

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2929]

Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL) Study Group on Electronic Commerce Meeting Notice and Request for Public Comments

The Department of State's Advisory Committee Study Group on Electronic Commerce will hold a meeting Friday, June 19 in Washington, D.C. from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The meeting will review international and national developments concerning computer-based authentication, signature and message integrity systems, and consider possible approaches to international rules and related domestic concerns.

The discussion will include developments at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); the OECD; proposed new uniform state laws in the U.S., including Uniform Commercial Code Article 2B and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act; and other state and federal laws and regulations proposed or adopted. The Advisory Committee will also consider developments at the European Commission, the Science and Technology, Business, and International Law Sections of the American Bar Association, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, the American Law Institute, and other organizations as appropriate.

In particular, two documents will be reviewed which will then be considered by UNCITRAL at the next meeting of its Working Group on Electronic Commerce in July 1998. These include (1) the recently revised "Draft Uniform Rules on Electronic Signatures" issued by the Secretariat, and (2) a proposal by the United States on a "Draft International Convention on Electronic Transactions" (U.N. Docs.A/CN.9/WG.IV/WP.76 and 77, dated 25 May, 1998).

Issues that may be reviewed by the Advisory Committee may include, but are not limited to, prior U.S. views urging international bodies to examine the various electronic authentication systems now available or emerging, to allow both technological and market developments to form the basis of any rules, in order to avoid unnecessary impediments to electronic commerce. Included will be a consideration of rules which can encompass both unregulated private sector systems, as well as governmentally regulated or licensed systems; whether rules for authentication or signature systems should distinguish between commercial and consumer transactions; possible rules on risk allocation, attribution and

reliance; whether third party assurance providers, such as certifying authorities, should have to meet minimum levels of assurance; what role information security standards should play in this process; whether rules are needed on incorporation by reference; what types of rules for cross-certification between different countries are feasible; and other related issues. Jurisdictional issues will also be discussed as appropriate.

Participants may also wish to review the recently completed UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce, which covers the legal effect and validity of computer messages in commercial transactions; functional equivalents of signatures, writings, etc.; attribution of messages; time and place where communications are deemed to have taken place; electronic bills of lading; and other matters.

The meeting is open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room, and members of the public may participate subject to rulings of the Chair. The meeting will be held in Washington at the International Law Institute (ILI), at 1615 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Participants should register in advance since space may be limited. Please advise either the Office of Legal Adviser (L/PIL) at the State Department by calling Rosie Gonzales at (202) 776-8420, by fax at 776-8482, or by email to: pildb@his.com., or call Stuart Kerr, ILI Executive Director, at (202) 483-3036, or by fax at 483-3029.

Participants will receive the above-referenced documents by providing Ms. Gonzales with their email address, or alternatively by requesting paper copies. The office mailing address is: Office of the Legal Adviser (L/PIL), Suite 355, South Building, 2430 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20037-2800. Members of the public who cannot attend are welcome to request the documents and to comment on this topic.

Harold S. Burman,

Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law.

[FR Doc. 98-14855 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2831]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Pub. L. 101-162

May 19, 1998.

SUMMARY: On May 1, 1998, the Department of State certified, pursuant

to Section 609 of Pub. L. 101-162 ("Section 609"), that 16 nations have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in their shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. The Department also certified that the fishing environments in 23 other countries do not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Section 609. Shrimp imports from any nation not certified were prohibited effective May 1, 1998 pursuant to Section 609.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 4, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hollis Summers, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; telephone: (202) 647-2337.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 609 of Pub. L. 101-162 prohibits imports of certain categories of shrimp unless the President certifies to the Congress not later than May 1 of each year either: (1) That the harvesting nation has adopted a program governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in its commercial shrimp fishery comparable to the program in effect in the United States and has an incidental take rate comparable to that of the United States; or (2) that the fishing environment in the harvesting nation does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles. The President has delegated the authority to make this certification to the Department of State. Revised State Department guidelines for making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 1996 (61 FR 17342).

On May 1, 1998, the Department certified 16 nations on this basis: Belize, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago. Brazil and Nigeria, certified on these grounds in 1997, did not retain their certifications. Brazil and Venezuela failed to demonstrate their regulations requiring the use of sea turtle excluder devices (TEDs) were being adequately enforced; Nigeria did not respond to requests that a U.S. team be allowed to visit its shrimp fleet.

The Department also certified 23 shrimp harvesting nations as having fishing environments that do not pose a danger to sea turtles. Sixteen nations have shrimping grounds only in cold waters where the risk of taking sea turtles is negligible. They are: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile,

Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay. Seven nations only harvest shrimp using small boats with crews of less than five that use manual rather than mechanical means to retrieve nets, or catch shrimp in using other methods that do not threaten sea turtles. Use of such small-scale technology does not adversely affect sea turtles. The seven nations are: the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Haiti, Jamaica, Oman, Peru and Sri Lanka. The Bahamas and Brunei, certified on these grounds in 1997, were not certified this year after it was established that Bahamian waters do not have enough shrimp to support a commercial shrimp fishery and that Brunei's commercial fishery harvests appreciable quantities of shrimp using methods that could threaten sea turtles. Last year neither exported shrimp to the United States,

Any shipment of shrimp harvested in Brazil, Venezuela, Nigeria, the Bahamas or Brunei with a date of export therefrom prior to May 1, 1998 will be allowed entry into the United States regardless of date of importation into the United States. That is, shipments of shrimp harvested in these countries in transit prior to the effective date of the ban are not barred from entry.

The Department of State communicated the certifications under section 609 to the Office of Trade Operations of the United States Customs Service in a letter transmitted on May 1, 1998. The letter noted that the Department has informed U.S. importers and foreign nations that after May 1, 1997, the Exporter's/Importer's Declaration required to be submitted with all shrimp imports must be the latest version (OMB Approval No. 140-0095, expiration date 9-31-99). In addition, the United States Customs Service and foreign and domestic users of the DSP-121 form have been notified that, in accordance with a U.S. Court of International Trade order of October 8, 1996, shrimp harvested with TEDs in uncertified nations may not be imported into the United States and that exemption 7.2 on the DSP 121 is not valid until further notice.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

R. Tucker Scully,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary For Oceans.

[FR Doc. 98-14787 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as Amended by Public Law 104-13; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). The Tennessee Valley Authority is soliciting public comments on this proposed collection as provided by 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1). Requests for information, including copies of the information collection proposed and supporting documentation, should be directed to the Agency Clearance Officer: Wilma H. McCauley, Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street (WR 4Q), Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801; (423) 751-2523.

Comments should be sent to OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for Tennessee Valley Authority no later than July 6, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of Request: Regular submission, proposal to extend without revision a currently approved collection of information (OMB control number 3316-0096).

Title of Information Collection: Customer Input Card for TVA Recreation Areas.

Frequency of Use: On occasion.

Type of Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Small Business or Organizations Affected: No.

Federal Budget Functional Category Code: 452.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 1,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50.

Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response: .05.

Need For and Use of Information: This information collection asks visitors to selected TVA public use areas to provide feedback on the condition of the facilities they used and the services they received. The information collected will be used to evaluate current maintenance, facility, and service

practices and policies and to identify new opportunities for improvements.

William S. Moore,

Senior Manager, Administrative Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Program Management Committee (PMC)

Pursuant to section 10(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for the RTCA Program Management Committee (PMC) meeting to be held June 8, 1998, starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington DC 20036.

The agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Review and Approval of Summary of the Previous Meeting; (3) Consider/Approve: a. Final Draft, DO-229A, Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Global Positioning System/Wide Area Augmentation System Airborne Equipment, RTCA Paper No. 094-98/PMC-009, prepared by Special Committee (SC)-159; b. Final Draft, Government/Industry Guidelines and Concept for National Airspace Analysis and Redesign, RTCA Paper No. 095-98/PMC-010, prepared by SC-192; c. Final Draft, Change 1, DO-215A, Guidance on Aeronautical Mobile Satellite Service (AMSS) End-to-End System Performance, RTCA Paper No. 096-98/PMC-011, prepared by SC-165; d. Nominations for a new chairman for SC-135, Environmental Testing; (4) Special Committee Issues: a. PMC Action Item 98-06, Chairman, SC-193, Terrain and Airport Data Bases (Update status of Terms of Reference; update status of whether the committee will be joint with EUROCAE Working Group (WG)-44; recommend whether to develop further the Ground Collision Avoidance System work done by EUROCAE WG-44); b. PMC Action Item 98-07, Chairman, SC-181, Navigation Standards (Provide PMC with a work plan and updated Terms of Reference to incorporate development of standards for Navigation Data Information on Moving Maps); c. PMC Action Item 98-14, Secretary, SC-165, Aeronautical Mobile Satellite Services (Request to task SC-165 with development of a minimum Aviation System Performance Standard for End-to-End Satellite Voice Services, RTCA Paper No. 092-98/