

are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the national Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. To be the most helpful, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (see Council of Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3).

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 US 519, 553 (1978), Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement.

Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: February 7, 2001.

Karyl Georgio,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket No. 67-2000]

Foreign-Trade Zone 115—Beaumont, TX; Application for Expansion; Amendment of Application—Sun Pipe Line Facility

Notice is hereby given that the application by the Foreign-Trade Zone of Southeast Texas, Inc., grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 115, requesting authority to expand its zone to include a petroleum terminal in Nederland (Jefferson County), Texas, (65 FR 77560, 12/12/00), has been amended to include nine petroleum product storage tanks within the tank farm area of the proposed expansion site. The nine tanks are currently part of Subzone 116B, Site 4 (Fina). This proposal would remove them from Subzone 116B and include them within Zone 115.

The application remains otherwise unchanged.

The comment period is reopened until February 21, 2001.

Dated: February 7, 2001.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 8-2001]

Foreign-Trade Zone 122—Corpus Christi, TX Application for Subzone Status International Resistive Company Plant (Resistors), Corpus Christi, Texas

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, grantee of FTZ 122,

requesting special-purpose subzone status for the electronic resistor manufacturing plant of International Resistive Company (IRC) (a subsidiary of TT Group PLC, of the United Kingdom), located in Corpus Christi, Texas. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR Part 400). It was formally filed on February 6, 2001.

The IRC plant (8 acres/129,000 sq. ft./320 employees) is located 4222 South Staples Street, Corpus Christi, Texas. The facility is used to produce electronic resistors (HTSUS# 8533.29.0000, 8533.40.8000) for export and the domestic market. The production process involves design, assembly, testing, and warehousing. Components purchased from abroad (representing 50 to 65% of overall value) include: silicone adhesive, resistor leads, and copper conductors (duty rate range: 1-10%).

FTZ procedures would exempt IRC from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production (1% of shipments). On its domestic sales, the company would be able to choose the duty rate that applies to finished resistors (duty free) for the foreign inputs noted above. No local inventory tax exemption is included as a proposed benefit. The application indicates that subzone status would help improve the plant's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is April 16, 2001. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to April 30, 2001).

A copy of the application and the accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

Office of the Port Director, U.S. Customs Service-Corpus Christi, Room 305, 400 Mann Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401.

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4008, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230-0002.

Dated: February 6, 2001.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-3640 Filed 2-12-01; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Request for Comment and Notice of Public Workshop: Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act

AGENCIES: Federal Trade Commission, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice requesting public comment and academic papers and announcing public workshop.

SUMMARY: Section 105(b) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act ("ESIGN" or "the Act"), Public Law 106-229, 114 Stat. 464 (2000), requires the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "the Commission") and the Secretary of Commerce to study and report to Congress on the benefits and burdens of requiring consumer consent to receive information electronically pursuant to § 101(c)(1)(C)(ii). In connection with preparing this report, the FTC and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ("NTIA") seek public comment and academic papers and plan to hold a public workshop to inform this study.

DATES: Written comments and papers are requested to be submitted on or before March 16, 2001. The workshop will be held on April 3, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., at the Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580.

ADDRESSES: Six hard copies of each written comment or paper should be submitted to: Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room H-159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. An additional copy of written comments should be sent to: Sallianne Fortunato, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Room 4716, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Alternatively, comments and papers may be submitted to the following email addresses: "*esign-study@ftc.gov*" and "*esign-study@ntia.doc.gov*." The content of any comments or papers submitted by email

should be organized in sequentially numbered paragraphs. All submissions should be captioned "ESIGN Study-Comment P004102."

To enable prompt review and accessibility to the public, written comments and papers also should be submitted to the FTC, if possible, in electronic form, on a 3½ inch computer disk, with a label stating the name of the person or entity submitting the comment and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document. Programs based on DOS or Windows are preferred. Files from other operating systems should be submitted in ASCII text format. Individual members of the public filing comments need not submit multiple copies or comments in electronic form.

Written comments and papers will be available for public inspection in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, and Commission regulations, 16 CFR 4.9, on normal business days between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at Room 130, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. The Commission will make this notice and, to the extent possible, all comments or papers received in electronic form in response to this notice available to the public through the Internet at the following addresses: *http://www.ftc.gov* and *http://www.ntia.doc.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For questions about this request for comment and academic papers and notice of public workshop, contact: April Major, Attorney, Division of Marketing Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, telephone 202-326-2972; Marianne Schwanke, Attorney, Division of Marketing Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, telephone 202-326-3165; or Sallianne Fortunato, Telecom Policy Analyst, Office of Policy Analysis and Development, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Room 4716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, telephone 202-482-1880.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background: Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act

On June 30, 2000, Congress enacted ESIGN to facilitate the use of electronic records and signatures in interstate or

foreign commerce and to remove uncertainty about the validity of contracts entered into electronically. Under the Act, businesses that are required to provide or make available information to consumers in writing may provide consumers with that information using electronic records only if the consumer affirmatively consents in a manner that reasonably demonstrates the consumer's ability to access the electronic record. The Act requires the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study the burdens and benefits of this specific consent requirement on consumers and electronic commerce and submit a report to Congress by June 30, 2001.

II. Statutory Language Requiring a Report to Congress

The statutory language requiring the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress regarding the benefits and burdens of requiring consumer consent to electronic transactions is found in § 105 (b) of ESIGN and is set forth below.

Sec. 105. Studies

* * * * *

(b) *Study of Electronic Consent.*—Within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission shall submit a report to the Congress evaluating any benefits provided to consumers by the procedure required by section 101(c)(1)(C)(ii); any burdens imposed on electronic commerce by that provision; whether the benefits outweigh the burdens; whether the absence of the procedure required by section 101(c)(1)(C)(ii) would increase the incidence of fraud directed against consumers; and suggesting any revisions to the provision deemed appropriate by the Secretary and the Commission. In conducting this evaluation, the Secretary and the Commission shall solicit comment from the general public, consumer representatives, and electronic commerce businesses.

The language of § 105(b) specifically limits its scope to § 101(c)(1)(C)(ii) which reads:

Sec. 101(c) Consumer Disclosures

(1) *Consent to Electronic Records.*—Notwithstanding subsection (a), if a statute, regulation, or other rule of law requires that information relating to a transaction or transactions in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce be provided or made available to a consumer in writing, the use of an electronic record to provide or make available (whichever is required) such information satisfies the requirement that such information be in writing if:

* * * * *

(C) the consumer—

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