

**Issue 14:** One commenter noted that the E Street traffic recommendation could affect the Zero Milestone and the Butt-Millet memorial, raising historic preservation issues that were not included in the EA.

**Response:** The recommendation for providing for resumption of westbound traffic on E Street assumed that the existing street configuration would be maintained and not require widening in the area of the Zero Milestone and the Butt-Millet memorial. The recommendations provided in Chapter 3 are just that, recommendations for consideration by the agencies with the authority to implement them.

**Issue 15:** One commenter stated that the EA was misleading because it did not describe the process for reaching a decision on whether to issue a FONSI or a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**Response:** The CEQ's NEPA regulations have been in place since 1978. Treasury did not feel it was necessary to explain the purpose of an environmental assessment in its document. The comment period was announced in the **Federal Register** and the EA itself.

**Issue 16:** One commenter stated that traffic was worse and that Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street should be reopened to vehicular traffic.

**Response:** The security need for the restriction has not been eliminated; however, Treasury is working with other agencies to examine potential new designs for traffic on E Street. The EA does show that some streets have had increases in traffic. The exact amount which is due to the action cannot be determined due to the lack of pre-action data.

**Issue 17:** One commenter criticized the EA for not having a section on the beneficial impacts of the action such as the better access to Lafayette Park and providing a more appropriate setting for one of our preeminent national symbols.

**Response:** Treasury agrees that there are many beneficial impacts resulting from the vehicular traffic restriction and attempted to describe them in qualitative terms in the EA. Most of these impacts are very difficult to assign dollar figures to and such an effort is not warranted at the EA level.

**Issue 18:** One commenter noted that the action is not consistent with the District's transportation plan, as outlined in the *Transportation Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Nation's Capital*.

**Response:** The action was taken to protect the White House Complex from explosive devices carried by vehicles near the perimeter. This action, while

inharmonious with the transportation plan, is a necessary security precaution.

**Issue 19:** One commenter believes that there is sufficient pre-existing traffic data available from the District and the FHWA to allow for estimation of the action's effects.

**Response:** The EA used the above mentioned data and data from other sources and still could not identify a method for making the suggested estimation. FHWA was a cooperating agency for the EA.

**Issue 20:** One commenter citing anecdotal evidence from her constituents suggests that noise levels now are noticeably higher. This commenter also suggested that the methodology used for noise in the EA contains flaws and therefore failed to fully quantify the actual increase.

**Response:** The EA noise data was acquired using standard industry practices and equipment. It presents the actual dB readings taken at the time of the measurement in a scientifically accurate manner.

**Issue 21:** One commenter noted that the boundaries for the extended study area are appropriate for evaluating the project's effects.

**Response:** Treasury agrees.

**Lawrence H. Summers,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Customs Service

#### Expansion of National Customs Automation Program Test Regarding Electronic Protest Filing

**AGENCY:** Customs Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** General notice; expansion of program.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces Customs plan to expand its program regarding the electronic filing of protests to encourage new participants. Also, public comments concerning any aspect of the test are solicited.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The testing period, which was scheduled to end on April 30, 1997, is now extended through December of 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding this notice or any aspect of this test should be addressed to the Chief, Commercial Compliance Branch, U.S. Customs Service, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 1313, Washington, DC 20229-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For operational or policy issues: Neil

Shannon, Chief, Commercial Compliance Branch, (202) 927-0300.

For protest system or automation issues: Steve Linnemann, Office of Information and Technology, (202) 927-0436.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On January 30, 1996, Customs published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 3086) a general notice announcing, as part of the National Customs Automation Program (NCAP), a test regarding the electronic filing of protests. The test began on May 1, 1996, was to last six months, but was extended through April of 1997, when a second general notice was published on December 31, 1996, in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 69133). The test allows the following actions to be filed and tracked electronically:

(1) Protests against Customs decisions under 19 U.S.C. 1514

(2) Claims for refunds of duties deposited or for corrections of errors requiring reliquidation pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1520 (c) and (d); and

(3) Interventions in an importer's protest by an exporter or producer of merchandise from a country that is a party to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) under § 181.115 of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 181.115).

Participation in this NCAP component is available to all interested parties. If you already are an ABI participant, you can take advantage of electronic protest immediately by contacting your local Customs Client Representative. If you are not an ABI participant, write a letter on your company's letterhead indicating your interest in electronic protest filing. The information provided should include your company's name, address, telephone number, and the name of a contact person. Send the letter to: U.S. Customs Service, Office of Information and Technology, User Support Services Division, Trade Support, Room 2419, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20229.

##### Expansion of Test

This notice informs the public that Customs is expanding the program for the electronic filing of protests to encourage new participants. Also, public comments concerning any aspect of the test are solicited.

Customs anticipates that this NCAP component will be available to all interested parties by January of 1998.

Dated: September 19, 1997.

**Robert S. Trotter,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Privacy Act of 1974: Computer Matching Program

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, notice is hereby given of the conduct of an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) computer match.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This notice will be effective October 24, 1997, unless comments dictate otherwise.

**ADDRESS:** Comments or inquiries may be mailed to Chief Inspector, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Jacqueline Greening, Internal Auditor, Quality Assurance and Oversight Section, Office of Planning and Management, Office of Assistant Chief Inspector (Internal Audit), Internal Revenue Service, (202) 622-5911.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** IRS management is responsible for discouraging the perpetration of irregular or illegal acts and limiting any exposure if an integrity breach occurs. To accomplish its mission, the Inspection Service assists management in achieving this objective by enhancing its conventional audit and investigative activities with a program designed to deter and detect such acts and to search for indicators of fraud sufficient to warrant investigation.

The Inspection Service's Integrity Program includes Integrity Projects, Integrity Tests, and national or other projects, including joint Internal Audit/

Internal Security activities, designed to detect indicators of fraud and which focus specifically on the deterrence and detection of integrity breaches.

Integrity Projects are reviews or probes of specific high risk areas or transactions by the Inspection Service to detect material fraud and to assess the extent of integrity breaches that may have occurred.

Computer matching is the most feasible method of performing comprehensive analysis of employee, taxpayer, and tax administration data because of the large number of employees (seasonally varying to over 102,000), the geographic dispersion (nationwide) of IRS offices and employees, and the tremendous volume of computerized data that is available for analysis.

This computer match may be conducted in part or in its entirety by any or all of the Inspection Service's offices. The results of this match may be matched with County and/or State Lien records to identify any discrepancies and/or underlying fraudulent activity aimed at unauthorized lien releases.

**NAME OF SOURCE AGENCY:**

Internal Revenue Service.

**NAME OF RECIPIENT AGENCY:**

Internal Revenue Service.

**BEGINNING AND COMPLETION DATES:**

This computer match is targeted to commence in October, 1997 unless comments dictate otherwise. The program of computer matches will conclude at the end of the eighteenth month after the beginning date (April, 1999).

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this computer match is to identify employee misconduct (e.g., internal corruption through the exploitation of existing internal controls) that has resulted in improper lien releases and failure to adequately protect the government's interests.

**AUTHORITY:**

The Office of Chief Inspector was established and provided the authority to perform character and conduct

investigations of IRS employees pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 321(b); sections 7801(a), 7802, and 7803 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; 26 U.S.C. 7804 and Reorganization Plan Number 1 of 1952.

Commissioner's reorganization Order #Hdq-1 (July 29, 1952), IR-Mimeograph Number 236 (December 7, 1953), and the current provisions of the Internal Revenue Manual (IRE) give authority to conduct personnel investigations to the Chief Inspector.

Internal Revenue Manual 1161 charges the Chief Inspector with carrying out a program for assisting management to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity among its employees.

The United States General Accounting Office field work standards for both performance and financial audits require auditors to design an audit to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse of illegal acts that could significantly affect the financial statements, audit objectives, or audit results.

**CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED:**

Current and former employees of the IRS.

**CATEGORIES OF RECORDS COVERED:**

1. Information regarding Lien Files (Open and Closed) [Treasury/IRS 26.009].
2. Information regarding taxpayers, tax returns, and tax return information.
  - a. Individual Master File (IMF) (Treasury/IRS 24.030).
  - b. Business Master File (BMF) (Treasury/IRS 24.046).
3. Information regarding IRS employees (General Personnel and Payroll- Treasury/IRS 36.003)
4. Information regarding County and/or State Lien Filing and Lien Release Records.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

**Alex Rodriguez,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary (Administration).*

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