

he or she meets the minimum required degree of Indian or Alaska Native blood. Currently, the BIA certifies an individual's degree of Indian or Alaska Native blood if the individual can provide sufficient information to prove his or her identity and prove his or her descent from an Indian ancestor(s) listed on historic documents approved by the Secretary of the Interior that include blood degree information. To obtain the CDIB, the applicant must fill out an application form and provide supporting documents.

Title of Collection: Request for Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood.

OMB Control Number: 1076–0153.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 100,000 per year, on average.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 100,000 per year, on average.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: 1.5 hours.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 150,000.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain a Benefit.

Frequency of Collection: Once.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: \$2,500,000.

Authority

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Steven Mullen,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative
Action—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2024–24581 Filed 10–23–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4337–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

[BLM_HQ_FRN_MO4500180157]

National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures for the Bureau of Land Management (516 DM 11)

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of revisions.

SUMMARY: This notice announces revisions to the Bureau of Land

Management's (BLM) procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, which remove four administratively established categorical exclusions (CXs) and incorporate two CXs statutorily created by Congress.

DATES: The revisions are incorporated into BLM's NEPA procedures, located at chapter 11 of part 516 of the Departmental Manual (516 DM 11), effective October 24, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The BLM's NEPA procedures can be found on the Department of the Interior's (Department or Interior) Electronic Library of Interior Policies (ELIPS) at: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/516-dm-11_0.pdf.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heather Bernier, Division Chief, Decision Support, Planning, and NEPA, at (303) 239–3635, or hbernier@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Heather Bernier. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is revising the list of BLM actions that are categorically excluded from the requirement to complete an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), unless any extraordinary circumstances exist that make application of the categorical exclusion (CX) inappropriate (42 U.S.C. 4336e(1); 40 CFR 1501.4(a); 1508.1(e)).¹ The BLM's NEPA procedures, 516 DM 11, were last updated December 10, 2020.

With this revision, the Department removes four administrative CXs from the BLM's NEPA procedures due to consideration of sound land management, legal frameworks, and other factors. The BLM is removing the following CXs: 516 DM 11.9 C(10) regarding the salvaging of dead and dying trees; 516 DM 11.9 D(10)

regarding vegetation management activities; 516 DM 11.9 D(11) regarding issuance of livestock grazing permits or leases; and 516 DM 11.9 J(1) regarding certain activities within sagebrush and sagebrush-steppe plant communities to manage pinyon pine and juniper trees for the benefit of mule deer or sage-grouse habitats. The BLM previously discontinued use of these four CXs through instruction memoranda (IMs) (available online at <https://www.blm.gov/policy/instruction-memorandum>). The BLM discontinued use of 516 DM 11.9 D(10) and 516 DM 11.9 D(11) on August 21, 2009, through IM 2009–199; discontinued use of 516 DM 11.9 C(10) on August 3, 2022, through permanent IM (PIM) 2022–010; and discontinued use of 516 DM 11.9 J(1) on November 30, 2022, through PIM 2023–002. When proposing actions to which these CXs would have applied, the BLM now must assess whether another CX applies or whether it will prepare an EA or EIS.

The Department also is incorporating two CXs statutorily created by Congress in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58) (IIJA) into the BLM NEPA procedures. Section 11318 of the IIJA created a CX for issuance of sundry notices or rights-of-way for gathering lines and associated field compression or pumping units on Federal land servicing oil and gas wells under certain conditions described in the statute. Section 40806 of the IIJA created a CX for forest management activities for the establishment of fuel breaks in forests and other wildland vegetation. Because these are statutory CXs, the Department does not have the discretion to change their terms. However, before applying either of the CXs, the BLM will evaluate the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances consistent with Section 40806 of the IIJA and 40 CFR 1501.4(b).

Comments on the Proposed Revisions

The proposed revisions to the BLM's NEPA procedures were available for public review and comment for 30 days, beginning with the publication of a **Federal Register** notice on February 26, 2024 (89 FR 14087). The BLM received 33 comment submissions. Comments were submitted by State and local governments, interest groups, and private citizens. The BLM received comments both in support of and opposition to the proposed revisions. Some comments were beyond the scope of the proposal to modify the BLM's NEPA procedures to add and remove CXs and included critiques of the BLM's NEPA analysis and management of livestock grazing as well as requests to

¹ On May 1, 2024, CEQ issued a final rule to amend its NEPA implementing regulations, which became effective July 1, 2024. 89 FR 35442 (May 1, 2024). The Department's February 26, 2024, **Federal Register** Notice seeking public comment on these revisions predated the CEQ final rule and thus cited to the CEQ regulations in effect at the time. 89 FR 14087 (Feb. 26, 2024). The Department has determined that the amendments to the CEQ regulations do not have a material impact on these revisions, which comply with the requirements of CEQ's regulations both before and after the recent amendments.

coordinate on land use planning decisions.

On behalf of the Department, the BLM has summarized and provided responses to all substantive comments received in this **Federal Register** notice:

Comment: Commenters generally support the removal of the identified CXs from the BLM's NEPA procedures. Many commenters cited the need for meaningful NEPA analysis and concerns about improper reliance on CXs as support for removing the CXs. For example, some commenters supported removing the grazing CXs from the BLM's NEPA procedures to require more detailed NEPA analysis and public comment on grazing decisions. Other commenters cited specific resource impacts they foresee resulting from the activities proposed under the CXs, such as potential adverse impacts related to post-disturbance logging that might be exacerbated by salvaging of dead and dying trees.

Response: The BLM will continue to conduct the appropriate NEPA review for proposed Federal actions, including, where appropriate, application of available CXs, and public involvement, as necessary. The BLM will appropriately consider potential adverse effects of the proposed activities through the NEPA process whether that is through an EA or EIS or consideration of extraordinary circumstances in the application of relevant CXs.

The Department retains the discretion to consider establishing new CXs in the future, including ones that would cover activities similar to the ones covered by the CXs that the Department is removing through this notice. As required by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the Department would seek public comment and consult with CEQ on any proposed revisions to the BLM's NEPA procedures, including establishment of any new CXs. *See* 40 CFR 1507.3(b).

Comment: Some commenters generally oppose the removal of the identified CXs due to the loss of efficiencies in the NEPA process and the possibility of extended permitting timelines. Commenters claim that removal of these CXs will cause an increase in the cost associated with implementing activities covered by the CX and has the potential to prevent the BLM from managing public lands consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA).

Response: The BLM agrees that the appropriate application of CXs can create efficiencies in NEPA compliance. Removal of the identified CXs does not preclude the BLM from proposing and

implementing the kinds of activities that would have been covered by these CXs; however, the BLM would need to comply with NEPA in ways other than relying on these CXs. The BLM disagrees that removing these CXs will prevent the BLM from complying with FLPMA. The Department retains the discretion to consider establishing new CXs in the future, including ones that would cover activities similar to the ones covered by the CXs that the Department is removing through this notice.

Comment: Commenters are concerned that the discontinuance of the four CXs proposed for removal from the BLM's NEPA procedures was completed through internal guidance (instruction memoranda) and did not include any form of public comment. Commenters also request more information on the BLM's rationale for the removal of the CXs.

Response: An IM allows the BLM to communicate internal policies and procedures to the field. In contrast, the process now completed by the Department modifies the BLM's NEPA procedures, and has included coordination with CEQ, publication of proposed changes in the **Federal Register**, and an opportunity for the public to review and comment on those proposed changes. Removal of these CXs from the BLM NEPA procedures does not preclude the BLM from proposing or implementing the kinds of activities that would have been covered by these CXs; however, the BLM would need to comply with NEPA in ways other than relying on these CXs.

Comment: One commenter requested that the proposed action of modifying the NEPA procedures be consistent with relevant State and county resource management plans.

Response: The Department is not making a land use planning decision under section 202 of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1712, which would require it to consider consistency with State and local government plans. Instead, the Department is modifying NEPA procedures, and has complied with CEQ's NEPA regulations at 40 CFR 1507.3(b) requiring consultation with CEQ and following an opportunity for public review and comment.

Comment: One commenter expressed concern that the removal of these CXs might discourage the BLM from approving certain actions that States or counties seek to encourage, including in their resource management plans and other policies.

Response: The removal of these CXs from the BLM's NEPA procedures does not preclude the BLM from proposing

and implementing any actions, though when doing so, the BLM will need to comply with NEPA through means other than reliance on these CXs.

Comment: One commenter asserted that the BLM is setting precedent by basing the rationale for this decision on a settlement agreement that occurred in the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho.

Response: While the BLM agreed in several stipulated settlement agreements to discontinue relying on specific CXs and to propose to remove specific CXs from the agency's NEPA procedures, these stipulated settlement agreements do not require the Department to update BLM's NEPA procedures. Instead, having considered the requirements of sound land management, legal frameworks, and other factors—and after considering public comments—the Department is now revising BLM's NEPA procedures to remove the CXs.

Comment: Commenters suggested revisions to the text of the CX established by the IJJA section 11318 regarding sundry notices or right-of-way for gathering lines and associated field compression or pumping units on Federal land servicing oil and gas wells.

Response: This is a statutorily created CX; therefore, neither the Department nor the BLM has the discretion to change its terms.

Comment: Some commenters confused the administratively established CX at 516 DM 11.9 D(10), which BLM is removing through this notice, with the CX established by the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 113–291 (Dec. 19, 2014) for grazing permit and lease issuance in certain circumstances, which is found at 516 DM 11.10 B and were concerned that the Department proposed to remove this legislative CX from the BLM's NEPA procedures. One commenter requested a technical edit in 516 DM 11.9 D to refer to the legislative CX for grazing permit renewal to help guide the public.

Response: The legislative CX established by the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 113–291 (Dec. 19, 2014) is unchanged and remains available for the BLM to rely on as appropriate. Reference to that legislative CX remains in the DM and is not affected by the revisions to the BLM's NEPA procedures as outlined in this **Federal Register** notice. The BLM declines to make the suggested edit as it is inconsistent with the format of the DM.

Comment: Some commenters disagreed with removal of the CX at 516 DM 11.9 D(10) regarding issuance of livestock grazing permits or leases

because the commenters want to retain the ability to renew permits with the same terms and conditions and they assert that removal of the CX would impede the ability of ranchers to effectively manage rangelands.

Response: The BLM has several potential options to consider when conducting a NEPA review for livestock grazing permit renewals notwithstanding the removal of the two CXs from the BLM's NEPA procedures. These options include reliance on a legislative CX for grazing permit and lease issuance in certain circumstances that was established by the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 113–291 (Dec. 19, 2014), if appropriate. This legislative CX is unchanged and remains available for the BLM to rely on to support grazing decisions, when appropriate. Reference to that legislative CX remains in the BLM's NEPA procedures and is not affected by the revisions as outlined in this **Federal Register** notice. The removal of 516 DM 11.9 D(10) from the BLM's NEPA procedures does not preclude the BLM from proposing and implementing these kinds of activities; however, the BLM will need to comply with NEPA using a means other than reliance on this CX.

Comment: Commenters disagreed with the proposal to remove the CX at 516 DM 11.9 J(1) regarding certain activities within sagebrush and sagebrush-steppe plant communities to manage pinyon pine and juniper trees for the benefit of mule deer or sage-grouse habitats. Commenters expressed concern that removal of the CX will hinder efforts to manage land health and reduce wildfire risks in sagebrush-steppe communities.

Response: The BLM does agree that the activities included in the CX at 516 DM 11.9 J(1) can be useful in addressing issues related to the management of mule deer and sage grouse habitats. The removal of 516 DM 11.9 J(1) from the BLM's NEPA procedures does not preclude the BLM from proposing and implementing these kinds of activities; however, the BLM will need to comply with NEPA using a means other than reliance on this CX. For instance, some activities that may have been proposed for approval in reliance on this CX may fall within the scope of the legislative CX directed by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. This legislatively directed CX covers similar vegetation management activities carried out for the protection, restoration or improvement of greater sage-grouse or mule deer habitat.

Comment: Commenters asserted a connection between ongoing NEPA

analysis for management of greater sage-grouse habitat and the removal or retention of the vegetation management CXs and would like the decision on the CXs to be reserved until after the planning effort for greater sage-grouse is complete.

Response: The BLM notes that some of the CXs removed could have supported projects with the potential to address issues related to greater sage-grouse habitat management; however, removal of CXs from the BLM's NEPA procedures has no bearing on the land use planning processes associated with greater sage-grouse habitat management. The NEPA analysis for the planning effort does not make any assumptions about the level of NEPA review needed to support future activities that would implement the land use plans, and removal of these CXs will not impact the effectiveness of the plan decisions.

Comment: Commenters disagree with the proposed removal of the CX at 516 DM 11.9 C (10) regarding the salvaging of dead and dying trees. Commenters requested that the CX be retained to allow efficient removal of dead and dying trees to mitigate wildfire risk and address forest health.

Response: BLM agrees that the kinds of activities included in the CX at 516 DM 11.9 C(10) can be useful to address wildfire risk and forest health issues. The removal of 516 DM 11.9 C(10) from the BLM's NEPA procedures does not preclude the BLM from proposing and implementing these kinds of activities; however, the BLM will need to comply with NEPA using a means other than reliance on this CX.

Amended Text for the Departmental Manual

Below is the new text of 516 DM Chapter 11, reflecting the addition of the statutorily established CXs and deletion of the administrative CXs:

* * * * *

11.9 Actions Eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CX)

* * * * *

C. Forestry

* * * * *

(10) [Removed]

D. Rangeland Management

* * * * *

(10) [Removed]

(11) [Removed]

* * * * *

J. [Reserved]

* * * * *

11.10 Categorical Exclusions Established or Directed by Statute

* * * * *

D. Section 11318 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58) established a CX as defined in 40 CFR 1508.1 for issuance of sundry notices or rights-of-way for gathering lines and associated field compression or pumping units on Federal land servicing oil and gas wells under the conditions described below. Application of this CX requires extraordinary circumstances review consistent with 40 CFR 1501.4(b) and 43 CFR 46.215.

Section 11318. CERTAIN GATHERING LINES LOCATED ON FEDERAL LAND AND INDIAN LAND of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides:

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Federal land.—

(A) In general.—The term “Federal land” means land the title to which is held by the United States.

(B) Exclusions.—The term “Federal land” does not include—

(i) a unit of the National Park System;

(ii) a unit of the National Wildlife

Refuge System;

(iii) a component of the National

Wilderness Preservation System;

(iv) a wilderness study area within the National Forest System; or

(v) Indian land

(2) Gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit.—

(A) In general.—The term “gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit” means—

(i) a pipeline that is installed to transport oil, natural gas and related constituents, or produced water from 1 or more wells drilled and completed to produce oil or gas; and

(ii) if necessary, 1 or more compressors or pumps to raise the pressure of the transported oil, natural gas and related constituents, or produced water to higher pressures necessary to enable the oil, natural gas and related constituents, or produced water to flow into pipelines and other facilities.

(B) Inclusions.—The term “gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit” includes a pipeline or associated compression or pumping unit that is installed to transport oil or natural gas from a processing plant to a common carrier pipeline or facility.

(C) Exclusions.—The term “gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit” does not include a common carrier pipeline.

(3) Indian land.—The term “Indian land” means land the title to which is held by—

(A) the United States in trust for an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian; or
(B) an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation.

(4) Produced water.—The term “produced water” means water produced from an oil or gas well bore that is not a fluid prepared at, or transported to, the well site to resolve a specific oil or gas well bore or reservoir condition.

(5) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) Certain Gathering Lines.—

(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), the issuance of a sundry notice or right-of-way for a gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit that is located on Federal land or Indian land and that services any oil or gas well may be considered by the Secretary to be an action that is categorically excluded (as defined in section 1508.1 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)) for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) if the gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit—

(A) are within a field or unit for which an approved land use plan or an environmental document prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) analyzed transportation of oil, natural gas, or produced water from 1 or more oil or gas wells in the field or unit as a reasonably foreseeable activity;

(B) are located adjacent to or within—
(i) any existing disturbed area; or
(ii) an existing corridor for a right-of-way; and

(C) would reduce—

(i) in the case of a gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit transporting methane, the total quantity of methane that would otherwise be vented, flared, or unintentionally emitted from the field or unit; or

(ii) in the case of a gathering line and associated field compression or pumping unit not transporting methane, the vehicular traffic that would otherwise service the field or unit.

(2) Applicability.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to Indian land, or a portion of Indian land—

(A) to which the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) applies; and

(B) for which the Indian Tribe with jurisdiction over the Indian land submits to the Secretary a written request that paragraph (1) apply to that Indian land (or portion of Indian land).

(c) Effect on Other Law.—Nothing in this section—

(1) affects or alters any requirement—

(A) relating to prior consent under—
(i) section 2 of the Act of February 5, 1948 (62 Stat.18, chapter 45; 25 U.S.C. 324); or

(ii) section 16(e) of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 987, chapter 576; 102 Stat. 2939; 114 Stat. 47; 25 U.S.C. 5123(e)) (commonly known as the

“Indian Reorganization Act”);

(B) under section 306108 of title 54, United States Code; or

(C) under any other Federal law (including regulations) relating to Tribal consent for rights-of-way across Indian land; or

(2) makes the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) applicable to land to which that Act otherwise would not apply.

E. Section 40806 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58) excludes forest management activities for the establishment of fuel breaks in forests and other wildland vegetation from preparation of an EA or EIS under NEPA, as described below. Application of this CX requires extraordinary circumstances review consistent with 40 CFR 1501.4(b), 36 CFR 220.6, and 43 CFR 46.215.

Section 40806. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER WILDLAND VEGETATION of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides:

(a) Definition of Secretary Concerned.—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” means—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)) administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) Categorical Exclusion Established.—Forest management activities described in subsection (c) are a category of actions designated as being categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) if the categorical exclusion is documented through a supporting record and decision memorandum.

(c) Forest Management Activities Designated for Categorical Exclusion.—

(1) In general.—The category of forest management activities designated under subsection (b) for a categorical exclusion are forest management activities described in paragraph (2) that are carried out by the Secretary concerned

on public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)) administered by the Bureau of Land Management or National Forest System land the primary purpose of which is to establish and maintain linear fuel breaks that are—

(A) up to 1,000 feet in width contiguous with or incorporating existing linear features, such as roads, water infrastructure, transmission and distribution lines, and pipelines of any length on Federal land; and

(B) intended to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire on Federal land or catastrophic wildfire for an adjacent at-risk community.

(2) Activities.—Subject to paragraph (3), the forest management activities that may be carried out pursuant to the categorical exclusion established under subsection (b) are—

(A) mowing or masticating;

(B) thinning by manual and mechanical cutting;

(C) piling, yarding, and removal of slash or hazardous fuels;

(D) selling of vegetation products, including timber, firewood, biomass, slash, and fenceposts;

(E) targeted grazing;

(F) application of—

(i) pesticide;

(ii) biopesticide; or

(iii) herbicide;

(G) seeding of native species;

(H) controlled burns and broadcast burning; and

(I) burning of piles, including jackpot piles.

(3) Excluded activities.—A forest management activity described in paragraph (2) may not be carried out pursuant to the categorical exclusion established under subsection (b) if the activity is conducted—

(A) in a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(B) on Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted by Act of Congress, Presidential proclamation (including the applicable implementation plan), or regulation;

(C) in a wilderness study area; or

(D) in an area in which carrying out the activity would be inconsistent with the applicable land management plan or resource management plan.

(4) Extraordinary circumstances.—The Secretary concerned shall apply the extraordinary circumstances procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), in determining whether to use a categorical exclusion under subsection (b).

(d) Acreage and Location

Limitations.—Treatments of vegetation

in linear fuel breaks covered by the categorical exclusion established under subsection (b)—

(1) may not contain treatment units in excess of 3,000 acres;

(2) shall be located primarily in—

(A) the wildland-urban interface or a public drinking water source area;

(B) if located outside the wildland-urban interface or a public drinking water source area, an area within Condition Class 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Group I, II, or III that contains very high wildfire hazard potential; or

(C) an insect or disease area designated by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(3) shall consider the best available scientific information.

(e) Roads.—

(1) Permanent roads.—A project under this section shall not include the establishment of permanent roads.

(2) Existing roads.—The Secretary concerned may carry out necessary maintenance and repairs on existing permanent roads for the purposes of this section.

(3) Temporary roads.—The Secretary concerned shall decommission any temporary road constructed under a project under this section not later than 3 years after the date on which the project is completed.

(f) Public Collaboration.—To encourage meaningful public participation during the preparation of a project under this section, the Secretary concerned shall facilitate, during the preparation of each project—

(1) collaboration among State and local governments and Indian Tribes; and

(2) participation of interested persons.

(Authority: NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); E.O. 11514, March 5, 1970, as amended by E.O. 11991, May 24, 1977; and CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508)).

Stephen G. Tryon,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2024–24738 Filed 10–23–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–27–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 731–TA–990 (Fourth Review)]

Non-Malleable Cast Iron Pipe Fittings From China; Scheduling of an Expedited Five-Year Review

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the scheduling of an expedited review pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”) to determine whether revocation of the antidumping duty order on non-malleable cast iron pipe fittings from China would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.

DATES: September 6, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Gatten III (202–708–1447), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal on 202–205–1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202–205–2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server (<https://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for this proceeding may be viewed on the Commission’s electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—On September 6, 2024, the Commission determined that the domestic interested party group response to its notice of institution (89 FR 47610, June 3, 2024) of the subject five-year review was adequate and that the respondent interested party group response was inadequate. The Commission did not find any other circumstances that would warrant conducting a full review.¹ Accordingly, the Commission determined that it would conduct an expedited review pursuant to section 751(c)(3) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)(3)).²

For further information concerning the conduct of this review and rules of general application, consult the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A and B (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A, D, E, and F (19 CFR part 207).

Staff report.—A staff report containing information concerning the subject matter of the review has been placed in the nonpublic record, and will be made available to persons on the

Administrative Protective Order service list for this review on November 27, 2024. A public version will be issued thereafter, pursuant to § 207.62(d)(4) of the Commission’s rules.

Written submissions.—As provided in § 207.62(d) of the Commission’s rules, interested parties that are parties to the review and that have provided individually adequate responses to the notice of institution,³ and any party other than an interested party to the review may file written comments with the Secretary on what determination the Commission should reach in the review. Comments are due on or before 5:15 p.m. on December 5, 2024 and may not contain new factual information. Any person that is neither a party to the five-year review nor an interested party may submit a brief written statement (which shall not contain any new factual information) pertinent to the review by December 5, 2024. However, should the Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) extend the time limit for its completion of the final results of its review, the deadline for comments (which may not contain new factual information) on Commerce’s final results is three business days after the issuance of Commerce’s results. If comments contain business proprietary information (BPI), they must conform with the requirements of §§ 201.6, 207.3, and 207.7 of the Commission’s rules. The Commission’s *Handbook on Filing Procedures*, available on the Commission’s website at https://www.usitc.gov/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf, elaborates upon the Commission’s procedures with respect to filings.

In accordance with §§ 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the rules, each document filed by a party to the review must be served on all other parties to the review (as identified by either the public or BPI service list), and a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

Determination.—The Commission has determined this review is extraordinarily complicated and therefore has determined to exercise its authority to extend the review period by up to 90 days pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1675(c)(5)(B).

Authority: This review is being conducted under authority of title VII of the Act; this notice is published

¹ A record of the Commissioners’ votes, the Commission’s statement on adequacy, and any individual Commissioner’s statements will be available from the Office of the Secretary and at the Commission’s website.

² Commissioner David S. Johanson voted to conduct a full review.

³ The Commission has found the responses submitted on behalf of ASC Engineered Solutions, LLC and Ward Manufacturing, LLC to be individually adequate. Comments from other interested parties will not be accepted (*see* 19 CFR 207.62(d)(2)).