

“Report on Trade in Pharmaceuticals”

The Conference agreement directs the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the International Trade Commission, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States Trade Representative, to conduct a study and report on drug pricing practices of countries that are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and whether those practices utilize non-tariff barriers with respect to trade in pharmaceuticals. The study shall include an analysis of the use of price controls, reference pricing, and other actions that affect the market access of United States pharmaceutical products.

The study shall include the following:

Identification of the countries that use price controls or other such practices with respect to pharmaceutical trade.

Assessment of the price controls and other such practices used by the countries identified.

Estimate of additional costs to U.S. consumers because of such price controls and other such practices, and the extent to which additional costs would be reduced for U.S. consumers if price controls and other such practices are reduced or eliminated.

Estimate of the impact such price controls, intellectual property laws, and other such measures have on fair pricing, innovation, generic competition, and research and development in the United States and each country identified.”

ITA previously published a Request for Comments on June 1, 2004, **Federal Register**, Volume 69, Number 105, Page 30882–30883. The comment period for this request for comments closed on July 1, 2004. However, additional information is needed to complete the report for Congress. Consequently, the Department is seeking input to the following questions. However, in responding to these questions, please feel free to also include any relevant additional information or input. Individual testimony will be limited to 15 minutes. Because of the finite amount of time available during the public hearing, ITA may not be able to accommodate everyone who expresses an interest in testifying at the hearing. Therefore, ITA will provide an additional comment period between August 3 and August 13 to allow the public to submit comments on the questions below or in response to testimonies.

- How do OECD countries set pharmaceutical prices? Within OECD countries, what mechanisms do governments use to control pharmaceutical expenditures?
- If price controls and other government cost control mechanisms were eliminated in OECD countries, how and to what degree would pharmaceutical prices and expenditures change? What effects would these

changes have on the sales and profits of pharmaceutical manufacturers?

- How do patent laws and their application affect prices of patented drugs in OECD countries?
- If price controls and other government cost control mechanisms were eliminated in OECD countries, what effect would there be on U.S. consumers?
- What factors influence, and how do companies determine research and development (R&D) expenditures? How would R&D be affected by higher prices and revenues from sales in OECD countries?
- What is the relationship between increased R&D by pharmaceutical manufacturers and the introduction of new drugs?
- Could OECD countries reduce costs by increasing the use of generic drugs? What steps would the governments need to take to facilitate the use of generic drugs?
- Are there means by which OECD countries could improve incentives for developing innovative medicines without significantly increasing spending on drugs?

Once completed, the report produced by ITA will be submitted to Congress and made available to the public.

Dated: July 13, 2004.

Douglas B. Baker,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries, Tourism and Finance for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Trade Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of Coastal Zone Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

ACTION: Notice of intent to evaluate.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) announces its intent to evaluate the performance of the Hawaii Coastal Management Program; the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Rhode Island; the Minnesota Coastal Management Program; the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, New York; and the

Washington Coastal Management Program and Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Washington.

The Coastal Zone Management Program evaluations will be conducted pursuant to section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended, and regulations at 15 CFR Part 923, Subpart L. The National Estuarine Research Reserve evaluations will be conducted pursuant to sections 312 and 315 of the CZMA and regulations at 15 CFR Part 921, Subpart E and Part 923, Subpart L.

The CZMA requires continuing review of the performance of states with respect to coastal program implementation. Evaluation of Coastal Zone Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves requires findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives, adhered to its Coastal Management Program document or Reserve final management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA.

The evaluations will include a site visit, consideration of public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. Public meetings will be held as part of the site visits.

Notice is hereby given of the dates of the site visits for the listed evaluations, and the dates, local times, and locations of the public meetings during the site visits.

The Hawaii Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held August 23–27, 2004. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be on Monday, August 23, 2004, at 6 p.m., at St. Andrew's Priory School, Kennedy Hall, Room K111, 224 Queen Emma Square, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Rhode Island, evaluation site visit will be held September 14–17, 2004. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be on Wednesday, September 15, 2004, at 12 noon at 55 South Reserve Drive, Prudence Island, Rhode Island.

The Minnesota Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held September 27–October 1, 2004. Two public meetings will be held during the week. The first public meeting will be on Monday, September 27, 2004, at 7 p.m., in the Large

Conference Room at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 525 South Lake Avenue, Suite 400, Duluth, Minnesota. The second public meeting will be on Wednesday, September 29, 2004, at 6 p.m., in the Board Room at the Cook County Courthouse, 411 West Second Street, Grand Marais, Minnesota.

The Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, New York, evaluation site visit will be held September 28–30, 2004. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be on Wednesday, September 29, 2004, at 7 p.m., at the Tivoli Bays Visitor Center, Watts DePeyster Fireman's Hall, 1 Tivoli Commons, Tivoli, New York.

The Washington Coastal Management Program and Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Washington, joint evaluation site visit will be held September 27–October 1, 2004. One joint public meeting will be held during the week. The joint public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2004, at 7 p.m., in the Evergreen Room, Washington State University Extension, 600 128th Street, SE., Everett, Washington.

Copies of states' most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's notifications and supplemental request letters to the states, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding these Programs are encouraged and will be accepted for each Program until 15 days after the last public meeting held for that Program. Please direct written comments to: Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM7, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. When the evaluations are completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM7, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-3155, Extension 118.

Dated: July 12, 2004.

Eldon Hout,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-16241 Filed 7-15-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 040702199-4199-01]

NOAA Strategic Plan

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to revised NOAA's Strategic Plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the premier United States agency for environmental assessment, prediction and management providing broad benefits to the national economy, public safety and environment. NOAA is drafting a strategic plan for the period 2005–2011 that builds on the NOAA Strategic Plan for 2003–2008 and reflects updated stakeholder priorities, recent external events, and change to NOAA's operations. This version of the plan is the result of over six months of data collection and evaluation. It establishes the goals for NOAA and the approaches taken to account for results. NOAA has sought advice from stakeholders at forums in San Diego on September 24, 2003, Seattle on January 12, 2004, and Washington, DC, on April 16, 2004, and at other meetings around the country. NOAA is now seeking broader public review of the Strategic Plan. NOAA encourages all stakeholders and users to review the Plan and provide comments. All comments received will be reviewed and considered in the final drafting of NOAA's Strategic Plan.

DATES: Public comments on this document must be received at the appropriate mailing or e-mail address (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before 5 p.m., local time, August 27, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Dr. James H. Butler, NOAA Strategic Planning Office, Office of Program Planning and Integration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Room 15755, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to strategic.planning@noaa.gov. The draft NOAA Strategic Plan has been posted at <http://www.spo.noaa.gov/>, and NOAA will post the final Strategic Plan at <http://www.spo.noaa.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Joshua Lott, phone: 301-713-1622, Extension 210, fax: 301-713-0585.

Dated: July 13, 2004.

Mary M. Glackin,

NOAA Assistant Administrator for Program Planning and Integration.

[FR Doc. 04-16184 Filed 7-15-04; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Commercial Availability of Certain Shirting Fabrics

July 13, 2004.

AGENCY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Request for public comments concerning the commercial availability of certain shirting fabrics in the United States or another of the proposed United States-Central American Free Trade Agreement countries.

SUMMARY: On May 28, 2004, the Governments of the United States and five Central American countries signed the United States-Central American Free Trade Agreement (US-CAFTA). In a letter to the Government of Honduras in the context of the Agreement, the United States agreed to conduct an investigation to determine whether certain shirting fabrics are available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the territory of any of the parties to the US-CAFTA. The United States agreed to make the results of the investigation available to Honduras before the entry into force of the US-CAFTA.

CITA hereby solicits public comments with regard to whether the 53 fabrics listed in the annex to this notice can be supplied by the industry in a US-CAFTA country in commercial quantities in a timely manner. A listing of the fabrics is also available online at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>. Comments must be submitted by August 16, 2004 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, room 3001, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Stetson, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

BACKGROUND:

On May 28, 2004, the Governments of the United States and five Central American countries signed the US-