

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:) Investigation Nos.:
STAINLESS STEEL BUTT-WELD PIPE FITTINGS) 731-TA-865-867
FROM ITALY, MALAYSIA, AND THE PHILIPPINES) (THIRD REVIEW)

Pages: 1 - 8
Place: Washington, D.C.
Date: Thursday, December 14, 2017



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1 APPEARANCES (Continued):

2 Staff:

3 AMANDA LAWRENCE, INVESTIGATOR

4 DAVID GUBERMAN, INTERNATIONAL TRADE ANALYST

5 LUKE TILLMAN, ATTORNEY/ADVISOR

6 FRED RUGGLES, SUPERVISORY INVESTIGATOR

7 LISA R. BARTON, SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

8 TYRELL BURCH, PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (11:02 a.m.)

3 MR. BURCH: Would the room please come to order.

4 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Good morning. This
5 meeting of the U.S. International Trade Commission will now
6 come to order.

7 I understand that there are no agendas for future
8 meetings, minutes, Ratification Lists, or Outstanding
9 Action Jackets to consider.

10 Next we turn to the vote in the Third Review
11 Phase of Investigation Numbers 731-TA-865 through 867
12 concerning imports of stainless steel butt-weld pipe
13 fittings from Italy, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

14 Welcome to Mr. Ruggles and the staff who
15 participated in these investigations.

16 Are there any questions for the staff?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Are there any additions or
19 corrections to the staff report?

20 MR. RUGGLES: Fred Ruggles, Office of
21 Investigations. There are no corrections or additions.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Is there any objection to
23 approval of the staff report?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Hearing none, it is

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1 approved.

2 Mr. Secretary, will you please call the roll.

3 MR. BURCH: Commissioner Broadbent.

4 COMMISSIONER BROADBENT: I vote in the
5 affirmative.

6 MR. BURCH: Commissioner Williamson.

7 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMSON: I vote in the
8 affirmative.

9 MR. BURCH: Commissioner Johanson.

10 COMMISSIONER JOHANSON: I vote in the
11 affirmative.

12 MR. BURCH: Commissioner Schmidtlein.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDTLEIN: I vote in the
14 affirmative.

15 MR. BURCH: Madam Chairman, the Commission has
16 reached affirmative determinations.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

18 Further information regarding these
19 determinations will be in the press release. Views of the
20 Commission currently are scheduled to be completed and
21 filed by January 8th, 2018.

22 Thank you again to all the staff who participated
23 in these investigations.

24 Before we adjourn, this is Fred Ruggles's last
25 appearance before the Commission prior to his retirement.

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1 Certain individuals routinely make the people around them
2 better. Fred Ruggles is just such a person. We are
3 certainly going to miss him as he transitions out of
4 federal service.

5 Fred has been a dedicated public servant for
6 nearly four decades, and an integral part of the Commission
7 since 1982. He has conducted hundreds of investigations
8 during his tenure at the Commission, and drawing on his
9 background as a logger he has played a key role in nearly
10 all of the Commission's investigations on softwood lumber.
11 He has provided leadership and guidance as a senior
12 investigator, and acting supervisory investigator since
13 2014. Throughout his tenure in the Office of
14 Investigations, Fred has demonstrated a keen ability to
15 identify and meet the agency's investigation needs.

16 The office has relied on Fred's technical
17 ability, as well as over the years as it has continued to
18 upgrade and improve its data collection efforts, its
19 analysis, and the integrity of its procedures, including
20 the leap from snail mail to e-mail for the filing of
21 questionnaires.

22 Fred has tirelessly mentored new staff and
23 stepped in to fill needs when personnel gaps opened up. He
24 has been an essential resource who readily shares his
25 extensive knowledge and experience regarding Title VII

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1 procedures and activities. Fred has been one of the
2 Commission's great assets.

3 I would like to thank you very much for your many
4 years of service, and wish you all the best in your
5 retirement.

6 MR. RUGGLES: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Would you like to say
9 anything, Fred? No?

10 (Laughter.)

11 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMSON: I just wanted to second
13 all the comments that the Chairman has made. And I also
14 want to thank Fred for his contributions to the ITC
15 community. He has done those things with humor, vigor, and
16 energy, and we are really going to miss all of those
17 attributes. And we wish him all the best going forward.

18 MR. RUGGLES: Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSON: Fred, thanks for your
20 many years of service to the Commission. I know you've
21 been around a long time because I remember seeing your name
22 in Federal Register notices back when I was practicing law,
23 which was about 15, over 15 years ago.

24 I believe you are a friend of Eric Solwinin, who
25 I used to have the pleasure to work with, and he used to

1 speak about you whenever we talked about the Commission.
2 So, anyway, thank you again for your many years of service
3 and I wish you the best of luck in your retirement.

4 MR. RUGGLES: Thank you very much, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN SCHMIDTLEIN: Okay. Alright, seeing
6 that there is no other business before the Commission, this
7 meeting is adjourned.

8 (Whereupon, at 11:07 a.m., Thursday, December 14,
9 2017, the meeting of the Commissioners of the United States
10 International Trade Commission was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

TITLE: In The Matter Of: Stainless Steel Butt-Weld Pipe
Fittings from Italy, Malaysia, and the Philippines
INVESTIGATION NO: 731-TA-865-867
HEARING DATE: 12-14-17
LOCATION: Washington, DC
NATURE OF HEARING: Third Review

I hereby certify that the foregoing/attached transcript is a true, correct and complete record of the above-referenced proceeding(s) of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

DATE: 12-14-17

SIGNED: Mark A. Jagan
Signature of the Contractor or the
Authorized Contractor's Representative

I hereby certify that I am not the Court Reporter and that I have proofread the above-referenced transcript of the proceedings of the U.S. International Trade Commission, against the aforementioned Court Reporter's notes and recordings, for accuracy in transcription in the spelling, hyphenation, punctuation and speaker identification and did not make any changes of a substantive nature. The foregoing/attached transcript is a true, correct and complete transcription of the proceedings.

SIGNED: Duane Rice
Signature of Proofreader

I hereby certify that I reported the above-referenced proceedings of the U.S. International Trade Commission and caused to be prepared from my tapes and notes of the proceedings a true, correct and complete verbatim recording of the proceedings.

SIGNED: Larry Flowers
Signature of Court Reporter

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