

at a regional level with some extending to a national or global level. Preliminary issues identified by TVA that will be reviewed in this analysis include:

- Emissions of greenhouse gases,
- fuel consumption,
- air quality,
- water quality and quantity,
- waste generation and disposal,
- land use,
- ecological,
- cultural resources,
- socioeconomic impacts and environmental justice.

TVA invites suggestions concerning the list of issues which should be addressed. TVA also invites specific comments on the questions that will begin to be answered by this IRP:

- How do you think energy usage will change in the next 20 years in the Tennessee Valley region?
- Should the diversity of the current power generation mix (*e.g.*, coal, nuclear power, natural gas, hydro, renewable resources) change? If so, how?
- How should distributed energy resources be considered in TVA planning?
- How should energy efficiency and demand response be considered in planning for future energy needs and how can TVA directly affect electricity usage by consumers?
- And how will the resource decisions discussed above affect the reliability, dispatchability (ability to turn on or off energy resources) and cost of electricity?

Analytical Approach

TVA employs a scenario planning approach when developing an IRP. The major steps in this approach include identifying the future need for power, developing scenarios and strategies, determining potential supply-side and demand-side energy resource options, developing portfolios associated with the strategies and ranking strategies and portfolios. The 2015 IRP, developed with extensive public involvement, evaluated six alternative energy resource strategies which differed in the amount of purchased power, energy efficiency and demand response efforts, renewable energy resources, nuclear generating capacity additions, and coal-fired generation. The alternative strategies were analyzed in the context of five different scenarios that described plausible future economic, financial, regulatory and legislated conditions, as well as social trends and adoption of technological innovations. TVA then developed a preferred alternative, the Target Power Supply Mix, based on guideline ranges for key energy resources. In developing the Target

Power Supply Mix, TVA took into account its least-cost planning requirement and customer priorities of power cost and reliability, as well as other comments it received during the public comment periods. The Target Power Supply Mix established ranges, in MW, for coal plant retirements and additions of nuclear, hydroelectric, demand response, energy efficiency, solar, wind, and natural gas capacity. TVA anticipates using an analytical approach similar to that of the 2015 IRP/EIS described above. The number of alternative energy resource strategies and scenarios to be evaluated may differ from the 2015 IRP/EIS and will be determined after the completion of scoping.

Scoping Process

Scoping, which is integral to the process for implementing NEPA, provides an early and open process to ensure that (1) issues are identified early and properly studied; (2) issues of little significance do not consume substantial time and effort; (3) the draft EIS is thorough and balanced; and (4) delays caused by an inadequate EIS are avoided.

With the help of the public, TVA will identify the most effective energy resource strategy that will meet TVA's mission and serve the people of the Valley for the next 20 years. To ensure that the full range of issues and a comprehensive portfolio of energy resources are addressed, TVA invites members of the public as well as Federal, state, and local agencies and Indian tribes to comment on the scope of the IRP EIS. As part of the IRP process and in addition to other public engagement opportunities, TVA is assembling representatives from key stakeholders to participate in a working group that will discuss tradeoffs associated with different resource options and assist TVA in developing an optimal energy resource strategy.

Comments on the scope of this IRP EIS should be submitted no later than the date given under the **DATES** section of this notice. Any comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for public inspection.

After consideration of the comments received during this scoping period, TVA will summarize public and agency comments, identify the issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS, and identify the schedule for completing the EIS process. Following analysis of the issues, TVA will prepare a draft EIS for public review and comment. Notice of availability of the

draft EIS will be published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the **Federal Register**. TVA will solicit written comments on the draft IRP and EIS and also hold public meetings for this purpose. TVA expects to release the draft IRP and EIS in late 2018. TVA anticipates issuing the final IRP and EIS in 2019.

Dated: February 8, 2018.

M. Susan Smelley,

Director, Environmental Compliance and Operations.

[FR Doc. 2018–03027 Filed 2–13–18; 8:45 am]

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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

Meeting No. 18–01

The TVA Board of Directors will hold a public meeting on February 16, 2018, in the Missionary Ridge Auditorium of the Chattanooga Office Complex, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee. The public may comment on any agenda item or subject at a *public listening session* which begins at 9:30 a.m. (ET). Following the end of the public listening session, the meeting will be called to order to consider the agenda items listed below. On-site registration will be available until 15 minutes before the public listening session begins at 9:30 a.m. (ET). Preregistered speakers will address the Board first. TVA management will answer questions from the news media following the Board meeting.

STATUS: Open.

Agenda

- Chair's Welcome
- Discussion of committee membership
- Old Business
- Approval of minutes of the November 9, 2017, Board Meeting

New Business

1. Report from President and CEO
2. Report of the Finance, Rates, and Portfolio Committee
3. Report of the Audit, Risk, and Regulation Committee
4. Report of the Nuclear Oversight Committee
5. Report of the External Relations Committee
- A. FACA Charter Renewals
6. Report of the People and Performance Committee
7. Information Items
- A. Conveyance of Power System Assets to a Customer
- B. Committee Membership

For more information: Please call TVA Media Relations at (865) 632–6000, Knoxville, Tennessee. People who plan

to attend the meeting and have special needs should call (865) 632-6000. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the agenda in writing may send their comments to: TVA Board of Directors, Board Agenda Comments, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

Dated: February 9, 2018.

Sherry A. Quirk,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2018-03138 Filed 2-12-18; 11:15 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. USTR-2018-0001]

Procedures To Consider Additional Requests for Exclusion of Particular Products From the Solar Products Safeguard Measure

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: On January 23, 2018, the President imposed a safeguard measure on imports of crystalline silicon photovoltaic (CSPV) cells, whether or not partially or fully assembled into other products such as modules (other CSPV products), consisting of (1) a tariff-rate quota on imports of CSPV cells not partially or fully assembled into other products, with an unchanged rate of duty for the within-quota quantity and an increase in the rate of duty applicable to articles entered in excess of that quantity; and (2) an increase in the rate of duty on imports of other CSPV products, as provided for in the Proclamation's annex. This notice establishes the procedures to request the exclusion of a particular product from the safeguard measure, the criteria for describing a particular product for which exclusion is sought, and identifies the factors that the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) may take into consideration when determining whether to exclude a particular product. It also solicits requests for exclusion of a particular product from the safeguard measure.

DATES:

March 16, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. EST: Deadline for the submission of requests for exclusion of a particular product from the safeguard measure.

April 16, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. EST: Deadline for the submission of comments in response to requests for exclusion of a particular product from the safeguard measure.

ADDRESSES: USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments in section III below. The docket number is USTR-2018-0001. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Yvonne Jamison, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-9666. All non-confidential versions of submissions will be posted in the docket for public inspection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Victor Mroczka, Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs, at vmroczka@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-9450, or Dax Terrill, Office of General Counsel, at Dax.Terrill@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-4739.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Following receipt of a petition from Suniva, Inc., a producer of CSPV products in the United States, that was later joined by SolarWorld Americas, Inc., another producer of CSPV products in the United States (collectively, petitioners), the ITC instituted an investigation under section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2252), to determine whether there were increased imports of CSPV products in such quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products. The ITC notice of institution (82 FR 25331) identified the scope of the products covered by this investigation as CSPV cells, whether or not partially or fully assembled into other products, of a thickness equal to or greater than 20 micrometers, having a p/n junction (or variant thereof) formed by any means, whether or not the cell has undergone other processing, including, but not limited to cleaning, etching, coating, and addition of materials (including, but not limited to metallization and conductor patterns) to collect and forward the electricity that is generated by the cell. The scope of the investigation also included photovoltaic cells that contain crystalline silicon in addition to other materials, such as passivated emitter rear contact cells, heterojunction with intrinsic thin layer cells, and other so-called "hybrid" cells.

The notice of institution identified products covered and excluded by the scope of the investigation. Specifically, the scope of the investigation did not cover:

- Thin film photovoltaic products produced from amorphous silicon ("a-Si"), cadmium telluride ("CdTe"), or

copper indium gallium selenide ("CIGS");

- CSPV cells, not exceeding 10,000 mm² in surface area, that are permanently integrated into a consumer good whose primary function is other than power generation and that consumes the electricity generated by the integrated CSPV cell. Where more than one CSPV cell is permanently integrated into a consumer good, the surface area for purposes of this exclusion shall be the total combined surface area of all CSPV cells that are integrated into the consumer good; and
- CSPV cells, whether or not partially or fully assembled into other products, if such CSPV cells were manufactured in the United States.

On the basis of information developed during the investigation, the ITC determined pursuant to section 202(b) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2252(b)) that CSPV products are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry and made additional findings under the implementing statutes of certain free trade agreements or other statutory provisions related to certain preferential trade programs.

II. Products Excluded From the Application of the Safeguard Measure

On October 25, 2017 (82 FR 49469), the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) provided details concerning the process it would use to make a recommendation to the President on actions he should take to facilitate the efforts of the domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and provide greater economic and social benefits than costs. The process included an opportunity to file initial and responsive comments regarding this question and a public hearing on December 6, 2017, during which commenters testified regarding their submissions and addressed the claims and arguments of others. As part of this process, a number of interested persons requested the exclusion of products from application of the safeguard measure.

Presidential Proclamation 9693 of January 23, 2018 (83 FR 3541) excluded certain particular products:

- 10 to 60 watt, inclusive, rectangular solar panels, where the panels have the following characteristics: (A) Length of 250 mm or more but not over 482 mm or width of 400 mm or more but not over 635 mm, and (B) surface area of 1000 cm² or more but not over 3,061 cm², provided that no such panel with those characteristics shall contain an