

are correct, when SSA records indicate that the wage earner is deceased. The respondents are employers who report wages for a deceased employee.

Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,333 hours.

7. Site Review Questionnaire for Volume Payees, SSA-637; Site Review Questionnaire for Fee-for Service Payees, SSA-638; Site Review—Beneficiary Interview Form, SSA-639—0960-NEW. Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act provide for the payment of Social Security and SSI benefits to a relative, another person, or an organization when the best interests of the beneficiary will be served. Social Security regulations outline the duties and responsibilities of representative payees and require a written report accounting for these benefits.

To ensure that benefits are being used properly for beneficiaries, SSA will conduct triennial site reviews for fee-for-service payees and volume payees (organizations serving 100 or more beneficiaries). The reviews include a face-to-face meeting with the payee and appropriate staff and examination/verification of a sample of beneficiary records and supporting documentation, and may include beneficiary or custodian interviews. The information gathered using forms SSA-637, SSA-638 and SSA-639 will be used to ensure compliance with representative payment policies and procedures. It will enable SSA to identify poor payee performance and initiate corrective action as appropriate. The respondents are individuals who receive a fee for service, organizations serving as representative payees for 100 or more Social Security and SSI beneficiaries, and beneficiaries or custodians. Following is an estimate of the annual public reporting burden:

	Volume payees	Fee-for-service payees	Beneficiaries/custodians
Number of respondents	347	333	2,040
Frequency of response	1	1	1
Average burden per response (minutes)	60	60	10
Estimated annual burden (hours)	347	333	340

Dated: April 6, 2001.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-9122 Filed 4-12-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3643]

Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Notice of the Availability of Draft Synthesis Report of the IPCC Third Assessment Report and Request for Comments

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has prepared a draft Synthesis Report for its Third Assessment Report (TAR) on Climate Change. The IPCC is an international scientific body that prepares assessments on the state of knowledge on climate change, its potential impacts, and options for response. The topics covered by the Panel are diverse and range from detection and attribution of climate change, evaluation of climate models, and prediction of climate change, to impacts of climate change on ecosystems and human activities, evaluation of options for adaptation, and technical assessments of options for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

During April and May, 2001, IPCC is coordinating a simultaneous expert and government review of the draft Synthesis Report. This report synthesizes the information contained in the Third Assessment Report, including on the rate and magnitude of climate change, the extent of impacts, and the costs and benefits of different response strategies. In addition to its own expert review, the IPCC Secretariat accepts both expert and government comments on this report through national governments.

The U.S. Subcommittee on Global Change Research (SGCR) is coordinating the preparation of the comments of the U.S.G. Through this notice, the SGCR is announcing the availability of the draft Synthesis Report of the IPCC's Third Assessment Report and is requesting comments on the draft report by April 27, 2001 from scientists, experts and other interested organizations and individuals. The comments received will be reviewed, combined, and incorporated, as appropriate, in the process of preparing the set of official USG comments to the IPCC. It should be noted that this is a draft report and should not be cited or quoted as it is

still undergoing review and is likely to be changed.

Comments on the review draft should indicate: (1) Name, affiliation, postal address, email address, and other contact information; and (2) the general area of expertise of the reviewer. Reviewer comments on the draft Synthesis Report of the IPCC's Third Assessment Report (preferably submitted as an attachment to an email message) must be received at the email addresses indicated below on or before April 27, 2001. The SGCR cannot extend this deadline because the member countries of the IPCC have established a strict timetable for the review process and require prompt submission of USG comments.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals or organizations may register as a reviewer and access the draft Synthesis Report at the Global Change Research Information Office (GCRI) website at <http://www.gcric.org/ipccform/>. Alternatively, requests with the required information (see above) may be sent electronically to GCRI at "help@gcrio.org"; or to GCRI at P. O. Box 1000, 61 Route 9W, Palisades, New York 10964. Review comments should be submitted via email to USIPCCARSYN@usgcrp.gov. Review comments should be in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect and formatted according to guidance provided on the GCRI website. If email submission is not possible, review comments may be submitted via mail to: US Comments, IPCC TAR Synthesis Report, Office of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: IPCC TAR Review Coordinator, Office of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, Suite 750, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20024; or telephone 202-488-8630, fax to 202-488-8681, or send an email to office@usgcrp.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was jointly established in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization to conduct periodic assessments of the state of knowledge concerning global climate change. The first Scientific Assessment Report was prepared in 1990 and the Second Assessment Report was prepared in 1995. The IPCC has formed three working groups to conduct its assessments. Working Group I addresses the state of the science on what is happening and projected to

happen to the climate system; Working Group II addresses the state of the science on regional, sectoral and cross-sectoral impacts of, and adaptation to, climate change, including the social dimensions and economic costs and benefits; and Working Group III addresses the state of science concerning mitigation of climate change, including the social aspects and economic costs and benefits, and methodological aspects of cross-cutting issues. The individual reports of the working groups were approved in January and February. The Summary for Policymakers for each report is available on the IPCC Web site at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>.

The IPCC reports are prepared by hundreds of scientists from well over 50 countries. They provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of knowledge concerning topics such as scientific information, environmental impacts, response strategies, and other issues concerning climate change. Each report contains numerous technical chapters prepared by experts in the field, and a Summary for Policymakers that is based on the technical chapters but negotiated line-by-line by governments. As part of the Third Assessment Report, the IPCC is currently preparing a Synthesis Report based on the three working group reports. This report will address a series of policy-relevant science questions that have been approved by member governments of the IPCC. These questions explore the effects, costs, and benefits of different stabilization targets for atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. The report is intended as input to deliberations within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

II. Review Process

The member countries of the IPCC have established a timetable to ensure that the IPCC Secretariat can meet its obligations for a timely completion of the IPCC Third Assessment Report. The SGCR is responsible for coordinating preparation of the USG response, and through this notice is seeking the views of experts and interested organizations and individuals to help in the formulation of its response. Comments will be reviewed, integrated, and used, as appropriate, in the preparation of the official USG comments. An information sheet providing specific guidance on formatting comments is provided Global Change Research Information Office (GCRIO) website. All comments must provide the name and affiliation of the reviewer, and an indication of their area of expertise. This is in accord with the

IPCC practice that all reviewer comments are attributed. To be most useful, comments should be specific in suggesting alternative wording or other changes to the text of a particular paragraph or section and, where appropriate, offer supporting information and peer-reviewed references and/or reference relevant sections of the approved working group reports. Comments on the overall tone and scientific validity of the report and comments expressing the reasons for agreement or disagreement with specific major points are also solicited. Reviews should consider the consistency of the Synthesis Report with the underlying materials, particularly the Summaries for Policymakers for the three Working Groups and the selection and representation of major points.

III. Public Availability of Comments

Subsequent to the USG assembly of its comments, the collection of comments received will be available for public inspection at the Department of State Reading Room. Note that the IPCC draft reports are only available over the Web. The official US Government comments will also subsequently be posted on the Web at http://www.state.gov/www/global/global_issues/climate/index.html.

Dated: April 9, 2001.

Trigg Talley,

Acting Director, Office of Global Change, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 01-9212 Filed 4-12-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-U

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Deadline for Submission of Petitions for the 2001 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of the 2001 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review.

DATES: Final date for submission of petitions is June 13, 2001.

SUMMARY: The deadline for the submission of petitions for the 2001 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW., Room F220, Washington,

DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Announcement of 2001 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review

The GSP regulations (15 CFR Part 2007) provide the schedule of dates for conducting an annual review unless otherwise specified by a Federal Register notice. Notice is hereby given that, in order to be considered in the 2001 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review, all petitions to modify the list of articles eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP or to review the GSP status of any beneficiary developing country must be received by the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2001. Petitions submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review and will be returned to the petitioner.

The GSP provides for the duty-free importation of designated articles when imported from designated beneficiary developing countries. The GSP is authorized by title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et. seq.*), as amended (the "Trade Act"), and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations. Section 505 of the Trade Act states that duty-free treatment provided under the GSP shall not remain in effect after September 30, 2001. If the program expires without reauthorization on that date, the 2001 Annual GSP review will be conducted according to a schedule to be issued in the **Federal Register** if and when the program is reauthorized. The review will be based on those petitions that are submitted prior to the June 13 deadline and accepted for review by the GSP Subcommittee.

A. 2001 GSP Annual Product Review

Interested parties or foreign governments may submit petitions: (1) To designate additional articles as eligible for GSP; (2) to withdraw, suspend or limit GSP duty-free treatment accorded either to eligible articles under the GSP or to individual beneficiary developing countries with respect to specific GSP eligible articles; (3) to waive the competitive need limits for individual beneficiary developing countries with respect to specific GSP eligible articles; and (4) to otherwise modify GSP coverage. As specified in 15 CFR 2007.1, all product petitions must include a detailed description of the product and the Harmonized Tariff