

transactions that are not reported) with reported market prices, which may give them an advantage over sellers.

Because conditioning the purchase or sale of livestock on non-reporting of prices may be an unfair trade practice in violation of the P&S Act, P&S is considering taking regulatory action to prohibit non-reporting of price as a condition of the purchase or sale of livestock on spot market transactions. The Agency is interested in receiving information from members of the public, segments of the livestock industry (including producers, marketing firms, packers, associations, etc.), academia, and industry consultants on this issue. The Agency is particularly interested in receiving information from small entities that would be affected by regulatory action. Small entities are defined as firms that meet the following standards: (1) beef cattle feedlots with annual receipts of \$1.5 million or less; (2) beef cattle producers, except feedlots, and producers of hogs, sheep, goats, and horses or other equines, with annual receipts of \$500,000 or less for beef cattle, hog, sheep, goat, and horse or other equine sales; and (3) meat packing plants with 500 employees or less.

We are seeking information on how frequently conditioning the purchase or sale of livestock on the non-reporting of prices occurs and how different segments of the industry are affected by this practice. The information received in response to the following questions will be considered in determining whether this practice violates the P&S Act and whether regulatory action is warranted.

- Do you use reported market prices in making livestock purchase or sales decisions? If so, how do you use reported market prices? For example, do you use reported market prices to determine what purchase price to bid or what sales price to offer? If so, how? Do you use reported market prices to determine whether to accept or reject a buyer's bid or a seller's offer? If so, how?

- Do you encounter or engage in non-reporting of price as a condition of purchasing or selling livestock? If so, please describe the circumstances under which this practice occurs, the frequency with which it occurs, whether you participate in this practice, and the business reasons for your decision. When this practice occurs, are the prices higher, lower, or about the same as concurrent reported prices?

- What benefits, if any, would a prohibition on non-reporting of price as a condition of the purchase or sale of livestock have on your business? The livestock and meat packing industries?

The accuracy of reported market prices? Prices paid for livestock? The quality of livestock available for purchase or sale? The price discovery process? Competition? Please describe the bases for your conclusions.

- What harm or costs, if any, would a prohibition on non-reporting of price as a condition of the purchase or sale of livestock have on your business? The livestock and meat packing industries? The accuracy of reported market prices? Prices paid for livestock? The quality of livestock available for purchase or sale? The price discovery process? Competition? Please describe the bases for your conclusions.

- Do you have available any economic, statistical, or other research relevant to the use and effects of non-reporting of price as a condition of the purchase or sale of livestock? If so, please provide us with a copy of the research and a brief summary of the conclusions.

USDA is seeking extensive public comment from all sectors of the livestock and meat packing industries concerning the practice of non-reporting of price as a condition of the purchase or sale of livestock. We strongly encourage participation in this important process.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

**James R. Baker,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-24329 Filed 9-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

#### 10 CFR Part 430

[Docket Number EE-TP-98-101]

#### Workshop Regarding Test Procedures, Standards and Related Matters for Commercial Water Heaters, Boilers, Furnaces, Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of public workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (the Department or DOE) will hold a public workshop to discuss issues and gather information related to DOE's development of proposed provisions for energy efficiency test procedures and standards compliance as they relate to commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat

pumps. All persons are hereby given notice of the opportunity to attend and participate in this public workshop and to submit written comments.

**DATES:** The public workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The workshop will be held at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-245, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121.

Written comments are welcome, especially following the workshop. Please submit by November 13, 1998, ten copies (no faxes) and a computer diskette (WordPerfect 6.1) to: Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Energy Conservation Program for Commercial Products: Water Heaters, Boilers, Furnaces, Air Conditioners, and Heat Pumps, Docket No. EE-TP-98-101, EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121. Telephone: (202) 586-2945.

Copies of the transcript of the public workshop, public comments received, and this notice may be read (or copied) at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-3142, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cyrus Nasser, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-9138, e-mail: cyrus.nasser@ee.doe.gov; or Edward Levy, Esq., U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, GC-72, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-9507, e-mail: edward.levy@hq.doe.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Energy is drafting a proposed rule to implement certain provisions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C. 6311-6314, 6316, regarding energy efficiency test procedures and energy conservation standards for commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat pumps. While EPCA generally calls for adoption of test procedures referenced in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE), Standard 90.1, several issues have been raised concerning interpretation of EPCA and the Standard concerning matters not addressed in

Standard 90.1. These issues were discussed at a previous public workshop on April 14 and 15, 1998. Proceedings of this workshop, including transcripts, are available for inspection in Docket No. EE-TP-98-101 at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, U.S. DOE, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-6020, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Transcripts may also be purchased from Neal R. Gross, Court Reporters and Transcripts, 1323 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005-3701, (202) 234-4433.

Since that time, the DOE has analyzed the comments, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has developed recommendations for DOE's consideration in drafting the notice of proposed rulemaking. The purpose of this public workshop is to discuss the resolution of the issues raised in the April 1998, workshop and to obtain reactions to NIST's proposals.

NIST is developing a paper entitled, "Proposed Provisions for a Rulemaking on Test Procedures for Commercial Water Heaters, Boilers, Furnaces, Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps," which will set forth approaches for DOE to consider in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and it explains recommended provisions. This paper will be available after September 28, 1998, and can be found on the Internet at the following URL address: [http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/codes\\_standards/index.htm](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/codes_standards/index.htm). Hard copies can be obtained by mail from Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, at (202) 586-2945, or may be read at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room mentioned above.

At this workshop, the Department is particularly interested in receiving comments and views of interested parties concerning: (1) the ideas for resolution of the issues discussed in April and (2) provisions recommended by NIST for DOE's consideration for inclusion in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The Department encourages those who wish to participate in the workshop to obtain the NIST paper and to make presentations that address its contents. Workshop participants need not limit their statements to these topics. The Department is interested in receiving views concerning other issues that participants believe would affect the test procedures or standards compliance for commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat pumps.

The meeting will be conducted in an informal, conference style. A court reporter will be present to record the minutes of the meeting. There shall be no discussion of proprietary information, costs or prices, market shares, or other commercial matters regulated under antitrust law. After the meeting and period for written comments, the Department will consider the views presented in formulating a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding energy efficiency test procedures and standards compliance as they relate to commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat pumps.

If you would like to participate in the workshop, receive workshop materials, or be added to the DOE mailing list to receive future notices and information regarding commercial water heaters, boilers, furnaces, air conditioners, and heat pumps, please contact Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones at (202) 586-2945.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 4, 1998.

**Dan W. Reicher,**

*Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.*

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## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

### 11 CFR Parts 102, 103, and 106

[Notice 1998-14]

#### Prohibited and Excessive Contributions; "Soft Money"

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**ACTION:** Extension of Comment Period and Change of Public Hearing Date.

**SUMMARY:** On July 13, 1998, the Federal Election Commission published proposed rules and announced a public hearing relating to funds received by party committees outside the prohibitions and limitations of the Federal Election Campaign Act, also known as "soft money." 63 FR 37721 (July 13, 1998). The Commission has extended the comment period until October 2, 1998. The Commission has also rescheduled the public hearing for October 21, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. so that all newly confirmed Commissioners may participate.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 2, 1998. The hearing will be held on October 21, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. Persons wishing to testify must so indicate in their written comments.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written comments should be sent to the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20463.

Faxed comments should be sent to (202) 219-3923, with printed copy follow up. Electronic mail comments should be sent to [softmoneynpr@fec.gov](mailto:softmoneynpr@fec.gov). Commenters sending comments by electronic mail should include their full name and postal service address within the text of their comments. Electronic mail comments that do not contain the full name, electronic mail address and postal service address of the commenter will not be considered.

The public hearing will be held in the Commission's public hearing room, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC, Ninth Floor.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, or Paul Sanford, Staff Attorney, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463, (202) 694-1650 or (800) 424-9530.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

**Joan D. Aikens,**

*Chairman, Federal Election Commission.*

[FR Doc. 98-24272 Filed 9-9-98; 8:45 am]

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## EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

### 12 CFR Part 404

#### Comprehensive Revision of Export-Import Bank of the United States Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, and Other Information Disclosure Regulations and Implementation of Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996

**AGENCY:** Export-Import Bank of the United States.

**ACTION:** Supplemental proposed rule; Reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document sets forth one proposed section that was not included in the Export-Import Bank's original proposed rule, published on December 4, 1997 (62 FR 64177). This section will notify interested parties that disclosures of information in connection with program development, asset disposition, debt collection, and risk reduction efforts may take place when the Ex-Im Bank President determines that disclosure is needed to support the Bank's promotion of policy and