

Procurement Policy, OMB (telephone: 202-395-3254).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background

On December 19, 1995, the President signed the "Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995" (Pub. L. 104-65). This Act includes some amendments to 31 U.S.C. Code Section 1352, popularly known as the Byrd Amendment, which was signed into law on October 23, 1989 (Pub. L. 101-121). The new law makes these amendments effective January 1, 1996.

The Byrd Amendment required the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue governmentwide guidance for agency implementation of, and compliance with, the requirements of the Byrd Amendment. On December 18, 1989 (published December 20, 1989), OMB issued interim final guidance entitled "Governmentwide Guidance for New Restrictions on Lobbying" (54 FR 52306). The Conference Report called for major agencies, as designated by OMB, to issue a common rule complying with OMB's guidance. On February 26, 1990, 29 agencies co-signed such an interim final common rule (55 FR 6736). A second interim final common rule, part of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), for most contracts was published on January 30, 1990 (55 FR 3190).

Today's notice includes amendments to OMB's December 1989 guidance to reflect the new lobbying statute. These amendments will apply governmentwide and will subsequently be reflected in the two governmentwide common rules.

The new lobbying statute essentially made three changes to the Byrd Amendment. The law: (a) simplified the information required by 31 U.S.C. 1352(b)(2)-(3) to be disclosed; (b) eliminated the requirement in 31 U.S.C. 1352(b)(6) that agencies submit semi-annual compilations to Congress; and, (c) eliminated the requirement in 31 U.S.C. 1352(d) for the Inspectors General's annual report to Congress.

##### B. Paperwork Reduction Act

These amendments contain information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. A Paperwork Reduction Act emergency approval was requested by OMB pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3507(j) and 5 CFR 1320.13 and was granted under OMB control number 0348-0046. OMB estimates a substantial reduction in reporting burden due to these amendments. Instead of the prior

estimate of 30 minutes per response, OMB estimates only 10 minutes per response.

Alice M. Rivlin,  
Director.

#### PART \_\_\_\_ NEW RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING

1. The authority citation for part \_\_\_\_ is revised to read as follows:

Authority: Sec. 319, Pub. L. 101-121, 103 Stat. 750, as amended by sec. 10, Pub. L. 104-65, 109 Stat. 700 (31 U.S.C. 1352).

2. Subpart F (Agency Reports), consisting of § \_\_\_\_\_.600 (Semi-annual compilation) and § \_\_\_\_\_.605 (Inspector General report), is removed.

3. In Appendix B, Standard Form (SF)-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, is amended as follows:

a. Item 10a is amended by revising "Name and Address of Lobbying Entity" to read "Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant";

b. In item 10, the statement "(attach Continuation Sheet(s) SF-LLL-A, if necessary)" is removed; and,

c. Items 11 through 15 are removed.

4. In Appendix B, the Instructions for Completion of SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities are amended as follows:

a. In the introductory text, remove the sentence "Use the SF-LLL-A Continuation Sheet for additional information if the space on the form is inadequate.";

b. The instruction for item 10(a) is amended by revising "lobbying entity" to read "registrant under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995"; and,

c. The instructions for items 11 through 15 are removed.

5. The SF-LLL-A Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Continuation Sheet is removed.

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#### Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that an information collection request has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for emergency processing under 5 CFR 1320.13. The information collection request is for amendments to the Standard Form (SF)-

LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, as necessitated by the "Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, which became law on December 19, 1995 and which becomes effective January 1, 1996. This early effective date necessitates a request for emergency processing for approval for 90 days.

The SF-LLL is the standard disclosure reporting form for lobbying paid for with non-Federal funds, as required by OMB's governmentwide guidance for new restrictions on lobbying, which was issued under 31 U.S.C. 1352 (popularly known as the "Byrd Amendment"). The new lobbying statute simplified the information required to be disclosed under 31 U.S.C. 1352. A companion notice in today's Federal Register solicits comments on the revised SF-LLL.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara F. Kahlow, Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB (telephone: 202-395-3053).

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Edward Springer, OMB Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Room 10236 New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

John B. Arthur,

Associate Director for Administration.

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#### OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

##### Identification of Priority Foreign Countries: Request for Public Comment

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for written submissions from the public concerning acts, policies, and practices to be considered with respect to identification of countries under section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Trade Act).

SUMMARY: Section 182 of the Trade Act requires the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on intellectual property protection. 19 U.S.C. 2242. In addition, the USTR is required to determine which of the countries identified should be designated as priority foreign countries. Priority foreign countries typically are subject to a "special" 301

investigation of the acts, policies or practices which led to their designation.

USTR requests written submissions from the public concerning foreign countries' acts, policies, and practices that are relevant to the decision whether particular trading partners should be identified under section 182 of the Trade Act.

**DATES:** Submissions must be received on or before 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 20, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph Papovich, Deputy Assistant USTR for Intellectual property (202) 395-6864; JoEllen Urban, Director for Intellectual Property (202) 395-6864; or Thomas Robertson, Assistant General Counsel (202) 395-6800, Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, the USTR must identify those countries that deny adequate and effective protection for intellectual property rights or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on intellectual property protection. Those countries that have the most onerous or egregious acts, policies, or practices and whose acts, policies or practices have the greatest adverse impact (actual or potential) on relevant U.S. products are to be identified as priority foreign countries.

USTR may not identify a country as a priority foreign country if it is entering into good faith negotiations, or making significant progress in bilateral or multilateral negotiations, to provide adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

USTR must decide whether to identify countries as priority foreign countries each year and issue a decision within 30 days after publication of the National Trade Estimate (NTE) report, i.e., no later than April 30, 1996. Priority foreign countries typically are subject to a "special" 301 investigation of the acts, policies or practices which led to their designation.

#### Requirements for Submissions

Submissions should include a description of the problems experienced and the effect of the acts, policies, and practices on U.S. industry. Submissions should be as detailed as possible and should provide all necessary information for assessing the effect of the acts, policies and practices. Any submissions that include quantitative loss claims should be accompanied by the methodology used in calculating such estimated losses. Comments must

be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR § 2006.8(b) (55 FR 20593) and must be sent to Sybia Harrison, Special Assistant to the Section 301 Committee, Room 223, 600 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20506, no later than 12 noon on Tuesday, February 20, 1996. Because submissions will be placed in a file open to public inspection at USTR, business-confidential information should be submitted.

#### Public Inspection of Submissions

Within one business day of receipt, submissions will be placed in a public file, open for inspection at the USTR Reading Room, in Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW., Washington, DC. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Donald Abelson,

*Assistant USTR for Services, Investment and Intellectual Property.*

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## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

### Disaster Relief

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

**ACTION:** Notice of disaster relief in response to the Blizzard of '96.

**SUMMARY:** The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation is waiving penalties for certain late payments of premiums, is forgoing assessment of penalties for failure to comply with certain information submission requirements, and is extending the deadlines for complying with certain requirements of its administrative review, standard and distress termination, and disclosure to participants regulations. This relief is generally available to persons residing in, or whose principal place of business is within, an area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as affected by the major disaster declared by the President of the United States on account of the Blizzard of '96.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Suite 340, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024 (202-326-4179 for TTY and TDD). (These are not toll-free numbers.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation administers the pension plan termination insurance program under title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended 29 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.* Under ERISA and the PBGC's regulations, a number of deadlines must be met in order to avoid the imposition of penalties or other consequences. Six areas in which the PBGC is providing relief are (1) penalties for late payment of premiums due the PBGC, (2) ERISA section 4071 penalties for failure to provide required notices or other material information by the applicable time limit, (3) deadlines for filing a standard termination notice and distributing plan assets in a standard termination, (4) deadlines for filing a distress termination notice and, in the case of a plan that is sufficient for guaranteed benefits, issuing notices of benefit distribution and completing the distribution of plan assets, (5) deadlines for filing requests for reconsideration or appeals of certain agency determinations; and (6) deadlines for issuing Participant Notices under ERISA section 4011.

On January 12, 13, and 14, 1996, the President of the United States issued a series of declarations, under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121, 5122(2), 5141(b)), that a major disaster exists because of the Blizzard of '96 in certain locations. At this time, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Delaware, New York, Kentucky, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia are designated major disaster areas (within the meaning of Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations; 44 CFR 205.2(a)(5)).

Given the severity of the Blizzard of '96, as the Executive Director of the PBGC, I have decided to provide relief from certain PBGC deadlines and penalties. For purposes of premium penalties, section 4071 penalties, standard and distress termination deadlines, and Participant Notice deadlines, this notice is applicable with respect to plans whose administrators' or sponsors' principal place of business, or for which the office of a service provider, bank, insurance company, or other person maintaining information necessary to meet the applicable deadlines, is located in a designated disaster area. For purposes of filing requests for reconsideration or appeals, this notice is applicable to any aggrieved person who is residing in, or whose principal place of business is within, a designated disaster area, or with respect to whom the office of the