

on the foundry coke industries in the United States and the PRC, in the PRC foundry coke is transported to the port by either truck or train. For purposes of calculating foreign inland freight, the petitioners used the surrogate value for rail because of the large distances involved and the lower expense of shipping by rail, as compared to shipments by truck. For purposes of initiation we have found that this is a conservative estimate. We relied on the data in the petition except for valuing foreign inland freight. *See Initiation Checklist.*

The petitioners assert that the Department considers the PRC to be a non-market economy country ("NME") and, therefore, constructed normal value ("NV") based on the factors of production methodology pursuant to section 773(c) of the Act. In previous cases, the Department has determined that the PRC is an NME country. *See, e.g., Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Cold-Rolled Flat-Rolled Carbon-Quality Steel Products from the People's Republic of China ("Cold-Rolled Steel from China")*, 65 FR 34660 (May 31, 2000). In accordance with section 771(18)(c)(i) of the Act, the NME status remains in effect until revoked by the Department. The NME status of the PRC has not been revoked by the Department and, therefore, remains in effect for purposes of the initiation of this investigation. Accordingly, the NV of the product appropriately is based on factors of production valued in a surrogate market economy country in accordance with section 773(c) of the Act. In the course of this investigation, all parties will have the opportunity to provide relevant information related to the issues of the PRC's NME status and the granting of separate rates to individual exporters.

As required by 19 CFR 351.202(b)(7)(i)(C), the petitioners provided a dumping margin calculation using the Department's NME methodology described in 19 CFR 351.408. For the NV calculation, the petitioners based the factors of production, as defined by section 773(c)(3) of the Act (raw materials, labor, energy and capital cost), for foundry coke products on the quantities of inputs used by one of the petitioning firms, Citizens Gas & Coke. *See Initiation Checklist.*

The petitioners selected India as their surrogate country. Citing the Department's recent determination in cold-rolled steel from the PRC, the petitioners stated that India is comparable to the PRC in its level of economic development and is a significant producer of foundry coke

products. Based on the information provided by the petitioners, we believe that the petitioners' use of India as a surrogate country is appropriate for purposes of initiation of this investigation. *See Initiation Checklist.*

In accordance with section 773(c)(4) of the Act, the petitioners valued factors of production for foundry coke products, where possible, on reasonably available, public surrogate country data. To value coal (the sole raw material input), the petitioners used a value for coking coal as reported in the *Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India*, Vol. II—Imports, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, Calcutta. Labor was valued using the regression-based wage rate for the PRC, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.408(c)(3). Energy (coke oven gas) was valued using an Indian surrogate value for natural gas, adjusted for the relative difference in heating values between natural gas and coke oven gas. For overhead, SG&A and profit, the petitioners applied rates derived from the publicly available annual report of an Indian producer of comparable merchandise, Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd.

Based on comparisons of EP to NV, calculated in accordance with section 773(c) of the Act, the estimated dumping margin for foundry coke products from the PRC is 226.38 percent.

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioners, there is reason to believe that imports of foundry coke products from the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value.

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petition alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured and is threatened with material injury, by reason of the imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than NV. The petitioners contend that the industry's injured condition is evident in the declining trends in: (1) U.S. market share, (2) domestic production, (3) shipments, (4) capacity utilization, (5) employment, and (6) profit margins.

The allegations of injury and causation are supported by relevant evidence including ITC section 332 import data, lost sales, and pricing information. The Department assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury and causation and determined that these allegations

are supported by accurate and adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation (see Attachments to *Initiation Checklist*, Re: Material Injury).

Initiation of Antidumping Investigation

Based upon our examination of the petition on foundry coke imports from the PRC, we find that the petition meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating an antidumping duty investigation to determine whether imports of foundry coke products from the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the date of this initiation.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition has been provided to the representatives of the PRC. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the petition to each exporter named in the petition, as appropriate.

International Trade Commission Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, no later than November 6, 2000, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of foundry coke products from the PRC are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in this investigation being terminated; otherwise, this investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: October 10, 2000.

Troy H. Cribb,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-26654 Filed 10-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Office of Information Technologies; Meeting

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Trade Development, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meeting and opportunity for collaboration.

SUMMARY: The Office of Information Technologies in the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2000 at 9 a.m., in room 3407, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce to U.S. information technology (IT) suppliers the IT Management Planning Tool, a new product for developing IT markets overseas, and to explore ways to collaborate in disseminating this product to potential users. Seating is limited. Those planning on attending the meeting should inform the Office of Information Technologies by October 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tu-Trang Phan or Raymond Cho in the Office of Information Technologies at 202-482-0571 (phone), 202-482-3002 (fax), or by e-mail at ExportIT@ita.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Information Technologies in the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2000 at 9 a.m., in room 3407, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce to U.S. information technology (IT) suppliers a new approach to IT market development overseas and explore ways to collaborate in this effort. There will be a demonstration and discussion of the IT Management Planning Tool, which was created to serve as a market stimulator for U.S. suppliers to generate demand for their IT products and services overseas. The IT Tool is a software application which helps management of businesses and government agencies assess their current IT usage and plan for future IT investments that can improve their operations. Because the IT Tool is intended for overseas audiences, the contents of the Tool will be localized and translated into several languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese. U.S. information technology suppliers and service providers interested in partnering with the U.S. Department of Commerce in this unique overseas market development effort should attend the meeting.

The meeting is open to the public, however, seating in room 3407 is

limited and is available on a first come, first served basis. Those planning on attending the meeting should inform the Office of Information Technologies by October 27, 2000. To request further information concerning the meeting or to request a copy of the Information Technology Planning Tool, contact Tu-Trang Phan or Raymond Cho in the Office of Information Technologies at 202-482-0571 by phone, 202-482-3002 by fax, or by e-mail at ExportIT@ita.doc.gov.

Dated: October 12, 2000.

John E. McPhee,

Director, Office of Information Technologies.

[FR Doc. 00-26659 Filed 10-16-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091400A]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of photography permit no. 986-1592-00.

SUMMARY: Pandion Enterprises, P.O. Box 545, Summerland, California 93067, [Permit Holder: Bruce Reitherman], has been issued a permit to take by Level B harassment one species, elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*), of non-threatened, non-endangered marine mammals for purposes of commercial photography.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90802-4213, (562/980-4000).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 9, 2000, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 48679) that the above-named applicant had submitted a request for a permit to take one species of marine mammals by Level B harassment during the course of commercial photographic activities in Piedras Blancas and Ano Nuevo, California. The requested permit has been issued, under the authority of §104(c)(6) of the Marine Mammal

Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Dated: October 5, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-26655 Filed 10-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

RIN 0651-AB25

Request for Comments on Preliminary Draft Convention on Jurisdiction and Foreign Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Hague Conference on Private International Law is negotiating a convention designed to create common jurisdiction rules for international civil and commercial cases and to provide for international recognition and enforcement of judgments issued under these rules. A Diplomatic Conference to conclude these negotiations is scheduled to begin in June 2001, with a final session sometime in early 2002. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is seeking views of the public on this effort and the consequent potential changes to United States law and practice.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before December 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to offer written comments should address those comments to Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, marked to the attention of Elizabeth Shaw. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile transmission to (703) 305-7575 or by electronic mail through the Internet to elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov. All comments will be maintained for public inspection in Room 902 of Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Lucas by telephone at (703) 305-9300; by facsimile at (703) 305-8885; by electronic mail to jennifer.lucas@uspto.gov; or by mail marked to the attention of Jennifer Lucas, Attorney-Advisor, addressed to Director of the United States Patent and