

1. Please identify overall changes you recommend to the PCT system.

2. Please explain why you use the PCT system, as opposed to direct foreign filing via the Paris Convention. What benefits are applicants seeking by the use of the PCT system, in addition to the longer time to decide where to enter the national stage?

3. The USPTO has been contracting out the international search of international applications that designate the USPTO as the International Searching Authority, so as to help the USPTO improve the timeliness of the international search. From the applicant's viewpoint, please identify the advantages and disadvantages from this contracting out of the international search.

4. In addition, please explain whether applicants have concerns with the USPTO's use of contractors for the international search of PCT applications.

5. Please explain whether you support including PCT search and examination results in worksharing mechanisms, such as the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH).

6. Where the international search report and written opinion of the International Searching Authority are at least partially negative, please explain whether you would expect to request international preliminary examination under Chapter II of the PCT more often in order to get PPH benefit at the national phase?

7. Please explain whether you believe the USPTO should encourage early national stage entry when designated as an ISA or IPEA, and implement a system that combines the international and national phase.

8. Please identify any changes you recommend to improve the quality of the work produced under the PCT system.

9. Please explain whether delaying the issuance of the International Search Report until after publication of the international application has any significant impact on your use of the PCT?

10. Please explain whether you believe that the PCT would benefit from a third-party observation system (including submission of prior art) and/or more efficient means for applicant-submitted prior art.

11. Please explain your primary reasons for choosing an ISA.

12. Please explain how the USPTO could improve its processing as a receiving Office.

13. Please explain how the USPTO could improve its processing as a designated/elected Office.

The USPTO plans to make the meeting available via Web cast. Web cast information will be available on the USPTO's Internet Web site before the roundtable. The written comments and list of the meeting participants and their associations will be posted on the USPTO's Internet Web site (<http://www.uspto.gov>).

Dated: December 2, 2009.

David J. Kappos,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. E9-29329 Filed 12-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 9 a.m.–12 noon.

PLACE: Hearing Room 420, Bethesda Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Commission Meeting—Open to the Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Pending Decisional Matter: (a) Tracking Labels for Drywall Notice of Inquiry.

2. Final Rule on Registration Cards.

A live webcast of the Meeting can be viewed at <http://www.cpsc.gov/webcast/index.html>.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-7948.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Todd A. Stevenson, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 504-7923.

Dated: December 2, 2009.

Todd A. Stevenson,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-29192 Filed 12-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 2:00–4 p.m.

PLACE: Hearing Room 420, Bethesda Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Closed to the Public.

MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED:

Compliance Weekly Report—Commission Briefing.

The staff will brief the Commission on various compliance matters.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-7948.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Todd A. Stevenson, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 504-7923.

Dated: December 2, 2009.

Todd A. Stevenson,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-29193 Filed 12-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Draft Principles and Standards Sections of the "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies"; Initiation of Revision and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-114) directs the Secretary of the Army to revise the "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies," (P&G) dated March 10, 1983, consistent with a number of considerations enumerated in the statute. The Administration has initiated the development of uniform planning standards for the development of water resources that would apply to water resources development programs and activities government-wide, to agencies in addition to the traditional water resources development agencies covered under the current Principles and Guidelines: the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation (Interior), Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA), and Tennessee Valley Authority. Therefore, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, has implemented a two phase interagency process revising the planning guidance. The first phase focused on facilitating interagency revisions to the "Principles and Standards" (Chapter I of the existing P&G) of Principles and Guidelines for planning water resources

projects. The second phase will address revisions to the Procedures (Chapters II through IV of the 1983 P&G)

Upon approval of the revised "Principles and Standards" and the future revision of the Procedures, the entire revision will apply to Federal water resources implementation studies including project reevaluations and modifications except those commenced prior to the issuance of the revised guidance. The purpose of this notice is to provide an opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to submit comments on the revised "Principles and Standards". Using these comments and those from the National Academy of Sciences, CEQ will lead an interagency effort to finalize the Principles and Standards and draft the Procedures sections of the Principles and Guidelines.

Draft Document for Review: The draft "Principles and Standards" for review can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/PandG/> or, upon request, will be provided by mail or e-mail.

DATES: CEQ is inviting written comments and they will be accepted through March 5, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted in writing to the Council on Environmental Quality, Attn: Terry Breyman, 722 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20503, via e-mail to P&G@ceq.eop.gov, FAX 202-456-6546, or submitted via the CEQ Web page at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/PandG/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Breyman, Deputy Associate Director for Natural Resources, at 202-456-9721.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council on Environmental Quality in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget is seeking comments on the revised draft of the "Principles and Standards" (Chapter I of the 1983 P&G) which is the first phase. Revision of Chapters II through IV of the Procedures will be initiated at a later date. Written comments should be submitted to Terry Breyman, 722 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20503 or via e-mail to P&G@ceq.eop.gov or FAX 202-456-6546. Comments may also be submitted directly to the Council of Environmental Quality Web page at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/PandG/>. To help understand the changes, the following background documents will be made available by mail or e-mail or they may be accessed

at the Internet addresses indicated: "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies dated March 10, 1983 (http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PlanningCOP/Documents/library/Principles_Guidelines.pdf) Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-114) at http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PlanningCOP/Documents/library/hr1495_pl110-114.pdf.

Dated: December 3, 2009.

Nancy H. Sutley,

Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality.

[FR Doc. E9-29270 Filed 12-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3125-W0-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 8, 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the

information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 3, 2009.

James Hyler,

Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS:11) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS:11).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 2,130.

Burden Hours: 5,858.

Abstract: NCES seeks OMB approval to recruit schools for the full-scale administration of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2011 and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2011, both coordinated by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). TIMSS is administered every four years in more than 60 countries and provides data for internationally benchmarking U.S. performance in mathematics and science at the fourth- and eighth-grade levels against other countries around the world. PIRLS is administered every five years in more than 50 countries and provides assessment data for internationally benchmarking U.S. performance in fourth-grade reading. NCES has received OMB approval for the international field test for the two studies, March 1–April 15, 2010. The full-scale data collection will be in April–May 2011. NCES will seek approval for the full-scale instruments in the fall of 2010.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be