) is October 1, 2012, through September 31, 2013.3

DATES: Effective Date: March 13, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh Startup or Alexis Polovina, AD/CVD Operations, Office V, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–5260 or (202) 482–3927, respectively.


2 The Department previously found that Shanghai Wells Hanger Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Wells Ltd. (“HK Wells”) and Hong Kong Wells Ltd. (USA) (“Wells USA”) are affiliated and that Shanghai Wells Hanger Co., Ltd. and HK Wells comprise a single entity (collectively, “Shanghai Wells”). Because there were no changes in this review to the facts that supported that decision, we continue to find Shanghai Wells, HK Wells, and USA Wells are affiliated and that Shanghai Wells and HK Wells comprise a single entity. See Steel Wire Garment Hangers From the People’s Republic of China: Preliminary Results and Preliminary Recision, in Part, of the First Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 75 FR 68758, 68761 (November 9, 2010), unchanged in First Administrative Review of Steel Wire Garment Hangers From the People’s Republic of China: Final Results and Final Partial Rescision of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 76 FR 27994, 27996 (May 13, 2011).

3 The deadline for the final results was March 5, 2015, however, due to inclement weather, the government was closed on March 5, 2015. Therefore, the deadline for the final results falls on the next business day, March 6, 2015.