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AGENDA:

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Kronk Warner, Chair
Preparatory Discussion for Public
Hearing on Voting Rights in Kansas
Kansas Advisory Committee
Open Comment
Public Participation
Adjournment

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. CST.

PUBLIC CALL INFORMATION:

Dial: 888-427-9376
Conference ID: 1744905

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Wojnarowski, DFO, at 312-353-8311 or mwojnarowski@usccr.gov

Dated: October 29, 2015.

David Mussatt,

Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2015-27991 Filed 11-2-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Business R&D and Innovation Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0607-0912.

Form Number(s): BRDI-1, BRDI-1(S).

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Number of Respondents: BRDI-1 = 7,000; BRDI-1(S) = 38,000.

Average Hours per Response: BRDI-1 = 15 hours; BRDI-1(S) = 38 minutes.

Burden Hours: 126,500.

Needs and Uses: The Census Bureau is requesting clearance to conduct the Business R&D and Innovation Survey

(BRDIS) for the 2015–2017 survey years with the revisions outlined in this document. Companies are the major performers of research and development (R&D) in the United States, accounting for over 70 percent of total U.S. R&D outlays each year. A consistent business R&D information base is essential to government officials formulating public policy, industry personnel involved in corporate planning, and members of the academic community conducting research. To develop policies designed to promote and enhance science and technology, past trends and the present status of R&D must be known and analyzed. Without comprehensive business R&D statistics, it would be impossible to evaluate the health of science and technology in the United States or to make comparisons between the technological progress of our country and that of other nations.

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950 as amended authorizes and directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) “. . . to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal government.” One of the methods used by NSF to fulfill this mandate is The Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS)—the primary federal source of information on R&D in the business sector. NSF together with the Census Bureau, the collecting and compiling agent, analyze the data and publish the resulting statistics.

NSF has published annual R&D statistics collected from the Survey of Industrial Research and Development (1953–2007) and BRDIS (2008–2014) for 61 years. The results of the surveys are used to assess trends in R&D expenditures by industry sector, investigate productivity determinants, formulate science and tax policy, and compare individual company performance with industry averages. This survey is the Nation's primary source for international comparative statistics on business R&D spending.

BRDIS will continue to collect the following types of information:

- R&D expense based on accounting standards.
- Worldwide R&D of domestic companies.
- Business segment detail.
- R&D related capital expenditures.
- Detailed data about the R&D workforce.
- R&D strategy and data on the potential impact of R&D on the market.

- R&D directed to application areas of particular national interest.
- Data measuring innovation and intellectual property protection activities.

The following changes will be made to the 2015–2017 BRDIS compared to the 2014 BRDIS:

- Section 3: Adding question on domestic R&D performed by others and paid for by the Federal Government.
- Section 4: Deleting four questions on R&D with technology focus of photonics/optics.
- Section 4: Adding four questions on the Research/Development split for foreign R&D.

Information from BRDIS will continue to support the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 as well as other R&D-related initiatives introduced during the clearance period. Other initiatives that have used BRDIS statistics include: The Innovation Measurement—Tracking the State of Innovation in the American Economy (U.S. Department of Commerce); Science of Science and Innovation Policy (NSF); and Rising Above the Gathering Storm (National Research Council).

Policy officials from many Federal agencies rely on these statistics for essential information. Businesses and trade organizations rely on BRDIS data to benchmark their industry's performance against others. For example, total U.S. R&D expenditures statistics have been used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to update the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs) and, in fact, the BEA recently has recognized and incorporated R&D as fixed investment in the NIPA. Accurate R&D data are needed to continue the development and effect subsequent updates to this detailed satellite account. Also, NSF, BEA and the Census Bureau periodically update a data linking project that utilizes BRDIS data to augment global R&D investment information that is obtained from BEA's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (USDIA) surveys. Further, the Census Bureau links data collected by BRDIS with other statistical files. At the Census Bureau, historical company-level R&D data are linked to a file that contains information on the outputs and inputs of companies' manufacturing plants. Researchers are able to analyze the relationships between R&D funding and other economic variables by using micro-level data.

Individuals and organizations access the survey statistics via the Internet in annual InfoBriefs published by NSF's

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) that announce the availability of statistics from each cycle of BRDIS and detailed statistical table reports that contain all of the statistics NSF produces from BRDIS. Information about the kinds of projects that rely on statistics from BRDIS is available from internal records of NSF's NCSES. In addition, survey statistics are regularly cited in trade publications and many researchers use the survey statistics from these secondary sources without directly contacting NSF or the Census Bureau.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 8(b), 131, and 182, and Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1861–76 (National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended).

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202)395–5806.

Dated: October 29, 2015.

Glenna Mickelson,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015–27962 Filed 11–2–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S–119–2015]

Approval of Subzone Status Swisscosmet Corporation New Port Richey, Florida

On August 12, 2015, the Executive Secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board docketed an application submitted by the City of Tampa, grantee of FTZ 79, requesting subzone status subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 79, on behalf of Swisscosmet Corporation in New Port Richey, Florida.

The application was processed in accordance with the FTZ Act and Regulations, including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public

comment (80 FR 49985–49986, 8/18/2015). The FTZ staff examiner reviewed the application and determined that it meets the criteria for approval.

Pursuant to the authority delegated to the FTZ Board's Executive Secretary (15 CFR Sec. 400.36(f)), the application to establish Subzone 79D is approved, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.13, and further subject to FTZ 79's 2,000-acre activation limit.

Dated: October 28, 2015.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–28030 Filed 11–2–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–69–2015]

Notification of Proposed Production Activity; Zale Delaware, Inc.; Subzone 39F; (Assembly of Jewelry) Irving, Texas

Zale Delaware, Inc. (Zale), operator of Subzone 39F, submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ Board for its facility in Irving, Texas. The notification conforming to the requirements of the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR 400.22) was received on October 26, 2015.

The Zale facility is used for the distribution and assembly of jewelry and accessories. Pursuant to 15 CFR 400.14(b), FTZ activity would be limited to the specific foreign-status materials and components and specific finished products described in the submitted notification (as described below) and subsequently authorized by the FTZ Board.

Production under FTZ procedures could exempt Zale from customs duty payments on the foreign status components used in export production. On its domestic sales, Zale would be able to choose the duty rate during customs entry procedures that applies to finished diamond rings, diamond ear rings, necklaces and pendants (duty rate 5.5%) for the foreign status inputs noted below. Customs duties also could possibly be deferred or reduced on foreign status production equipment.

The components and materials sourced from abroad include: Cut diamonds, ring mounts, ear ring mounts, necklaces (rope and mixed

link) and pendant mounts (duty rate ranges from duty-free to 5.8%).

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is December 14, 2015.

A copy of the notification will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 21013, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230–0002, and in the “Reading Room” section of the FTZ Board's Web site, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz.

For further information, contact Kathleen Boyce at Kathleen.Boyce@trade.gov or (202) 482–1346.

Dated: October 28, 2015.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–28029 Filed 11–2–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Advance Notification of Sunset Reviews

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Commerce.

Background

Every five years, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Act”), the Department of Commerce (“the Department”) and the International Trade Commission automatically initiate and conduct a review to determine whether revocation of a countervailing or antidumping duty order or termination of an investigation suspended under section 704 or 734 of the Act would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping or a countervailable subsidy (as the case may be) and of material injury.

Upcoming Sunset Reviews for December 2015

The following Sunset Reviews are scheduled for initiation in December 2015 and will appear in that month's Notice of Initiation of Five-Year Sunset Review (“Sunset Review”).