

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**[Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W68]****Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

Tioga, McKean, and Potter Counties and the contiguous counties of Bradford, Cameron, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Lycoming, and Warren in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chemung, and Steuben in the State of New York constitute an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of severe storms and flooding that occurred throughout the counties from July 21 to July 28, 2003. Eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere may file applications for economic injury assistance as a result of this disaster until the close of business on May 12, 2004 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd, South 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 2.953 percent.

The numbers assigned for economic injury for this disaster are 9W6800 for Pennsylvania and 9W6900 for New York.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002.)

Dated: August 12, 2003.

Hector V. Barreto,
Administrator.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**[Declaration of Disaster #3533]****State of Tennessee (Amendment #1)**

In accordance with the notice received from the Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective August 6, 2003, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to include Fayette County as a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms, high winds and heavy rain occurring on July 21 through July 22, 2003.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the contiguous counties of Haywood and Hardeman in the State of Tennessee; and Benton County in the State of Mississippi may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location. All other counties contiguous to the above named primary counties have been previously declared.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is September 29, 2003, and for economic injury the deadline is April 29, 2004.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008).

Dated: August 7, 2003.

Cheri L. Cannon,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE****Notification of Interest by Candidate
Cities for Permanent Site of the Free
Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)
Secretariat**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for notification of interest by candidate cities before November 20, 2003.

SUMMARY: At the July 2003 Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) meeting of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in San Salvador, Vice Ministers agreed that cities seeking to be considered to host the permanent site of the FTAA Secretariat should notify the FTAA Co-Chairs of their interest before November 20, 2003. Notifications of interest by candidate cities do not need to follow a particular format and may include any information deemed pertinent by the applicant. U.S. cities interested in being considered to host the permanent site of the Secretariat are encouraged to submit notifications at the earliest opportunity.

DATES: Notifications of interest should be received by the FTAA Co-Chairs (Brazil and the United States) before November 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: To the Co-Chairs Ambassador Peter F. Allgeier and Ambassador Adhemar G. Bahadian. Submission by electronic mail to both tnc-cnc@ustr.gov and cnc-tnc@mre.gov.br, submissions by facsimile to both (202) 395-9602 and 011-(5561) 411-6097. Copies also should be sent to the Co-Chairs Assistants: Ms. Karen Lezny by electronic mail to klezny@ustr.gov or by facsimile (202) 395-9602; and Mr. João Marcos Paes Leme by electronic mail to cnc-tnc@mre.gov.br or facsimile 011-(5561) 411-6097. Candidate cities are strongly encouraged to submit documents electronically rather than by facsimile.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning response to **Federal Register** notices, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative at (202) 395-3475. Questions concerning the FTAA negotiations should be addressed to the agency's Office of the Americas at (202) 395-5190, or the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison at (202) 395-6120. The FTAA TNC Guidance and Instructions from the San Salvador July 2003 meeting are available on the USTR Web site at <http://www.ustr.gov/regions/whemisphere/ftaa.shtml> and the official FTAA Web site (<http://www.ftaa-alca.org>). This official FTAA Web site also contains general information regarding the FTAA process, including official documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Background**

On December 11, 1994, the 34 democratically-elected leaders in the Western Hemisphere met in Miami, Florida for the first Summit of the Americas. The Heads of State and Government agreed to construct a Free Trade Area of the Americas, or FTAA, in which barriers to trade and investment will be progressively eliminated. They also agreed to complete negotiations towards this agreement by the year 2005. Since that time, the 34 countries have been involved in comprehensive negotiations. The FTAA is the cornerstone of President Bush's vision for trade in the Western Hemisphere—a plan that would foster economic growth and opportunity, promote regional integration and strengthen democracies. When established, the FTAA create the largest free trade area in the world with a \$13 trillion market and The FTAA countries have generally agreed that there will be a permanent Secretariat, but they have not yet defined either the functions of the Secretariat or its size.

2. Requirements for Submissions

Candidate cities interested in hosting the permanent site of the FTAA Secretariat should submit written notification to the addresses indicated above no later than November 20, 2003. In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges electronic (e-mail) submissions in response to this notice. Submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "Permanent FTAA Secretariat Site: Notification of Interest." Documents should be submitted as either

WordPerfect, MSWORD, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel files.

Notifications submitted in response to this request will be placed by the U.S. Co-Chair in a USTR file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5. All public documents shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance and may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet Web site (<http://www.ustr.gov>).

Christopher A. Padilla,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison.
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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment on the Market Access Implications for U.S. Trade in Services of the Accession to the European Union of Austria, Finland and Sweden

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee gives notice that the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) requests written submissions from the public concerning the market access implications for U.S. trade in services of the 1995 enlargement of the European Union to include Austria, Finland and Sweden. On July 10, 2003, the European Communities and its Member States (collectively, the EC) transmitted a "Notification Pursuant to Article V:5 of the GATS—Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the European Communities" (S/C/N/231), notifying the WTO Council for Trade in Services of their intention to modify or withdraw Specific Commitments. It stated that previous GATS schedules of specific commitments and lists of MFN exemptions will be replaced by new commitments as from April 30, 2004. The existing schedules and lists are accessible through the WTO's Services Database Web site, <http://tsdb.wto.org/>

wto/WTOWHomepublic.htm. From that site, click on "Pre-defined Reports" and then "All Sectors in Each Country."

On August 6, 2003, the United States indicated its claim of interest in the modification or withdrawal of specific commitments and requested negotiations with the EC pursuant to GATS Article XXI with a view to reaching an agreement on any necessary compensatory adjustment. The United States also requested that the EC clarify the legal and procedural basis for any modifications in the GATS Article II MFN exemptions of the EC or its Member States that may be included in the EC's consolidated list of GATS Article II MFN exemptions, reflecting changes in the EC's WTO obligations resulting from the 1995 enlargement. USTR and other agencies are currently engaged in an assessment of the potential impact on U.S. services trade of the 1995 enlargement of the EC and in particular of what compensation the EC may owe to the United States under WTO rules; comments from the public in response to this notice will be incorporated into that assessment.

DATE: Submissions must be received on or before noon, 30 days after publication.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by Electronic Mail: FR0091@ustr.gov. Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), Office of the USTR, at (202)395-6143.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202)395-3475. Substantive questions concerning this review should be addressed to Mark Mowrey, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Europe and the Mediterranean, telephone (202)395-3074.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background Information

A. The 1995 Enlargement

On January 1, 1995, the EC grew from 12 to 15 Member States, with the accession to the Union of Austria, Finland and Sweden effective that date. With respect to WTO rules related to trade in goods, the United States entered into compensation negotiations with the EC under General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Articles XXIV and XXVIII. Those negotiations took place in 1994 and 1995, yielding a bilateral agreement on compensation which

entered into force on July 22, 1996 (effective from December 30, 1995).

Despite repeated requests from the United States and other WTO members, the EC failed in the period subsequent to the 1995 enlargement to notify WTO Members of its proposed modification or withdrawal of commitments as the result of this enlargement as required under GATS Articles V:5 and XXI. However, on July 10, 2003 the EC provided its proposed consolidated GATS schedule for the EC 15 and formally notified its intent to modify or withdraw commitments as a result of its enlargement. Pursuant to GATS Article XXI, the EC is required to enter into negotiations with any WTO Members who believe they may be affected by the proposed modification or withdrawal of specific commitments with a view to reaching agreement on any necessary compensatory. On August 6, 2003 the United States notified the EC that it did desire such negotiations.

B. The EC Notification of 2003

On July 10, 2003, the EC transmitted a communication to the WTO Secretariat presenting its consolidated schedule for the EC 15 of specific commitments under the GATS, and its consolidated list for the EC 15 of GATS Article II MFN exemptions.

(1) Specific Commitments

The EC's Communication stated that pursuant to Article V:5 of the GATS and in accordance with the terms of GATS Article XXI:1(b), the EC was notifying the WTO's Council for Trade in Services of its intention to modify or withdraw a number of specific GATS commitments. The EC presented a summary list of these modified commitments, which is paraphrased below:

a. Horizontal Commitments

- Market access entry: the EC limitation with respect to public utilities services being subject to public monopolies or to the granting of exclusive rights to private operators is extended to Austria, Finland and Sweden.

- National treatment limitations on subsidies—mode 3: the limitations on subsidies on mode 3 inscribed in the EC's schedule now apply also to Austria, Finland and Sweden.

b. Sectoral commitments

- Rental/Leasing services without operators—relating to aircraft: the EC's limitations under mode 2 and mode 3 are extended to Austria.

- Services incidental to manufacturing: the commitment included in the schedule of Austria is withdrawn.