

Requests have already been made for producer records by State trusts which are preparing to make the multi-billion dollar "Phase II" distribution to farmers. Because these funds could provide much needed help to farmers, the Secretary intends to provide the records to the requesting organizations, consistent with the new law, except in the case of those parties who wish to opt out of the release. Those who do wish to opt out of the release should send notice in writing of that election to Charles Hatcher, FSA, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, STOP 0514, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0514. Such notice must be received by September 7, 1999.

As the release only affects farm records, warehouses and buyers of tobacco need not file any exemption elections. With respect to producers and other parties involved in the growing of tobacco, those producers should be advised that a request for an exemption from the disclosure could result in a delay in receiving a distribution from the State trust, or, depending on the eligibility criteria created by the State organizations, an ineligibility to share in the distribution. It is therefore not expected that there will be many exemption requests filed. Accordingly, it appears that the record collections can be made at one location for re-routing to the national record center for processing.

Signed at Washington, DC, on August 18, 1999.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Solicitation of Nominations for Members of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice to solicit nominees.

**SUMMARY:** The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing that nominations are being sought for persons to serve on GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under authority of section 20 of the United States Grain Standards Act (Act), Pub. L. 97-35, the Secretary of Agriculture

established the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) on September 29, 1981, to provide advice to the Administrator on implementation of the Act. Section 14 of the United States Grain Standards Act Amendments of 1993, Pub. L. 103-156, extended the authority for the Advisory Committee through September 30, 2000.

The Advisory Committee presently consists of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary, who represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, consumers, and exporters, including scientists with expertise in research related to the policies in section 2 of the Act. Members of the Committee serve without compensation. They are reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for travel away from their homes or regular places of business in performance of Advisory Committee service, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code. Alternatively, travel expenses may be paid by Committee members.

Nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee to replace the five members whose terms expire in March 2000. Nominations are also being sought for three alternate members to replace the alternates whose terms expire in March 2000 as well as to bring the total number of alternates back up to fifteen.

Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact GIPSA, by telephone (202-720-0219), fax (202-205-9237), or electronic mail (mplaus@gipsadc.usda.gov) and request Form AD-755, which must be completed and submitted to GIPSA by fax or at the following address: GIPSA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Form AD-755 must be received not later than October 22, 1999.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The final selection of Advisory Committee members and alternates will be made by the Secretary.

Dated: August 16, 1999.

**James R. Baker,**

*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oklahoma

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oklahoma, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a proposed change in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Oklahoma for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It is the intention of NRCS in Oklahoma to issue revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards are Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332), Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C), Field Border (Code 386), Filter Strip (Code 393), Residue Management, Mulch Till (Code 329B), Residue Management, No Till and Strip Till (Code 329A), Pasture and Hayland Planting (Code 512), and Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

**DATES:** Comments will be received until September 22, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquire in writing to Keith Vaughan, ASTC (Ecological Sciences), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 100 USDA, Suite 206, Stillwater, OK 74074-2655. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to Keith.Vaughan@ok.usda.gov. Telephone 405-742-1240.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Oklahoma will receive comments relative to the proposed change. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Oklahoma regarding

disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: August 13, 1999.

**Ronnie L. Clark,**

*State Conservationist, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-427-098]

#### Anhydrous Sodium Metasilicate from France: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of preliminary results of antidumping duty administrative review.

**SUMMARY:** In response to a request from a domestic interested party, the Department of Commerce is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on anhydrous sodium metasilicate from France for the period January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998.

We have preliminarily determined a dumping margin in this review. If these preliminary results are adopted in the final results of this administrative review, we will instruct the Customs Service to assess antidumping duties on subject merchandise manufactured or exported by Rhone-Poulenc, S.A.

We invite interested parties to comment on these preliminary results.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 23, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stacey King or Mark Ross, Office of Antidumping/Countervailing Duty Enforcement, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone (202) 482-1757/4784.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### The Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Act by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department of Commerce's (the Department's) regulations are to the

regulations codified at 19 CFR Part 351 (1998).

#### Background

On January 14, 1999, the Department published a notice of "Opportunity to Request Administrative Review" (64 FR 2470) with respect to the antidumping duty order on anhydrous sodium metasilicate (ASM) from France. The petitioner, PQ Corporation, requested a review of Rhone-Poulenc, S.A. on January 21, 1999. In response to PQ Corporation's request, the Department published a notice of initiation of an administrative review on February 22, 1999 (63 FR 20378), in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b).

#### Scope of Review

Imports covered by the review are shipments of ASM, a crystallized silicate which is alkaline and readily soluble in water. Applications include waste paper de-inking, ore-flotation, bleach stabilization, clay processing, medium or heavy duty cleaning, and compounding into other detergent formulations. This merchandise is classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedules (HTS) item numbers 2839.11.00 and 2839.19.00. The HTS item numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes. The written description remains dispositive.

#### Period of Review

The period of review is from January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998.

#### Facts Available

Section 776(a)(2) of the Act provides that, if an interested party (1) withholds information that has been requested by the Department, (2) fails to provide such information in a timely manner or in the form or manner requested, subject to subsections 782(c)(1) and (e) of the Act, (3) significantly impedes a determination under the antidumping statute, or (4) provides such information but the information cannot be verified as provided in section 782(i) of the Act, then the Department shall, subject to section 782(d) of the Act, use facts otherwise available in determining dumping margins.

The Department sent Rhone-Poulenc a questionnaire on March 1, 1999, with a deadline of April 7, 1999, for providing information necessary to conduct a review of any shipments that the firm may have made to the United States during the period of review. Rhone-Poulenc did not respond to our original questionnaire or to a follow-up letter that we sent to the company. Because Rhone-Poulenc has withheld information we requested and has, in

fact, made no effort to participate in this proceeding, we must, pursuant to sections 776(a)(2)(A) and (D) of the Act, use facts otherwise available to determine its dumping margins.

Based on the lack of any response from Rhone-Poulenc, we find that the company has failed to cooperate by not acting to the best of its ability to comply with a request for information. Therefore, pursuant to section 776(b) of the Act, the Department may use an inference that is adverse to the interests of Rhone-Poulenc in selecting from among the facts otherwise available. This section also provides that an adverse inference may include reliance on information derived from the petition, the final determination in the investigation segment of the proceeding, a previous review under section 751 of the Act or a determination under section 753 of the Act, or any other information placed on the record. In addition, the Statement of Administrative Action accompanying the URAA, H.R. Doc. 316, Vol. 1, 103d Cong. (1994) (SAA), establishes that the Department may employ an adverse inference "to ensure that the party does not obtain a more favorable result by failing to cooperate than if it had cooperated fully." SAA at 870. In employing adverse inferences, the Department is instructed to consider "the extent to which a party may benefit from its own lack of cooperation." *Id.* Because we find that Rhone-Poulenc failed to cooperate by not complying with our request for information and in order to ensure that it does not benefit from its lack of cooperation, we are employing an adverse inference in selecting from the facts available.

The Department's practice when selecting an adverse rate from among the possible sources of information has been to ensure that the margin is sufficiently adverse "as to effectuate the purpose of the facts available rule to induce respondents to provide the Department with complete and accurate information in a timely manner." See *Static Random Access Memory Semiconductors From Taiwan; Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value*, 63 FR 8909, 8932 (February 23, 1998). The Department will also consider the extent to which a party may benefit from its own lack of cooperation in selecting a rate. See *Roller Chain Other Than Bicycle, From Japan; Notice of Final Results and Partial Recission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 62 FR 69472, 69477 (November 10, 1997), and *Certain Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes from Thailand: Final Results of Antidumping Administrative Review*, 62 FR 53808, 53820-21 (October 16, 1997).