an additional fee. In each of the past few fiscal years since Track One was implemented (fiscal years 2012–2015), fewer than 250 applications have met the requirements to take advantage of the accelerated examination program. In contrast, Track One has become a much more popular program than accelerated examination in that the number of requests approaches 10,000 annually over this same time.

Additionally, over this period, the overall first action pendency for newly filed applications has dropped incrementally each year. In particular, the overall first action pendency in fiscal year 2015 was approximately 17 months. A lower first action pendency and lower accelerated examination numbers seem to indicate that applicants have less need for as many programs that expedite patent examination.

Due to the low usage of the accelerated examination program, the reduction in overall first action pendency, the popularity of the Track One program, and the inconvenience to practitioners and the USPTO of retaining a seemingly redundant program with its special handling procedures (See MPEP 708.02(a)), it is unclear whether the accelerated examination program still provides a sufficient benefit to the public to justify the cost of implementation. Accordingly, the USPTO seeks comments from the public on whether the accelerated examination program should be retained or discontinued.

Dated: January 9, 2017.

Michelle K. Lee,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2017–00566 Filed 1–11–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System


AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: DoD announces an early engagement opportunity regarding implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 within the acquisition regulations.

DATES: Early inputs should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before February 13, 2017.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DoD is providing an opportunity for the public to provide early inputs on implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 within the acquisition regulations. The public is invited to submit early inputs on sections of the NDAA for FY 2017 via the DARS Web
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Board of Regents, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense; Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (“the University”).

ACTION: Quarterly meeting notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing this notice to announce the following meeting of the Board of Regents, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (“the Board”).

DATES: Thursday, February 2, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. (Open Session) and 4:10 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. (Closed Session).

ADDRESSES: The Emily Morgan Hotel, 705 East Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Nuetzi James, Designated Federal Officer, Department of Defense, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, A1020, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; telephone 301–295–3066; email jennifer.nuetzi-james@usuhs.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting notice is being published under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102–3.150.

Purpose of the Meeting: The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense, through the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, on academic and administrative matters critical to the full accreditation and successful operation of the University. These actions are necessary for the University to pursue its mission, which is to educate, train and comprehensively prepare uniformed services health professionals, officers, scientists and leaders to support the Military and Public Health Systems, the National Security and National Defense Strategies of the United States, and the readiness of our Uniformed Services.

Agenda: The actions scheduled to occur include the review of the minutes from the Board meeting held on November 1, 2016; recommendations regarding the awarding of post-baccalaureate degrees; recommendations regarding the approval of faculty appointments and promotions; and recommendations regarding award nominations. The University President will provide a report on recent actions affecting academic and operational aspects of the University. There will be reports from the University Vice President for Research, the University Vice President for Finance and Administration, and the University Vice President for Information and Education. There will be a report on the University Interprofessional Education, and the meeting will conclude with a report on the University Defense Health Horizons.

A closed session will be held, after the open session, to discuss active investigations and personnel actions.

Meeting Accessibility: Pursuant to Federal statutes and regulations (5 U.S.C. Appendix, 5 U.S.C. 552b, and 41 CFR 102–3.140 through 102–3.165) and the availability of space, the meeting is open to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. Seating is on a first-come basis. Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact Jennifer Nuetzi James no later than five business days prior to the meeting, at the address and phone number noted in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2), 5–7, the Department of Defense has determined that the portion of the meeting from 4:10 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. shall be closed to the public. The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), in consultation with the Office of the Department of Defense General Counsel, has determined in writing that this portion of the Board’s meeting will be closed as the discussion will disclose sensitive personnel information, will include matters that relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the agency, will involve allegations of a person having committed a crime or censuring an individual, and may disclose investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes.

Written Statements: Pursuant to section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 and 41 CFR 102–3.140, the public or interested organizations may submit written comments to the Board about its approved agenda pertaining to this meeting or at any time regarding the Board’s mission. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the Designated Federal Officer at the address listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT contact. Written statements that do not pertain to a scheduled meeting of the Board may be submitted at any time. However, if individual comments pertain to a specific topic being discussed at the planned meeting, then these statements must be received at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting, otherwise, the comments may not be provided to or considered by the Board until a later date. The Designated Federal Officer will compile all timely submissions with the Board’s Chair and ensure such submissions are provided to Board Members before the meeting.

Dated: January 9, 2017.

Aaron Siegel,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. 16–144–LNG]

Driftwood LNG, LLC; Application for Long-Term, Multi-Contract Authorization To Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice of receipt of an application (Application), filed on September 28, 2016, by Driftwood LNG, LLC (Driftwood LNG), requesting long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) in a volume equivalent to 1,496.5 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas (4.1 Bcf per day).

Driftwood LNG seeks authorization to export the LNG by vessel from the proposed Driftwood LNG Facility to be located in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, approximately five miles south of the town of Carlyss, Louisiana. Driftwood LNG requests authorization to export LNG to any nation with which the United States does not have a free trade