Commission's Rules of Practice and of §§ 201.10 and 210.8(c) of the Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and on EDIS.3

inspection at the Office of the Secretary to the Commission. Lisa R. Barton, Secretary to the Commission.


Lisa R. Barton, Secretary to the Commission.

International Trade Commission

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request


ACTION: Notice of proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection is a 3-year extension, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) (the “Act”), of the current generic survey clearance previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”). The clearance is used by the U.S. International Trade Commission (“Commission”) to issue information collections (specifically, producer, importer, purchaser, and foreign producer questionnaires and certain institution notices) for a series of import injury investigations that are required by the Tariff Act of 1930 and the Trade Act of 1974. The current generic survey clearance is assigned OMB control No. 3117–0016; it will expire on June 30, 2017. Comments concerning the proposed information collections are requested in accordance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Act; such comments are described in greater detail in the section of this notice entitled SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

DATES: To be assured of consideration, written comments should be received no later than 60 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Signed comments should be submitted to Lisa Barton, Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E St. SW., Washington, DC 20436.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the proposed collection of information and supporting documentation may be obtained from Nathanael Comly (USITC, tel. no. 202–205–3174). 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).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

Comments are solicited as to (1) whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) the quality, utility, clarity, and design of the information to be collected; and (4) minimization of the burden of the proposed information collection on those who are to respond (including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). To the extent appropriate, please cite to specific experiences your firm has had with other governmental surveys and data collections.

Summary of the Proposed Information Collections

(1) Need for the Proposed Information Collections

The information requested in questionnaires and five-year review institution notices issued under the generic survey clearance is utilized by the Commission in the following statutory investigations: Antidumping duty, countervailing duty, escape clause, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) safeguard, market disruption, and interference with programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Commission’s generic survey clearance to issue questionnaires will not apply to repetitive questionnaires such as those issued on a quarterly or annual basis or to other investigations and research studies conducted under section 332 of the Trade Act of 1974. The information provided by firms in response to the questionnaires provides factual information used in the Commission’s determinations in the above-cited statutory investigations. The submitted data are consolidated by Commission staff and provided to the Commission in the form of a staff report. In addition, in the majority of its investigations, the Commission releases completed questionnaires returned by industry participants to representatives of parties to its investigations under the terms of an administrative protective order, the terms of which safeguard the confidentiality of any business proprietary or business confidential information. Representatives of interested parties also receive a confidential version of the staff report under the administrative protective order. Subsequent party submissions to the Commission during the investigative process are based, in large part, upon their review of the information collected. Included in the proposed generic clearance is the administrative protective order application form. Also included in the proposed generic clearance are the institution notices for the five-year reviews of antidumping and countervailing duty orders and suspended investigations. Responses to the institution notices will be evaluated by the Commission and form much of the record for its determinations to conduct either expedited or full five-year reviews of existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders.
(2) Information Collection Plan

Questionnaires for specific investigations are sent to all identified domestic producers manufacturing the product(s) in question. Importer and purchaser questionnaires are also sent to all substantial U.S. importers/purchasers of the product(s). Finally, all foreign manufacturers of the product(s) in question that are represented by counsel are sent questionnaires, and, in addition, the Commission attempts to contact any other foreign manufacturers, especially if they export the product(s) in question to the United States. Firms receiving questionnaires include businesses, farms, and/or other for-profit institutions; responses by domestic firms are mandatory. The institution notices for the five-year reviews are published in the Federal Register and solicit comment from interested parties (i.e., U.S. producers within the industry in question as well as labor unions or representative groups of workers, U.S. importers and foreign exporters, and involved foreign government).

(3) Description of the Information To Be Collected

Information is collected to be utilized in the above mentioned statutory investigations; the primary instruments, namely questionnaires, are described below. Although the content of each questionnaire will differ based on the needs of a particular investigation, questionnaires are based on long-established, generic formats. Producer questionnaires generally consist of the following four parts: (part I) general questions relating to the organization and activities of the firm; (part II) data on capacity, production, inventories, employment, and the quantity and value of the firm’s shipments and purchases from various sources; (part III) financial data, including income-and-loss data on the product in question, data on asset valuation, research and development expenses, and capital expenditures; and (part IV) pricing and market factors. (Questionnaires may, on occasion, also contain part V, an abbreviated version of the above-listed parts, used for gathering data on additional product categories.) Importer questionnaires generally consist of three parts: (part I) general questions relating to the organization and activities of the firm; (part II) data on the firm’s imports and the shipment and inventories of its imports; and (part III) pricing and market factors similar to that requested in the producer questionnaire. Purchaser questionnaires generally consist of four parts: (part I) general questions relating to the organization and activities of the firm; (part II) data concerning the purchases of the product by the firm and the names of the firm’s vendors; (part III) market characteristics and purchasing practices; and (part IV) comparisons between imported and U.S.-produced product. An abbreviated purchaser questionnaire may also be sent in a preliminary phase investigation, consisting of two parts: (part I) data concerning the purchases of the product by the firm; and (part II) questions regarding purchasing practices, and in an adequacy phase of a review investigation, consisting of one part: (part I) general questions regarding the industry. Foreign producer questionnaires generally consist of (part I) general questions relating to the organization and activities of the firm; (part II) data concerning the firm’s manufacturing operations; and may include (part III) market factors. The notices of institution for the five-year reviews include 11 specific requests for information that firms are to provide if their response is to be considered by the Commission.

(4) Estimated Burden of the Proposed Information Collection

The Commission estimates that information collections issued under the requested generic clearance will impose an average annual burden of 192,998 hours on 6,789 respondents (i.e., recipients that provide a response to the Commission’s questionnaires or the notices of institution of five-year reviews). Table 1 lists the projected annual burden for each type of information collection for the July 2017–June 2020 period.

(5) Minimization of Burden

The Commission periodically reviews its investigative processes, including data collection, to reduce the information burden. Questionnaires clearly state that estimates are acceptable for certain items. They are designed in part with check-in type formats to simplify the response. The reporting burden for smaller firms is reduced in that the sections of the questionnaire that are applicable to their operations are typically more limited. Requests by parties to expand the data collection or add items to the questionnaire for specific investigations may not be accepted if the Commission believes such requests will increase the response burden while not substantially adding to the investigative record. While completed questionnaires historically were returned to the Commission in paper form, recently the vast majority have been submitted electronically. The Commission is promoting options for electronic submission such as providing the questionnaires on the Commission’s Web site in a fillable Word format and has created a secure drop box which questionnaire respondents can use to securely upload completed questionnaires. The information provided in response to its notices of institution for the five-year reviews is typically submitted in document form directly to the Office of the Secretary although it may be submitted to the Commission’s Electronic Data Information System (EDIS) and Electronic Docket. In addition, the Commission has reduced the information burden by streamlining the questionnaires. For example, the Commission removed redundant fields, added auto-calculated reconciliation fields, enabled population of whole data tables, and reduced the number of years data is collected for in certain five-year reviews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1—PROJECTED ANNUAL BURDEN DATA, BY TYPE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION, JULY 2017–JUNE 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of respondents ..........</td>
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<td>Frequency of response ..........</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total annual responses ..........</td>
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<td>Hours per response ..........</td>
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1 e.g. Administrative Protective Order forms and questionnaires to purchasers in the adequacy phase of a review investigation.
No record keeping burden is known to result from the proposed collection of information.

By order of the Commission.
Issued: January 26, 2017.
Lisa R. Barton,
Secretary to the Commission.

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BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 731–TA–539–C (Fourth Review)]

Uranium From Russia; Institution of a Five-Year Review


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice that it has instituted a review pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”), as amended, to determine whether termination of the suspended investigation on uranium from Russia would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury. Pursuant to the Act, interested parties are requested to respond to this notice by submitting the information specified below to the Commission.

DATES: Effective February 1, 2017. To be assured of consideration, the deadline for responses is March 3, 2017. Comments on the adequacy of responses may be filed with the Commission by April 17, 2017.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—Effective October 16, 1992, the Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) suspended an antidumping duty investigation on imports of uranium from Russia (57 FR 49220, October 30, 1992). Following first five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective August 22, 2000, Commerce issued a continuation of the suspended investigation on imports of uranium from Russia (65 FR 50958, August 22, 2000 and 65 FR 52407, August 29, 2000 (corrected)). Following second five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective August 11, 2006, Commerce issued a continuation of the suspended investigation on imports of uranium from Russia (71 FR 46191, August 11, 2006). Following the third five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective March 8, 2012, Commerce issued a continuation of the suspended investigation on imports of uranium from Russia (77 FR 14001, March 8, 2012). The Commission is now conducting a fourth review pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)), to determine whether termination of the suspended investigation would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time. Provisions concerning the conduct of this review may be found in the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure at 19 CFR parts 201, subparts A and B and 19 CFR part 207, subparts A and F. The Commission will assess the adequacy of interested party responses to this notice of institution to determine whether to conduct a full review or an expedited review. The Commission’s determination in any expedited review will be based on the facts available, which may include information provided in response to this notice.

Definitions.—The following definitions apply to this review:

(1) Subject Merchandise is the class or kind of merchandise that is within the scope of the five-year review, as defined by the Department of Commerce.

(2) The Subject Country in this review is Russia.

(3) The Domestic Like Product is the domestically produced product or products which are like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the Subject Merchandise. In its original preliminary determination concerning the U.S.S.R., its first and second five-year review determinations concerning Russia, and its expedited third five-year review determination concerning Russia, the Commission defined the Domestic Like Product as all forms of uranium coextensive with Commerce’s scope.

(4) The Domestic Industry is the U.S. producers as a whole of the Domestic Like Product, or those producers whose collective output of the Domestic Like Product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product. In its original preliminary determination concerning the U.S.S.R., the Commission defined the Domestic Industry as domestic producers of the product coextensive with Commerce’s scope of the investigation, including the U.S. Department of Energy’s uranium enrichment operations. In its full first and second five-year review determinations and its expedited third five-year review determination concerning Russia, the Commission defined the Domestic Industry as all domestic producers of uranium, including concentrators, the converter, the enricher, and fabricators.

(5) An Importer is any person or firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in importing the Subject Merchandise into the United States from a foreign manufacturer or through its selling agent.

Participation in the proceeding and public service list.—Persons, including industrial users of the Subject Merchandise and, if the merchandise is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations, wishing to participate in the proceeding as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in section 201.11(b)(4) of the Commission’s rules, no later than 21 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the proceeding.

Former Commission employees who are seeking to appear in Commission five-year reviews are advised that they may appear in a review even if they participated personally and substantially in the corresponding underlying original investigation or an earlier review of the same underlying investigation. The Commission’s designated agency ethics official has advised that a five-year review is not the same particular matter as the underlying original investigation, and a five-year review is not the same particular matter as an earlier review of the same underlying investigation for purposes of 18 U.S.C. 207, the post employment statute for Federal employees, and Commission rule 201.15(b) (19 CFR 201.15(b)). 79 FR 3246 (Jan. 17, 2014). 73 FR 24609 (May 5, 2008). Consequently, former employees are not required to seek Commission approval to appear in a review. In any Commission rule 19 CFR 201.15, even if the corresponding underlying original