

The petition alleges that sodium azide from Japan is being sold in the United States at dumped prices and that an industry in the United States is materially injured and threatened with material injury by reason of such imports. On March 1, 1996, the ITC issued an affirmative preliminary injury determination. 61 FR 10596 (March 14, 1996). Commerce is scheduled to issue a preliminary investigation of dumping by August 13, 1996. 61 FR 26878 (May 29, 1996).

Public Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the following issues:

(A) whether it is appropriate to initiate a third-country antidumping investigation on sodium azide from Japan; including as part of this issue are, *inter alia*, the relevance of the pending antidumping investigation on sodium azide from Japan, and the extent to which Canada provides an opportunity to the United States to seek an antidumping investigation in Canada on behalf of a U.S. industry.

(B) if an investigation were initiated, what procedural and substantive standards USTR should establish for Commerce's and ITC's determinations required by section 783; persons submitting comments on this issue may wish simply to use as a starting point the existing standards for antidumping investigations on behalf of a U.S. industry, and specify how the procedural and substantive standards for a third-country antidumping investigation should differ.

(C) any other issues relevant to the request for the initiation of a third-country antidumping investigation on sodium azide from Japan.

Requirements for Submissions

Comments are due no later than 12 noon, July 26, 1996. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Sodium Azide Antidumping, Room 223, USTR, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 783-1) open to public inspection, except for confidential business information exempt from public inspection. (Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the Docket which is open to public inspection.) USTR will generally

apply to the standards set out in 15 C.F.R. § 2006.13 (Information Open to Public Inspection) and § 2006.15 (Information Exemption from Public Inspection) with respect to comments received.

Jennifer A. Hillman,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 96-16282 Filed 6-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Concerning European Ban on the Import of Meat From Animals Treated With Certain Hormones

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 127(b)(1) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that a dispute settlement panel convened under the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the request of the United States will examine the European Communities' ban on the importation of meat from animals treated with certain hormones. USTR also invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in the dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before July 24, 1996, in order to be assured of timely consideration by USTR in preparing its first written submission to the panel.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Carolyn Frank, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Room 501, Attn: Hormone dispute, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel Brinza, Senior Advisor and Special Counsel for Natural Resources, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-7305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the United States' request, a WTO dispute settlement panel will examine whether the European Community (EC) Council Directive Prohibiting the Use in Livestock Farming of Certain Substances Having a Hormonal Action and related measures are consistent with the EC's obligations under the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (S&P Agreement), the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), and the Agreement on Agriculture.

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Norway have reserved their rights to intervene in the panel proceedings as third parties.

Members of the panel are currently being selected, and the panel is expected to meet as necessary at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland to examine the dispute. Under normal circumstances, the panel would be expected to issue a report detailing its findings and recommendations in six to nine months.

Major Issues Raised by the United States and Legal Basis of Complaint

The EC's measures (which in addition to the Directive cited above include, but are not limited to, the Council Directive of March 7, 1988, (88/146/EEC); the directives referenced in that directive (72/462/EEC, 81/602/EEC, 81/851/EEC, 81/852/EEC, and 85/358/EEC) the decisions referred to in Article 6(2) of directive 88/146/EEC; the control program referred to in Article 6(7) of directive 88/146/EEC; the derogations referred to in Article 7 of directive 88/146/EEC; and any amendments or modifications) adversely affect imports of U.S. meat and meat products and have no legitimate basis. They appear to be inconsistent with the EC's obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and the Agreement on Agriculture. The provisions of these agreements with which these measures appear to be inconsistent include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Article III or Article XI;
- (2) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Articles 2, 3 and 5;
- (3) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 2; and
- (4) Agreement on Agriculture, Article 4.

These measures also appear to nullify or impair the benefits accruing to the United States directly or indirectly under the cited agreements.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute.

Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter.

Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

A person requesting that information or advice contained in a comment submitted by that person, other than business confidential information, be treated as confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155)—

(1) must so designate that information or advice;

(2) must clearly mark the material as "CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and

(3) is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA, USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments made to USTR from the public with respect to the proceeding; the U.S. submissions to the panel in the proceeding; the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the dispute settlement panel and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/D-6, "U.S.-EC: Hormones Directive"), may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Jennifer Hillman,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 96-16283 Filed 6-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Excepted Service

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This gives notice of positions placed or revoked under Schedules A and B, and placed under Schedule C in the excepted service, as required by Civil Service Rule VI, Exceptions from the Competitive Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Paige, (202) 606-0830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management published its last monthly notice updating appointing authorities established or revoked under the Excepted Service provisions of 5 CFR 213 on June 4, 1996 (61 FR 28251). Individual authorities established or revoked under Schedules A and B and established under Schedule C between May 1, 1996, and May 31, 1996, appear in the listing below. Future notices will be published on the fourth Tuesday of each month, or as soon as possible thereafter. A consolidated listing of all authorities as of June 30 will also be published.

Schedule A

No Schedule A authorities were established.

The following Schedule A authorities were revoked:

Smithsonian Institution

Not to exceed 25 positions at grades GS-11 and below which support planning and production of the annual American Folklife Festival. Employment under this authority may not exceed 6 months in connection with any one Festival. Effective May 5, 1996.

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers. Nonsupervisory trades, crafts, and manual labor positions at grades WG-6 and below on survey, construction, short-term maintenance, or floating operations, where because of turnover, lack of housing facilities, mobility of work site, or remoteness of personnel servicing facilities an adequate labor force can be recruited only by immediate gate hiring on a local basis. Effective May 22, 1996.

Schedule B

No Schedule B authorities were established or revoked in May 1996.

Schedule C

The following Schedule C authorities were established in May 1996:

Agency for International Development

Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator. Effective May 17, 1996.

Commission on Civil Rights

Special Assistant to the Commissioner. Effective May 17, 1996.

Council on Environmental Quality

Special Assistant to the Chair. Effective May 24, 1996.

Department of Agriculture

Senior Policy Director to the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service. Effective May 1, 1996.

Deputy Administrator for Policy and Planning to the Administrator, Policy and Planning. Effective May 1, 1996.

Special Assistant to the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Effective May 1, 1996.

Staff Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture. Effective May 3, 1996.

Department of Commerce

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Legislative and Interagency Affairs. Effective May 1, 1996.

Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Basic Industries. Effective May 3, 1996.

Confidential Assistant to the Deputy Press Secretary. Effective May 17, 1996.

Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for International Trade, International Trade Administration. Effective May 31, 1996.

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for International Economic Policy, International Trade Administration. Effective May 31, 1996.

Department of Defense

Confidential Assistant to the Deputy Advisor for National Security Affairs. Effective May 3, 1996.

Staff Specialist to the Deputy Under Secretary for Logistics. Effective May 17, 1996.

Department of Education

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Effective May 9, 1996.

Department of Health and Human Services

Confidential Assistant (Advance) to the Director of Scheduling and Advance. Effective May 3, 1996.

Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Administration for Children and Families. Effective May 9, 1996.

Congressional Liaison Specialist to the Deputy Assistant for Legislation, (Congressional Liaison). Effective May 9, 1996.

Confidential Assistant to the Associate Administrator for External Affairs. Effective May 22, 1996.