

result from the installation of the on farm conservation measures, no other alternatives, other than the no action alternative, were considered.

Consultation—Public Participation

On June 17, 1996, the North Platte Valley Conservation District, and the Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District Boards of Supervisors, filed an application for Pub. L. 83-566 assistance in developing a plan for the Goshen County, Lingle-Ft. Laramie Water Quality Project. The State of Wyoming Governor's Office referred the application to the Wyoming Board of Agriculture for ranking and approval. On September 18, 2000, the board gave the project a ranking of high and approved the request to be submitted to the NRCS. Acceptance was acknowledged by the State Conservationist, and appropriate agencies and Sponsors were notified. The town of Torrington and the Goshen County Commissioners were later added to the list of Sponsors.

The Sponsors held two interagency and two public meetings to determine the extent of the problem. The Sponsors requested that NRCS analyze alternative solutions and prepare a preliminary investigation report. In September 2000, a preliminary investigation report was completed for the Lingle-Ft. Laramie Water Quality Project.

Numerous newspaper articles, newsletters, and radio public service announcements have been aired in order to provide public information. Public meetings, with the news media in attendance, were held to gain public input and inform the public.

On October 24, 1996, an interagency meeting was held to determine concerns of the other agencies.

June 14, 2000, a public scoping meeting was held to determine public concerns and opinions. A public response analysis was completed on the responses.

On October 18, 2000, another public meeting was held to review the alternatives developed and obtain further public input.

On June 11, 2001, the Sponsors met to review the Draft Plan-EA.

On July 25, 2002, the Sponsors held a public meeting to begin the Public/Interagency review of the Draft Plan-EA. Written comments were requested from agencies, organizations, and groups identified in the planning process as interested. The comments were reviewed and responses prepared on each comment. The comments and responses are contained in the Final Plan Environmental Assessment.

Written comments were requested from 70 agencies, organizations, and groups identified in the planning process.

Agency consultation and public participation to date have shown no unresolved conflicts with the implementation of the selected plan. Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (50 CFR 402.13) consultation has been completed and incorporated.

Conclusion

The Environmental Assessment summarized above indicates that this federal action will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement for the Lingle-Ft. Laramie Water Quality Project Plan is not required.

Additional Information or questions can be directed to: George W. Cleek IV, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, 100 East B Street, Room 3124, Casper, WY 82601-1969, Phone: 307-261-6457, e-mail: george.cleek@wy.usda.gov.

Dated: March 21, 2003.

Lincoln E. Burton,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 03-8030 Filed 4-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: April 8, 2003; 2 p.m.-3 p.m.

PLACE: Broadcasting Board of Governors, 330 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20237.

CLOSED MEETING: The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in closed session to review and discuss a number of issues relating to U.S. Government-funded non-military international broadcasting. They will address internal procedural, budgetary, and personnel issues, as well as sensitive foreign policy issues relating to potential options in the U.S. international broadcasting field. This meeting is closed because if open it likely would either disclose matters that would be properly classified to be kept secret in the interest of foreign policy under the appropriate executive order (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(1)) or would disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(9)(B)).

In addition, part of the discussion will relate solely to the internal personnel and organizational issues of the BBG or the International Broadcasting Bureau. (5 U.S.C. 552b.(c)(2) and (6)).

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact either Brenda Hardnett or Carol Booker at (202) 401-3736.

Dated: March 31, 2003.

Carol Booker,

Legal Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03-8188 Filed 4-1-03; 9:39 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting; Public Hearing: Kaltech Industries Group, Inc. Incident

AGENCY: Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB).

ACTION: Notice announcing Sunshine Act public hearing and requesting public comment and participation.

SUMMARY: The CSB will hold a public hearing to examine findings and preliminary conclusions resulting from its investigation into a building fire explosion at Kaltech Industries Group, Inc., an architectural sign manufacturer located at 123 West 19th Street, New York City. The explosion that occurred April 26, 2002, injured 31 people, including 14 persons who were not employed by Kaltech. This notice provides information regarding the CSB investigation into the chemical incident, a request for comments on specific issues raised by the investigation, and the date, time, location and agenda for the public hearing. At the end of the staff and panel presentations, the Board has also allocated time to take comments from the public.

DATES: The Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday April 16, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY), 7th Avenue at 27th Street, New York City, New York.

Pre-Registration: The event is open to the public and there is no fee for attendance. However, attendees are strongly encouraged to pre-register, to ensure adequate seating arrangements. If you would like to provide oral comments to the Board, please state your intention to do so when pre-registering. Time for public comments is limited. Speakers will be limited to approximately 4 minutes. Those unable to present oral testimony because of time restrictions are urged to file written comments. To pre-register, please e-mail

your name and affiliation by April 11, 2003, to Don.Holmstrom@csb.gov.

Written Comments: The public is encouraged to submit written comments to the Chemical Safety Board. Individuals, organizations, businesses, or local, state or federal government agencies may submit written comments. Such comments must be filed on or before May 5, 2003. For further instructions on submitting comments, please see the "Form and Availability of Comments" section below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to provide oral comments at the Public Hearing should be submitted to: Mr. Don Holmstrom, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, 2175 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037. Alternatively, they may be e-mailed to Don.Holmstrom@csb.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Selk, Office of Investigations and Safety Programs, 202.261.7622.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- A. Introduction
- B. Background
- C. Key Questions
- D. Request for comments
- E. Agenda
- F. Sunshine Act Notice

A. Introduction

The CSB is an independent federal agency established in 1998 with the mission to protect workers, the public, and the environment by investigating and preventing chemical accidents. The CSB determines the root causes of these accidents and makes safety recommendations to government agencies, companies, and other organizations.

The CSB is nearing completion of its investigation into an incident on April 26, 2002, involving an explosion and fire that occurred in a 10-story mixed use building in the Chelsea district in Manhattan, New York City. A public hearing will be held on April 16, 2003, at 9 a.m., at the Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY), 7th Avenue at 27th Street, New York City, New York. CSB staff will present preliminary findings and conclusions from this investigation to the Board. Major issues involved in this investigation include hazard communication, hazardous waste handling, and municipal oversight. The hearing provides a forum for interested parties to provide input prior to CSB's formulation of final recommendations and issuance of a report. Interested parties will provide presentations to the Board, and at the conclusion of these formal presentations, there will be an opportunity for public comment.

B. Background

On April 26, 2002, an explosion and fire occurred in a 10-story mixed-use commercial building in the Chelsea district of Manhattan, New York City. The structure was built in 1902. It was occupied by a variety of tenants, including commercial, professional service, and manufacturing firms. At the time of the incident, Kaltech Industries Group Inc. occupied the basement of the building and portions of the mezzanine and first floor. Kaltech had leased space in the building for about ten years. The incident originated in the basement space leased by Kaltech Industries Group Inc.

Kaltech typically accumulated waste chemicals onsite and arranged for them to be picked up periodically by a hazardous waste disposal contractor. The day of the incident, Kaltech employees had just finished consolidating hazardous waste from smaller containers into two larger drums, when a violent chemical reaction started to take place in one of the 55-gallon drums. An explosion occurred seconds later. The highly confined environment of the basement offered limited pathways for the explosion to vent. The blast was partially relieved via the building's center hall stairway and the freight elevator. The explosion injured 31 people, including 14 persons who were not employed by Kaltech. Following the explosion, the New York City Building Department issued an order to vacate the building pending a structural evaluation. A few days later the structure was determined to be sound and tenants were permitted to return. Operations at Kaltech, however, remained suspended. The Fire Marshall retained control of Kaltech space while a hazardous environment remediation contractor analyzed and removed the chemicals and decontaminated the area.

Because of the serious nature of this incident and the fact that a chemical reaction was probably involved, the U.S. Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) initiated an investigation to determine the root and contributing causes of the incident and to issue recommendations to help prevent similar occurrences.

At the Public Hearing on April 16th, the CSB staff will present preliminary findings regarding causes of this incident. No factual analyses, conclusions or findings should be considered final.

After the Hearing the Board will allow time for public comment. This comment period will close on May 5, 2003. Following the conclusion of the public

comment period, the CSB will review and carefully consider all comments. The staff will then submit a final report on this incident for Board consideration, including specific recommendations targeted to prevent a similar accident like this from occurring elsewhere.

The Board will carefully review the report from the staff and will vote either in open public session or in a notation memorandum to accept the report, its findings and recommendations. When a report and its recommendations are approved, this will begin CSB's process for disseminating the findings and recommendations of the report not only to the recipients of recommendations but also to other public and industry sectors. The CSB believes that this process will ultimately lead to the adoption of recommendations and the growing body of safety knowledge in the industry, which, in turn, should save future lives and property.

C. Key Questions

Questions for Panel Presenters

(1) How does the New York City Fire Prevention Code function to control the handling of incompatible materials such as nitric acid and flammable liquids? What are the requirements of the Code's permitting provisions, and are they sufficient to prevent the mixing of incompatible materials?

(2) In light of the Kaltech incident are there changes to the New York City Fire Prevention Code that would enhance the safe handling of hazardous materials such as nitric acid? If so, what areas should be addressed? In responding, consider the following topics:

- a. Hazardous material identification and labeling.
- b. Permitting requirements such as the submission of management plans and inventory statements.
- c. MSDS availability to the workforce.
- d. Worker training.
- e. The safe separation of incompatible materials in manufacturing facilities.

(3) Do model fire codes such as the International Code Council's International Fire Code and National Fire Protection Association's National Fire Code present a more comprehensive approach to hazardous materials management in these areas? Are there other cities or states that have adopted more effective hazardous material provisions in their fire code? How do the requirements of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Act affect the fire code obligations of New York City?

(4) By what means do the New York City Fire Department and the Department of Environmental Protection

exchange information concerning facilities' use and storage of hazardous materials? Are there ways in which they can communicate more effectively concerning hazardous material inventory and labeling requirements?

Comments should address the questions listed above. CSB will accept verbal comments at the public hearing. Verbal comments must be limited to 4 minutes. Those wishing to make verbal comments should pre-register by April 11, 2003. To pre-register, send your name and a brief outline of your comments to the person listed in ADDRESSES.

D. Request for Comments

The CSB requests that interested parties submit written comments on the above questions to facilitate greater understanding of the issues. Comments should indicate the number(s) of the specific question(s) being answered, provide responses to questions in numerical order, and use a separate page for each question answered. Comments should be captioned "Kaltech Incident—Comments," and must be filed on or before May 5, 2003.

Parties sending written comments should submit an original and two copies of each document. To enable prompt review and public access, paper submissions should include a version on diskette in PDF, ASCII, or Microsoft Word format. Diskettes should be labeled with the name of the party, and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to Don.Holmstrom@csb.gov. Written comments will be available for public inspection in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, and CSB regulations.

E. Agenda (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)

- I. CSB Introduction (1 hour)
- II. New York City panel (1 hour)
- III. Fire Safety Experts' panel (1 hour)
- IV. Comments from interested parties and the public (1 hour)

F. Sunshine Act Notice

The United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board announces that it will convene a Public Hearing beginning on Wednesday April 16, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY), 7th Avenue at 27th Street, New York City, New York. Topics will include: CSB's investigation of the Kaltech Industries Group. The meeting will be open to the public. Please notify CSB if a translator or interpreter is needed, 10 business days prior to the

public meeting. For more information, please contact the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, 202–261–7600, or visit our Web site at: www.csb.gov.

Christopher W. Warner,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03–8182 Filed 3–31–03; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6350–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will meet on April 23 & 24, 2003, 9 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.

April 23

Public Session

1. Comments or presentations by the public.
2. Discussion on Category 3B (electronics—test, inspection and production equipment) controls and proposed study.
3. Discussion on oscilloscope controls and suggested changes.
4. Discussion on Ultra-Wide Band equipment proposal.

April 23 & 24

Closed Session

5. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with U.S. export control programs and strategic criteria related thereto.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to Committee members, the Committee suggests that public presentation materials or comments be forwarded before the meeting to the address listed below:

Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter, Advisory Committees MS: 3876, U.S. Department of Commerce, 15th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20230.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on September 7, 2001, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings or portions of meetings of these Committees and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and (a)(3), of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

For more information, contact Lee Ann Carpenter on 202–482–2583.

Dated: March 31, 2003.

Lee Ann Carpenter,
Committee Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–8101 Filed 4–2–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–JT–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012903A]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Oil and Gas Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment deadline.

SUMMARY: Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), on March 3, 2003, NMFS published a notice of receipt of an application for the harassment of marine mammals incidental to conducting seismic surveys by the U.S. oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico. By this document, NMFS announces an extension of the comment deadline.

DATES: Comments and information must be postmarked no later than April 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to the Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West