

Notices

This section of the **FEDERAL REGISTER** contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Broadband Pilot (ReConnect) Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice; amendment to Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and solicitation of applications and program updates.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) published a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and solicitation of applications in the **Federal Register** on Friday, December 14, 2018, announcing its general policy and application procedures for funding under the broadband pilot program (ReConnect) established pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 which provides loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Since the publication of the FOA, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 (2019 Appropriations Act) became law on February 15, 2019. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of changes made to the ReConnect Program, specifically the updated service area eligibility policies, pursuant to the 2019 Appropriations Act, and other program updates.

DATES: Actions described in this notice take effect April 12, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general inquiries regarding the ReConnect Program, contact Chad Parker, Assistant Administrator Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), email: chad.parker@wdc.usda.gov, telephone (202) 720-9554. For inquiries regarding eligible service areas, please contact ReConnect Program Staff at <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 14, 2018, RUS published a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and solicitation of applications in the **Federal Register** at 83 FR 64315. The FOA provided the policy and application procedures for the ReConnect Program. In support of the ReConnect Program, the agency also established an eligibility area map and application mapping tool designed to assist in the determination of service area eligibility across the United States. These tools include four categories of data that indicate potential eligibility of rural areas, including data on the CAF II—Auction 903 winners, non-rural areas, pending applications, and protected broadband borrower service areas. On Monday, February 25, 2019, the Agency published a notice in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 5981) to provide the final application windows and clarification for the ReConnect Program.

Since the publication of the December 14, 2018 FOA, the 2019 Appropriations Act became law on February 15, 2019. The 2019 Appropriations Act requires that the Agency shall, in determining whether an entity may overbuild, or duplicate broadband expansion efforts made by any entity that has received a broadband loan from RUS, not consider loans that were rescinded or defaulted on, or whose loan terms and conditions were not met, if the new entity under consideration has not previously defaulted on, or failed to meet the terms and conditions of, an RUS loan or had an RUS loan rescinded. To address these issues, the actions taken in this notice will: (1) Revise the definition of Broadband loan in the FOA, as published in the **Federal Register** on December 14, 2018, as required by the 2019 Appropriations Act; (2) describe any changes to the data used in the protected broadband service areas mapping layer and, (3) announce the criteria by which applicants may challenge the determination of service area eligibility. These actions are being taken by the Agency to ensure that all eligible service areas receive fair consideration for funding under the ReConnect Program.

Summary of Program Changes

As required by the 2019 Appropriations Act, the *Broadband loan* definition in the FOA published in the

Federal Register

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Federal Register on December 14, 2018 FOA, must be revised.

On page 64316, in the first column, seventh paragraph, revise the definition of *Broadband loan* to read as follows:

Broadband loan means, for the purposes of this FOA, a loan that has been approved or is currently under review by RUS after the beginning of Fiscal Year 2000 in the Telecommunications Infrastructure Program, Farm Bill Broadband Program, or the Broadband Initiatives Program. Loans that were approved and then subsequently de-obligated or otherwise rescinded or defaulted on, or whose loan terms and conditions have not been met are not included in this definition.

RUS is also taking further actions to ensure that all eligible service areas receive fair consideration for funding under the ReConnect Program. These actions are as follows:

(a) Changes to the data used in the Protected Broadband Borrower Service Areas mapping layer. To ensure that the mapping resources available in the ReConnect Program are consistent with the revised definition of *Broadband loan*, the Agency reviewed its loan portfolio and identified loans that were fully rescinded or are in default, or whose loan terms and conditions were not met. Data associated with these loans have been removed from the Protected Broadband Borrower Service Areas mapping layer, so that the associated service areas will not appear ineligible according to this criterion. Both the eligibility area map and the application mapping tool have been updated to reflect these removals.

(b) Criteria by which applicants may challenge the determination of service area eligibility. To enhance the accuracy of the ReConnect Program's mapping resources, the Agency acknowledges the value of the applicant's analysis of broadband access available in a given service area. Therefore, an applicant may challenge the protected status of a service area if the applicant believes that at least 75 percent of the households in the part of the proposed funded service area in which they are seeking ReConnect funds are not receiving broadband service at the level for which an original RUS broadband loan was made. Note that the lack of 10/1 Mbps in the service territory of older broadband loans does not purport to non-compliance with their loan

agreement, due to then, existing service requirements. At the time the challenge is made, the original RUS broadband loan must have been rescinded, defaulted on, or the terms and conditions of the original loan must not have been met.

(c) Until further changes to a challenge system can be made in future rounds of funding, for the present round of funding, these challenges will only be considered when submitted with an application for ReConnect funding. Additionally, the agency will only validate the challenge if the application is determined to be complete, feasible, and, if applicable, scored high enough for funding consideration. The agency will assess the ability to expand its challenge process for future rounds of funding.

Dated: March 28, 2019.

Bette B. Brand,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-351-825]

Stainless Steel Bar From Brazil: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2017

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) finds that stainless steel bar (SSB) from Brazil has been sold at less than normal value during the period of review (POR) February 1, 2017, through August 8, 2017.

DATES: Applicable April 12, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hermes Pinilla, Office I, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 31, 2018, Commerce published the *Preliminary Results* of the administrative review of the antidumping duty order on SSB from Brazil.¹ The administrative review covers one producer or exporter of the

¹ See *Stainless Steel Bar from Brazil: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2017-2018*, 83 FR 54715 (October 31, 2018) (*Preliminary Results*).

subject merchandise, Villares Metals S.A. (Villares). We gave interested parties an opportunity to comment on the *Preliminary Results*, and we received a case brief from Villares.² We did not receive a rebuttal brief. Commerce exercised its discretion to toll all deadlines affected by the partial federal government closure from December 22, 2018, through the resumption of operations on January 29, 2019.³ If the new deadline falls on a non-business day, in accordance with Commerce's practice, the deadline will become the next business day. Accordingly, the revised deadline for the final results of this review is now April 9, 2019.

Commerce conducted this review in accordance with section 751(a)(1)(B) and (2) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

Scope of the Order

The merchandise subject to the order is SSB. The SSB subject to the order is currently classifiable under subheadings 7222.10.00, 7222.11.00, 7222.19.00, 7222.20.00, 7222.30.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the order is dispositive. A full description of the scope of the order is contained in the Issues and Decision Memorandum.⁴

Analysis of Comments Received

The issue raised by Villares in its case brief has been addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum. The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and is made available to the public via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <http://access.trade.gov> and is available to all parties in the Central Records Unit, Room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building. In addition, a complete version of the Issues and Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly on the Enforcement and Compliance website at <http://>

² See Villares' case brief, "Stainless Steel Bar from Brazil: Case Brief of Villares Metals SA," dated November 30, 2018.

³ See Memorandum, "Deadlines Affected by the Partial Shutdown of the Federal Government," dated January 28, 2019. All deadlines in this segment of the proceeding have been extended by 40 days.

⁴ See Memorandum, "Stainless Steel Bar from Brazil: Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice.

enforcement.trade.gov/frn/. A list of the topics discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum is attached as an Appendix to this notice.

Changes Since the Preliminary Results

We did not make any changes for these final results.

Final Results of the Administrative Review

We determine that the following weighted-average dumping margin exists for Villares for the period of February 1, 2017, through August 8, 2017.

Producer or exporter	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
Villares Metals S.A.	1.67

Assessment

In accordance with section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act, 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1), and the *Final Modification*,⁵ Commerce intends to instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess antidumping duties and liquidate all appropriate entries for Villares covered by this review. For Villares, we calculated importer-specific assessment rates on the basis of the ratio of the total amount of dumping duties calculated for each importer's examined sales and the total entered value of the sales in accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1).⁶

For entries of subject merchandise during the POR produced by Villares for which it did not know its merchandise was destined for the United States, we will instruct CBP to liquidate unreviewed entries at the all-others rate if there is no rate for the intermediate company involved in the transaction. We intend to issue instructions to CBP 15 days after publication of the final results of this review.

Cash Deposit Requirements

In the *Revocation Notice*, Commerce stated that it intends to issue instructions to CBP to terminate the suspension of liquidation and to discontinue the collection of cash deposits on entries of subject merchandise, entered or withdrawn from warehouse, on or after August 9,

⁵ See *Antidumping Proceedings: Calculation of the Weighted-Average Dumping Margin and Assessment Rate in Certain Antidumping Duty Proceedings; Final Modification*, 77 FR 8101, 8102 (February 14, 2012) (*Final Modification*).

⁶ *Id.*