

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Antitrust Division****Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1933; Petroleum Environmental Research Forum Project No. 95-04**

Notice is hereby given that, on December 30, 1997, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. 4301, *et seq.* ("the Act"), the participants in the Petroleum Environmental Research Forum ("PERF") Project No. 95-04, titled "Risk Assessment Cooperative Research Program," have filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and with the Federal Trade Commission disclosing (1) the identities of the parties and (2) the nature and objectives of the Project. The notifications were filed for the purpose of invoking the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, The identities of the current parties in PERF Project No. 95-04 are: American Association of Railroads, Washington, DC; Amoco Corporation, Naperville, IL; Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY; Elf Aquitaine, Washington, DC; Exxon Biomedical Sciences, Inc., East Millstone, NJ; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA; Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company, Idaho Falls, ID; Los Alamos National Laboratories, Los Alamos, NM; Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville, OK; Shell Oil Company, Houston, TX; Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM; Texas Group, Inc., Bellaire, TX; and Unocal Corporation, Brea, CA.

The nature and objectives of the research program to be performed in accordance with PERF Project No. 95-04 are aimed at developing/improving methods, data and models for measuring or estimating the fate and transport of contaminants in support of risk assessment activities as applied to site cleanup efforts at petroleum, petrochemical, and chemical industry facilities. The results should fill gaps in the science of risk assessment allowing technically defensible and cost effective measurement or estimation of concentrations at potential points of exposure to contaminants.

Participation in this project will remain open to interested persons and organizations until issuance of the final Project Report, which is presently anticipated to occur approximately May

31, 1998. The participants intend to file additional written notification(s) disclosing all changes in project membership.

Information regarding participation in this project may be obtained from Dr. Bruce Krewinghaus, Shell Oil Products Company, P.O. Box 1380, Houston, Texas 77251-1380, telephone: (281) 544-8970.

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 98-7147 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Antitrust Division****Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1933; Short Wavelength Optical Storage Consortium**

Notice is hereby given that, on September 3, 1997, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), the Short Wavelength Optical Storage Consortium (the "Consortium") has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes to (1) the identities of the parties and (2) the nature and objectives of the venture. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, the identities of the parties added to the Joint Venture are: Hewlett Packard Company, Palo Alto, CA; Imation Corp., Oakdale, MN. The parties dropped are: Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, IBM, Philips Electronics N.V., Philips Electronic North American Corporation.

A change in planned activities occurred in 1997. The venture entered into a new agreement with various effective dates to work together to develop technology for cost effective fabrication of commercially attractive wavelength systems. Advances in optical storage technology are required to meet the evolving, information-intensive requirements of military, commercial and consumer users. The goal of the venture is to develop the technology base for a high density blue-green laser rewritable optical storage system, targeting commercial sales by the year 2000. The technical approach includes parallel development of laser diodes, plastic substrates, recording

layers, servo and recording formats, and detection systems.

On April 18, 1995, the participants filed their original notification pursuant to section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on June 27, 1995 (60 FR 33233).

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 98-7150 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Antitrust Division****Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1933; Southwest Research Institute; Correction**

In notice document 97-31306 appearing on pages 63389 and 63390 in the issue of Friday, November 28, 1997, make the following correction:

In the third column of page 63389, line 34, starting after the word, "Inc.," the following should be added: "has had a change of name to Texas Group, Inc.;"

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 98-7149 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Immigration and Naturalization Service**

[INS No. 1880-97]

Notice of Implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 Pertaining to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces how the Immigration and Naturalization Service (Service) intends to implement the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), as it pertains to the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) which is carried out by members of certain cultural and religious groups within the United States. This is necessary to ensure that visa recipients, prior to or at the time of entry into the United States, are notified of the severe harm to the physical and psychological health of women and girls, caused by FGM, and of the potential legal consequences for performing FGM on a child or adult, or

by allowing FGM to be performed on a child, in the United States.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jacquelyn Bednarz, Office of Programs, (202) 514-2764; Susan Houser, Office of the General Counsel, (202) 616-0781; or Lorraine Eide, Office of Asylum, (202) 305-2663; Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW; Room 6100, Washington, DC 20536.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Are the Requirements of Section 644 of IIRIRA?

Section 644 of IIRIRA requires the Service, in cooperation with the Department of State, to make available for all aliens who are issued immigrant or nonimmigrant visas, prior to or at the time of entry into the United States, the following:

1. Information on the severe harm to physical and psychological health caused by FGM, compiled and presented in a manner which is limited to the practice itself, and respectful to the cultural values of the societies in which such practice takes place, and

2. Information concerning potential legal consequences in the United States for performing FGM, or allowing a child under one's care to be subject to FGM.

Section 644 also provides that, in consultation with the Department of State, the Service shall identify those countries in which FGM is commonly practiced and, to the extent practicable, limit the provision of information to aliens from those countries.

How Will the Service Comply With Section 644 of IIRIRA?

The Service, after consultation with the Department of State, shall comply with section 644 of IIRIRA by:

1. Posting a notice containing the required information in all United States Embassies and consulates concerning FGM, and

2. Providing a copy of the notice to each alien granted an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa in any of the those countries which have been identified by the Department of State as countries where FGM is prevalent, either countrywide or in particular ethnic subgroups. The United States Embassy or consulate in those countries will provide a copy of the notice to aliens at the time a visa is issued.

Which Countries Have Been Identified by the Department of State Where FGM is Prevalent?

The following 28 countries have been identified by the Department of State as countries where FGM is prevalent, either countrywide, or in particular ethnic subgroups:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritria, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire (Congo).

In What Language Will the Notice Be Provided?

The notice will be provided in English and in the official, or predominant, written language of the country where the United States Embassy or consulate is located.

What Information Will Be Contained in the Notice?

The following is the text of the proposed notice, which was drafted by the Service in consultation with the Department of Justice's Criminal Division, the Department of State, and the Department of Health and Human Services:

What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the removal or infibulation (or both) of the whole or part of the clitoris, labia minora, and labia majora. The procedure can include sewing the vagina almost completely closed after the genitals are removed (infibulation). The procedure is common in certain cultures among various ethnic groups and across many different religions.

What are the Health Problems Associated With FGM?

The World Health Organization and other United Nations organizations, as well as the United States Government, recognize that FGM has very serious effects on the health of women and girls. Immediate complications of FGM include severe pain, shock, hemorrhage, urine retention, ulceration of the genital region, and injury to the adjacent tissue. Hemorrhage and infection can cause death.

Long-term consequences of FGM include cysts and abscesses, keloid scar formation, damage to the urethra resulting in urinary incontinence, painful intercourse, and sexual dysfunction. The most extreme forms of FGM can cause infertility, and may also cause an increase in the risk of stillbirths and maternal deaths.

Psychological consequences of FGM in childhood can include behavior disturbances and loss of trust and confidence in caregivers. As adults, these women may suffer feelings of incompleteness, anxiety, depression,

chronic irritability, and frigidity, and may experience marital conflicts.

What Are the Legal Consequences of Performing FGM in the United States?

The United States is among those countries that have made FGM illegal because of the dangerous health problems associated with it. In the United States, it is against the law to perform FGM on a person under the age of 18, unless the operation is medically necessary. There is no exception for performing FGM because of a belief that it is required as a matter of custom or ritual. A parent who knowingly allows FGM to be performed on his or her child could potentially be held criminally liable.

Will Victims of FGM Be Eligible for a Visa to Come to the United States?

The fact that a person has been subjected to FGM will have no effect on the victim's eligibility for a visa to the United States.

Why is the United States Providing This FGM Notice?

The United States Government is committed to working with local community organizations, both in the United States and in other countries, to help educate people about the serious detrimental effects that FGM has on women and girls.

Dated: March 4, 1998.

Doris Meissner,

Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

[FR Doc. 98-7162 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 1888-97]

Expansion of the Direct Mail Program for the Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, and San Antonio District Offices and the Albuquerque and Oklahoma City Suboffices; Form N-400

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS or Service) is expanding its Direct Mail Program to include the Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, and San Antonio District Offices and the Albuquerque and Oklahoma City Suboffices on the current list of direct mail sites for filing Form N-400, Application for