

basis (due 30 working days after end of the semiannual period). For the purposes of this grant, semiannual periods end on March 31st and September 30th. The project performance reports shall include the elements prescribed in the grant agreement.

(b) A final project and financial status report within 90 days after the expiration or termination of the grant.

(c) Provide outcome project performance reports and final deliverables.

G. Solicitation of Non-Federal Independent Grant Reviewers

Rural Development is seeking non-Federal independent grant reviewers under this Notice. Reviewers must be able to use their professional knowledge and experience to evaluate and score VAPG program applications against the evaluation criteria published in this Notice, and effectively communicate their findings in writing.

1. Qualifications

All reviewers must meet the following qualifications.

(a) Have at least a bachelor's degree in one or more of the following fields: agribusiness, agricultural economics, business, marketing, economics or finance, and

(b) A minimum of 8 years of experience in an agriculture-related field (e.g. farming, marketing, consulting, or research; or as university faculty, trade association official or non-Federal government official in an agriculturally-related field).

2. Ethical Standards

Prospective reviewers must be able to exercise the highest level of ethical standards in avoiding conflict of interests and maintaining confidentiality.

(a) Conflict of Interest

Individuals selected as non-Federal independent grant reviewers will be required to certify that they do not have a conflict of interest or an appearance thereof with any VAPG application they are assigned to review. This may include but is not limited to certification that they did not apply for a VAPG grant and are not affiliated with persons or organizations applying for VAPG funds.

(b) Confidentiality

Reviewers will also be required to sign a certification statement regarding the safeguarding of information contained in assigned applications.

Failure to identify a conflict-of-interest or the unauthorized disclosure of information may subject reviewers to

administrative sanction, *i.e.*, removal from the current review and/or disqualification from involvement in future reviews of grant applications.

3. Training

All reviewers must review and understand program requirements and must attend a mandatory training webinar.

4. System Requirements

(a) Reviewers must have reliable internet access using Internet Explorer and be able to reliably both access applications and submit scores electronically, and

(b) All reviewers must be able to complete requirements for, obtain, and maintain USDA Level 2 e-Authorization credentialing.

To apply, please send a resume addressing relevant qualifications and experience to CPGrants@wdc.usda.gov by February 10, 2020.

H. Agency Contacts

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact the State Office as identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice. You are also encouraged to visit the application website for application tools, including an application guide and templates. The website address is: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>. You may also contact National Office staff at CPGrants@wdc.usda.gov or call the main line at 202-720-1400.

I. Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and

TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) *Mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410;

(2) *Fax*: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) *Email*: program.intake@usda.gov.

Bette B. Brand,

Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-201-845]

Sugar From Mexico: Notice of Termination of Amendment to the Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Duty Investigation

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

SUMMARY: On October 18, 2019, the United States Court of International Trade (CIT) issued a final judgment in *CSC Sugar LLC v. United States*, Ct. No. 17-00215, Slip Op. 19-132 (CIT October 18, 2019) (*CSC Sugar II*), vacating the 2017 amendment to the Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Duty Investigation on Sugar from Mexico. Commerce is now terminating the amendment consistent with the Court's order.

DATES: Applicable December 7, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally C. Gannon, Bilateral Agreements Unit, Office of Policy and Negotiations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0162.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 19, 2014, Commerce and the signatory producers/exporters accounting for substantially all imports of sugar from Mexico signed the Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Duty Investigation on Sugar from Mexico (AD Agreement).¹ Subsequent to this date, between June 2016 and June 2017, Commerce and the signatory producers/exporters accounting for substantially all imports of sugar from Mexico held consultations to address concerns raised by the domestic industry and to ensure that the AD Agreement met all of the statutory requirements for a suspension agreement, *e.g.*, that suspension of the investigation was in the public interest, including the availability of supplies of sugar in the U.S. market, and that effective monitoring was practicable. The consultations resulted in Commerce and the signatory producers/exporters accounting for substantially all imports of sugar from Mexico signing the amendment to the AD Agreement on June 30, 2017, and it was subsequently published in the **Federal Register**.²

CSC Sugar LLC (CSC Sugar) challenged Commerce's determination to amend the AD Agreement by contending that Commerce did not meet its obligation to file a complete administrative record.³ Specifically, CSC Sugar argued that Commerce failed to memorialize and include in the record *ex parte* communications between Commerce officials and interested parties (including the domestic sugar industry and representatives of Mexico), as required by section 777(a)(3) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).⁴

The CIT agreed with CSC Sugar and ordered Commerce to supplement the administrative record with any *ex parte* communications regarding the *AD Amendment*.⁵ CSC Sugar subsequently filed a motion for judgment on the agency record arguing that Commerce's failure, during the consultations period, to maintain contemporaneous *ex parte* communication memoranda, in accordance with section 777(a)(3) of the Act, could not be adequately remedied

by Commerce's delayed and incomplete supplementation of the record.⁶

The CIT found that Commerce's failure to follow the recordkeeping requirements of Section 777 of the Act cannot be described as "harmless."⁷ The CIT found that this recordkeeping failure substantially prejudiced CSC Sugar.⁸ On that basis, the CIT stated that the *AD Amendment* must be vacated.⁹

Termination of AD Amendment

Consistent with the CIT's ruling in *GSC Sugar II*, Commerce is terminating the *AD Amendment* prospectively.¹⁰ Accordingly, as of December 7, 2019, the unamended AD Agreement¹¹ is in force and effective, and the *AD Amendment* has no force or effect.

Dated: December 6, 2019.

Jeffrey I. Kessler,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) has received requests to conduct administrative reviews of various antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) orders and findings with October anniversary dates. In accordance with Commerce's regulations, we are initiating those administrative reviews.

DATES: Applicable December 11, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda E. Brown, AD/CVD Operations, Customs Liaison Unit, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230, telephone: (202) 482-4735.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

⁶ See *CSC Sugar II* at 4.

⁷ *Id.* at 11-12.

⁸ *Id.* at 12.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Commerce is terminating the *AD Amendment*, effective December 7, 2019. Because suspension of liquidation does not occur while the AD Agreement is in force, termination of the *AD Amendment* shall be prospective in effect. Accordingly, the AD Agreement, as signed on December 19, 2014, applies to all contracts for sugar from Mexico exported from Mexico on or after December 7, 2019.

¹¹ See AD Agreement.

Background

Commerce has received timely requests, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b), for administrative reviews of various AD and CVD orders and findings with October anniversary dates.

All deadlines for the submission of various types of information, certifications, or comments or actions by Commerce discussed below refer to the number of calendar days from the applicable starting time.

Notice of No Sales

If a producer or exporter named in this notice of initiation had no exports, sales, or entries during the period of review (POR), it must notify Commerce within 30 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. All submissions must be filed electronically at <http://access.trade.gov> in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303.¹ Such submissions are subject to verification in accordance with section 782(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Further, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303(f)(1)(i), a copy must be served on every party on Commerce's service list.

Respondent Selection

In the event Commerce limits the number of respondents for individual examination for administrative reviews initiated pursuant to requests made for the orders identified below, Commerce intends to select respondents based on U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data for U.S. imports during the POR. We intend to place the CBP data on the record within five days of publication of the initiation notice and to make our decision regarding respondent selection within 30 days of publication of the initiation **Federal Register** notice. Comments regarding the CBP data and respondent selection should be submitted within seven days after the placement of the CBP data on the record of this review. Parties wishing to submit rebuttal comments should submit those comments within five days after the deadline for the initial comments.

In the event Commerce decides it is necessary to limit individual examination of respondents and conduct respondent selection under section 777A(c)(2) of the Act, the following guidelines regarding collapsing of companies for purposes of respondent selection will apply. In general, Commerce has found that

¹ See *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures*, 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011).

¹ See *Sugar From Mexico: Suspension of Antidumping Duty Investigation*, 79 FR 78039 (December 29, 2014) (AD Agreement).

² See *Sugar From Mexico: Amendment to the Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Duty Investigation*, 82 FR 31945 (July 11, 2017) (*AD Amendment*).

³ See *CSC Sugar II* at 4.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* (citing *CSC Sugar LLC v. United States*, 317 F. Supp. 3d 1334, 1345 (CIT 2018)).