

Operator Qualification regulation of DOT.

- Maintain a SCADA link via satellite to the Valero control center in San Antonio.

- Establish block valve spacing of less than 7.5 miles through industrial, commercial, or residential areas, as recommended under ASME/ANSI B31.4 standards for transport of LPG.

#### **V. Conclusion: Analysis of the Environmental Assessment Submitted by the Sponsor**

On the basis of the Final Environmental Assessment, the Department's independent review of that assessment, information developed during the review of the application and Environmental Assessment, comments received by the Department from Federal and state agencies and the public, and measures that Valero has or is prepared to undertake to mitigate prevent potentially adverse environmental impacts, the Department has concluded that issuance of a Presidential Permit authorizing construction of the proposed Dos Laredos Pipeline would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the United States. Accordingly, a Finding of No Significant Impact is adopted and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The Final Environmental Assessment addressing this action is on file and may be reviewed by interested parties at the Department of State, 2200 C Street NW., Room 3535, Washington, DC 20520 (Attn: Mr. Pedro Erviti, Tel. 202-647-1291).

Dated: December 19, 2003.

**Stephen J. Gallogly,**

*Director, Office of Energy and Commodity Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 03-32051 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

#### **TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**

##### **Meeting of the Regional Resource Stewardship Council**

**AGENCY:** Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** TVA will convene a meeting of the Regional Resource Stewardship Council (Regional Council) to obtain views and advice on the topic of public involvement practices. Under the TVA Act, TVA is charged with the proper use and conservation of natural resources for the purpose of fostering the orderly

and proper physical, economic and social development of the Tennessee Valley region. The Regional Council was established to advise TVA on its natural resource stewardship activities. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, (FACA).

The meeting agenda includes the following:

(1) Discussion of TVA public involvement practices.

(2) Discussion of order public involvement practices.

(3) Public comments on the topic of TVA's public involvement practices.

(4) Regional Council discussion on the topic of TVA's public involvement practices.

(5) Close out of open Council business (advice on TVA's role in recreation from September 2003 meeting).

(6) Regional Council discussion on the future of the Council.

The Regional Council will hear opinions and views of citizens of providing a public comment session. The public comment session will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. EST on Wednesday, January 21, 2004. Citizens who wish to express views and opinions on the topic of TVA's public participation practices may do so during the Public Comment portion of the agenda. Public comments participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Speakers addressing the Regional Council are requested to limit their remarks to no more than 5 minutes. Persons wishing to speak are requested to register at the door and are then called on by the Regional Council Chair during the public comment period. Handout materials should be limited to one printed page. Written comments are also invited and may be mailed to the Regional Resource Stewardship Council, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11A, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, January 22, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the auditorium at the Tennessee Valley Authority headquarters, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, and will be open to the public. Anyone needing special access or accommodations should let the contact below know at least a week in advance.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandra L. Hill, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11A, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, (865) 632-2333.

Dated: December 19, 2003.

**Kathryn J. Jackson,**

*Executive Vice President, River System Operations & Environment, Tennessee Valley Authority.*

[FR Doc. 03-31977 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8120-08-M

#### **OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

##### **Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA), as Amended: Notice Regarding the 2003 Annual Review**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) received petitions in September 2003 to review certain practices in certain beneficiary developing countries to determine whether such countries are in compliance with the ATPA eligibility criteria. This notice specifies the date of announcement of the results of the preliminary review of those petitions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bennett M. Harman, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Latin America, Office of the Americas, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-9446, and the facsimile is (202) 395-9675.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ATPA (19 U.S.C. 3201 *et seq.*), as renewed and amended by the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act of 2002 (ATPDEA) in the Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-210), provides trade benefits for eligible Andean countries. Pursuant to section 3103(d) of the ATPDEA, USTR promulgated regulations (15 CFR part 2016) (68 FR 43922) regarding the review of eligibility of countries for the benefits of the ATPA, as amended.

In a **Federal Register** notice dated August 14, 2003, USTR initiated the 2003 ATPA Annual Review and announced a deadline of September 15, 2003 for the filing of petitions (68 FR 48657). Several of these petitions requested the review of certain practices in certain beneficiary developing countries regarding compliance with the eligibility criteria set forth in sections 203(c) and (d) and section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3203(c) and (d); 19 U.S.C. 3203(b)(6)(B)).

In a **Federal Register** notice dated November 13, 2003, USTR published a list of the responsive petitions filed pursuant to the announcement of the

annual review. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is conducting a preliminary review of these petitions. 15 CFR 2016.2(b) provides for announcement of the results of the preliminary review on or about December 1. 15 CFR 2016.2 also provides for modification of the schedule if specified by **Federal Register** notice. This notice specifies that the results of the preliminary review will be announced March 31, 2004. The results of the preliminary review will be published in the **Federal Register** on or about that date.

**Bennett M. Harman,**

*Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative for Latin America.*

[FR Doc. 03-31927 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-P

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Trade Policy Staff Committee; Notice of Availability and Request for Public Comment on Interim Environmental Review of United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), on behalf of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), seeks comment on the interim environmental review of the proposed U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The interim environmental review is available at <http://www.ustr.gov/environment/environmental.shtml>. Copies of the review will also be sent to interested members of the public by mail upon request.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft environmental review are requested by January 16, 2004 to inform negotiations. Comments received after January 16, 2004 will be taken into account in the preparation of the review of the final agreement.

**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. Questions concerning the environmental review, or requests for copies, should be addressed to David Brooks, Environment and Natural Resources Section, Office of the USTR, telephone (202) 395-7320.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Trade Act of 2002, signed by the President on August 6, 2002, provides that the President shall conduct environmental reviews of [certain] trade agreements consistent with Executive Order 13121—*Environmental Review of Trade Agreements* (64 FR 63,169, Nov. 18, 1999) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79,442, Dec. 19, 2000) and report on such reviews to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate. The Order and guidelines are available at <http://www.ustr.gov/environment/environmental.shtml>.

The purpose of environmental reviews is to ensure that policymakers and the public are informed about reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of trade agreements (both positive and negative), to identify complementarities between trade and environmental objectives, and to help shape appropriate responses if environmental impacts are identified. Reviews are intended to be one tool, among others, for integrating environmental information and analysis into the fluid, dynamic process of trade negotiations. USTR and the Council on Environmental Quality jointly oversee implementation of the Order and Guidelines. USTR, through the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), is responsible for conducting the individual reviews.

### Written Comments

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions of comments, the Office of the United States Trade Representative strongly urges and prefers e-mail submissions in response to this notice. Persons submitting comments by e-mail should use the following e-mail address:

[FR0407@ustr.gov](mailto:FR0407@ustr.gov) with the subject line:

“Australia Interim Environmental Review.” Documents should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. To the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. If submission by e-mail is impossible, comments should be made by facsimile to (202) 395-6143, attention: Gloria Blue.

Written comments will be placed in a file open to public inspection in the USTR Reading Room at 1724 F Street, NW., Washington DC. An appointment

to review the file may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. The Reading Room is open to the public from 10–12 a.m. and from 1–4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet Web site (<http://www.ustr.gov>).

**Carmen Suro-Bredie,**

*Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

[FR Doc. 03-32076 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Fiscal Service

### Renegotiation Board Interest Rate, Prompt Payment Interest Rate, Contract Disputes Act

**AGENCY:** Bureau of the Public Debt, Fiscal Service, Treasury

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** For the period beginning January 1, 2004 and ending on June 30, 2004, the prompt payment interest rate is 4.000 per centum per annum.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments or inquiries may be mailed to Crystal Hanna, Team Leader, Borrowings Accounting Team, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328. A copy of this Notice will be available to download from <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov>.

**DATES:** This notice announces the applicable interest rate for the January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004 period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephanie Brown, Manager, Division of Accounting Operations, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328, (304) 480-5181; Crystal Hanna, Team Leader, Borrowings Accounting Team, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-5139, Edward C. Gronseth, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (304) 480-8692; or Geraldine J. Porco-Hubenko, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (202) 691-3708.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Although the Renegotiation Board is no longer in existence, other Federal agencies are required to use interest rates computed under the criteria established by the Renegotiation Act of 1971 Sec. 2, Public Law 92-41, 85 Stat. 97. For example, the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 Sec. 12,