

for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 21, 1999.

James R. Frazier,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-33641 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a tele conference meeting on January 6, 2000. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 13, 2000, beginning at 2 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via tele conference. To access this call please follow instructions: You must have a touch tone phone. Dial 1 (888) 769-8514 at the tone please give the password number 13885.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Gee or Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committees. Items to be covered on the agenda include: [1] Watershed Assessment Recommendations. [2] Public comments. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to obtain tele conference information. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period during the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: December 20, 1999.

Edmund Gee,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-33561 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No. 990114014-9317-02]

RIN: 0605-XX05

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of amendment of privacy act system of records; commerce/patent and trademark system 14.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is amending the system of records listed under Commerce-Patent and Trademark System 14: User of Public Search Room of the Patent and Trademark Office. This action has been taken to update the user pass system privacy act notice. We invite public comment on the proposed changes announced in this publication.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The amendments will become effective as proposed January 27, 2000.

Comment Date: To be considered, written comments must be submitted on or before January 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent via United States Mail delivery to Nancy Slutter, Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 8, Washington, DC 20231; or via facsimile at 703-305-9373. All comments received will be available for public inspection at the Public Search Facilities, Crystal Plaza 3, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Slutter, Office of the Solicitor, Box 8, Washington, DC 20231, 703-305-9035.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will modify its current user pass system for persons using the Public Search Facilities and other offices at the PTO. The user pass system will be modified from a system that is currently collected on paper to a system that stores records electronically. The PTO maintains numerous search facilities for the use of members of the public. Patent applications are available to applicants and their designees and all trademark files are available to the public. Additionally, application files for issued United States patents are available for inspection and duplication at the PTO. Thus, members of the public have a need to access certain areas of the PTO

facilities. The PTO has become aware of problems associated with improper use, removal, loss, or theft of application files and other PTO property and, therefore, plans to modernize its user pass system to better preserve its resources. Additionally, the user pass system will help the PTO understand the public's use of PTO facilities and allocate sufficient resources to serve the public.

On January 6, 1998, the PTO issued a notice in its Official Gazette notifying the public that updated identification passes would be issued to public users of the PTO search facilities. On October 22, 1997, the PTO held a public hearing concerning the public's access to application files. Members of the public submitted a number of written comments concerning access to application files. All commenters objected to a proposal that would have restricted access to the application files. Four additional commenters, while expressing concern at the proposal to restrict access, praised the PTO for efforts to implement procedures to assure the integrity of the application files.

Application files are critically important to understanding the metes and bounds of the intellectual property grants that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks issues. See, e.g., *Warner-Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton Davis Chem. Co.*, 117 S.Ct. 1040, 1049-50 (1997) (discussing prosecution history estoppel). Moreover, Congress has mandated that the PTO keep and preserve all records pertaining to patents and trademark registrations. 35 U.S.C. 1.

Changes being made to update PAT/TM-14 include amendments to the system name, categories of records in the system, policies and practices for storing records, and addresses. The system name is being amended to reflect that this system encompasses all public facilities at the Patent and Trademark Office, not just the Public Search Room as the system is currently named. The categories of records in the system is being amended: (i) To clarify that the PTO may collect addresses, including business, home and/or electronic mail addresses—the current notice merely lists home addresses; (ii) to include telephone numbers—the current system does not mention telephone numbers; (iii) to include a photograph—the current system does not mention photographs; (iv) to include record of use—the current system does not mention record of use; (v) to include government-issued identification cards and information contained therein—the current system does not mention

government-issued identification cards; and, (vi) to include other information as needed to establish identity—the current system does not mention other information to establish identity. The PTO will collect this information to confirm identity of public users checking out application files or other material or using the public facilities. The policies and practices for storing and retrieving the information in this system are being amended to reflect electronic storage compared with the current paper storage system. The system manager and notification procedure are being amended merely to update correct addresses for those positions.

The Department of Commerce finds no probable or potential affect of the proposal on the privacy of individuals. To minimize the risk of unauthorized access to the system of records, the PTO has located paper records in lockable file cabinets or in metal file cabinets in secured rooms or secured premises with access limited to those whose official duties require access. Electronic files are stored in secured premises with access limited to those whose official duties require access.

Accordingly, the Users of Public Search Room of the Patent and Trademark Office originally published at 42 FR 32340, June 24, 1977 is amended by the following updates:

Commerce/PAT-TM-14

SYSTEM NAME:

Users of Public Facilities of the Patent and Trademark Office.

SYSTEM LOCATION: *

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM: *

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Name; addresses; telephone numbers; business firm or other organizations with which affiliated; user pass number; user photograph; registration number, if a registered practitioner before the Patent and Trademark Office; record of use; violations of policies governing use of the search facilities and other office areas; signature of recipients of user passes; government-issued identification card and information contained therein; and, other information as needed to establish identity.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM: *

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES: *

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Paper records in file folders and electronic storage.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Alphabetically by name and sequentially by user pass number. Also, electronic sort by data element.

SAFEGUARDS:

Records are located in lockable metal file cabinets or in metal file cabinets in secured rooms or secured premises with access limited to those whose official duties require access. Electronic files are stored in secured premises with access limited to those whose official duties require access.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL: *

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Director, Public Search Services Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Information may be obtained from: Privacy Officer, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box 8, Washington, DC 20231. Requesters should provide name, signature, address, date of visit, and record sought in accordance with the inquiry provisions of the Department's rules which appear in 15 CFR part 4b.

* No changes are being made.

Dated: December 14, 1999.

Brenda Dolan,

*Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer,
Department of Commerce.*

[FR Doc. 99-33578 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket Number 991215341-9341-01]

RIN Number 0607-XX50

Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Consideration.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) is considering a proposal to

conduct the Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures survey for the year 1999. The Census Bureau, prior to 1995, conducted the Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures Survey, MA-200. Due to budget limitations, the survey was suspended. In response to the need for this data to assess the cost of environmental regulations on private business, the Census Bureau, with support from the Environmental Protection Agency, plans to reinstate the Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures.

DATE: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 27, 2000.

ADDRESS: Direct all written comments to the Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 2049, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20233-0101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Taylor, Manufacturing and Construction Division, Bureau of the Census, Room 2135, Federal Building 4, Washington, DC 20233, on (301) 457-4683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Census Bureau is authorized to conduct surveys necessary to furnish current data on subjects covered by the major censuses authorized by Title 13, United States Code, Sections 182, 224, and 225. The Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures survey will provide continuing and timely national statistical data for the period between the economic censuses. The next Economic Census will occur in the year 2002. Data collected in this survey will be within the general scope, type, and character of those inquiries covered in the Economic Census.

The survey form will collect—from plants that produce goods or provide services classified in manufacturing, mining, and electric utility industries—data on the operating costs of pollution prevention and treatment, including hazardous pollutants, payments to government agencies for pollution removal, and new capital expenditures for pollution prevention and treatment (such as for air pollution control, water pollution control and solid waste). These data are similar to the data collected on the previously mentioned MA-200. The survey results will be used to track costs of regulatory programs and rules. Results will also be used for monitoring economic impact and promoting growth of environmental programs.

The Bureau of the Census will use mail-out/mail-back survey forms to collect the data. Companies will be asked to respond to the survey within 60 days of the initial mailing. Letters encouraging participation will be mailed to companies that have not