

Standard 90.1. These issues were discussed at a previous public workshop on April 14 and 15, 1998. Proceedings of this workshop, including transcripts, are available for inspection in Docket No. EE-TP-98-101 at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, U.S. DOE, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-6020, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Transcripts may also be purchased from Neal R. Gross, Court Reporters and Transcripts, 1323 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005-3701, (202) 234-4433.

Since that time, the DOE has analyzed the comments, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has developed recommendations for DOE's consideration in drafting the notice of proposed rulemaking. The purpose of this public workshop is to discuss the resolution of the issues raised in the April 1998, workshop and to obtain reactions to NIST's proposals.

NIST is developing a paper entitled, "Proposed Provisions for a Rulemaking on Test Procedures for Commercial Water Heaters, Boilers, Furnaces, Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps," which will set forth approaches for DOE to consider in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and it explains recommended provisions. This paper will be available after September 28, 1998, and can be found on the Internet at the following URL address: [http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/codes\\_standards/index.htm](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/codes_standards/index.htm). Hard copies can be obtained by mail from Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, at (202) 586-2945, or may be read at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room mentioned above.

At this workshop, the Department is particularly interested in receiving comments and views of interested parties concerning: (1) the ideas for resolution of the issues discussed in April and (2) provisions recommended by NIST for DOE's consideration for inclusion in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The Department encourages those who wish to participate in the workshop to obtain the NIST paper and to make presentations that address its contents. Workshop participants need not limit their statements to these topics. The Department is interested in receiving views concerning other issues that participants believe would affect the test procedures or standards compliance for commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat pumps.

The meeting will be conducted in an informal, conference style. A court reporter will be present to record the minutes of the meeting. There shall be no discussion of proprietary information, costs or prices, market shares, or other commercial matters regulated under antitrust law. After the meeting and period for written comments, the Department will consider the views presented in formulating a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding energy efficiency test procedures and standards compliance as they relate to commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat pumps.

If you would like to participate in the workshop, receive workshop materials, or be added to the DOE mailing list to receive future notices and information regarding commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat pumps, please contact Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones at (202) 586-2945.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 4, 1998.

**Dan W. Reicher,**

*Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.*

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## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

### 11 CFR Parts 102, 103, and 106

[Notice 1998-14]

#### Prohibited and Excessive Contributions; "Soft Money"

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**ACTION:** Extension of Comment Period and Change of Public Hearing Date.

**SUMMARY:** On July 13, 1998, the Federal Election Commission published proposed rules and announced a public hearing relating to funds received by party committees outside the prohibitions and limitations of the Federal Election Campaign Act, also known as "soft money." 63 FR 37721 (July 13, 1998). The Commission has extended the comment period until October 2, 1998. The Commission has also rescheduled the public hearing for October 21, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. so that all newly confirmed Commissioners may participate.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 2, 1998. The hearing will be held on October 21, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. Persons wishing to testify must so indicate in their written comments.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written comments should be sent to the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20463.

Faxed comments should be sent to (202) 219-3923, with printed copy follow up. Electronic mail comments should be sent to [softmoneynpr@fec.gov](mailto:softmoneynpr@fec.gov). Commenters sending comments by electronic mail should include their full name and postal service address within the text of their comments. Electronic mail comments that do not contain the full name, electronic mail address and postal service address of the commenter will not be considered.

The public hearing will be held in the Commission's public hearing room, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC, Ninth Floor.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, or Paul Sanford, Staff Attorney, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463, (202) 694-1650 or (800) 424-9530.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

**Joan D. Aikens,**

*Chairman, Federal Election Commission.*

[FR Doc. 98-24272 Filed 9-9-98; 8:45 am]

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## EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

### 12 CFR Part 404

#### Comprehensive Revision of Export-Import Bank of the United States Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, and Other Information Disclosure Regulations and Implementation of Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996

**AGENCY:** Export-Import Bank of the United States.

**ACTION:** Supplemental proposed rule; Reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document sets forth one proposed section that was not included in the Export-Import Bank's original proposed rule, published on December 4, 1997 (62 FR 64177). This section will notify interested parties that disclosures of information in connection with program development, asset disposition, debt collection, and risk reduction efforts may take place when the Ex-Im Bank President determines that disclosure is needed to support the Bank's promotion of policy and

programmatic objectives and that disclosure in such limited circumstances will not subject the submitter of the information to commercial harm. This supplemental notice was originally published in the **Federal Register** on August 4, 1998, and had an ending comment period of September 3, 1998. Due to several request for extension, the Export-Import Bank has decided to extend the comment period.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 24, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments concerning this proposed rule to Howard A. Schweitzer, Counsel for Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, 811 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Room 951, Washington, D.C. 20571.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Howard A. Schweitzer, (202) 565-3229.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank or "the Bank") is proposing the following amendment under the authority of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, 12 U.S.C. 635. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure that necessary disclosures of information in connection with developing Bank programs are consistent with relevant law and regulation. The following proposed section provides for disclosure of such information only when the disclosure is necessary to support the Bank's promotion of policy and programmatic objectives and only if Ex-Im Bank's President determines that the disclosure will not subject the submitter of the information to commercial harm.

The determinations concerning the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Order 12866, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, and the Small Business Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 that Ex-Im Bank made in connection with publication of the original proposed rule apply to this supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking.

#### List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 404

Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential business information, Freedom of Information, Privacy.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, Ex-Im Bank proposes to amend 12 CFR chapter IV as follows:

#### PART 404—INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

1. The authority citation for part 404 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 552 and 552a. Section 404.7 also issued under E.O. 12600, 52 FR 23781, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 235. Section 404.21 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552a note. Section 404.70 issued under 12 U.S.C. 635.

2. Part 404, as proposed to be revised at 62 FR 64178, is further amended by adding and reserving subparts C and D and adding subpart E to read as follows:

#### PART 404—INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

##### Subpart E—Miscellaneous Information Disclosure Provisions

Sec.

404.70 Asset disposition, program development, and risk reduction efforts.

##### Subpart E—Miscellaneous Information Disclosure Provisions

**§ 404.70 Asset disposition, program development, and risk reduction efforts.**

(a) *Purpose and scope.* The purpose of this section is to provide for disclosure, only in the context of program development, asset disposition, debt collection, and risk reduction efforts, of confidential commercial or financial information when such disclosure is needed to facilitate the Bank's support of the export of goods and services. Ex-Im Bank shall disclose such information only to persons, as defined in § 404.2, who require access to such information to perform their intended services on behalf of the Bank.

(b) *Disclosure of information.* Ex-Im Bank may in connection with program development, asset disposition, debt collection and risk reduction efforts, disclose information described in 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) that is provided to Ex-Im Bank in connection with applications for financial support or related transactions, when the Ex-Im Bank President determines that disclosure is needed to support the Bank's promotion of policy and programmatic objectives and that disclosure in such limited circumstances will not subject the submitter of the information to commercial harm. Ex-Im Bank does not waive its right to withhold information, in response to a FOIA request, that has been or could be disclosed pursuant to this section if Ex-Im Bank determines that such disclosure could subject the submitter of the information to commercial harm.

(c) *Protections.* Whenever possible, Ex-Im Bank shall enter into confidentiality agreements intended to protect the confidentiality of any commercial or financial information disclosed pursuant to this section.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

**Elaine Stangland,**

*Deputy General Counsel.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Coast Guard

##### 33 CFR Part 117

[CGD05-98-069]

RIN 2115-AE47

##### Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Perquimans River, Hertford, North Carolina

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard proposes to change the regulations that govern the operation of the drawbridge across Perquimans River, mile 12.0, in Hertford, North Carolina, by decreasing its hours of operation during specific times of inactivity. This proposed rule is intended to lessen the high cost of manning the drawbridge 24 hours a day while still providing for the reasonable needs of navigation.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to Commander (Aowb), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 4th Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004, or may be hand-delivered to the same address between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (757) 398-6222. Comments will become a part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ann B. Deaton, Bridge Administrator, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398-6222.

##### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written views, comments, data, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this rulemaking (CGD05-98-069), the specific section of this rule to which each comment applies, and give reasons for each comment. The Coast Guard requests that all comments and attachments be submitted in an unbound format suitable for copying