

Angeles, California area; December 4, 2002, in the greater Chicago, Illinois area; and December 19, 2002, in the greater Washington, DC area.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to participate in the round table meetings should be addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of International Relations, Room 902, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, *Attn:* Jon Santamauro, Small Business/Harmonization; faxed to Jon Santamauro's attention at (703) 305-8885; or sent via electronic mail to sbpatentharmonization@uspto.gov. Specific times and locations for the round table meetings will be determined based on responses received from persons who express an interest in participation. Details as to those times and locations will be communicated to participants and posted on USPTO's Web site at www.uspto.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jon Santamauro by telephone at (703) 305-9300 or by electronic mail at sbpatentharmonization@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In response to a request by the Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, the General Accounting Office (GAO) analyzed and prepared a report on (1) whether small businesses face impediments in obtaining foreign patent protection; (2) what impact any impediments have on their foreign patent decisions; and (3) whether any Federal actions could help small businesses overcome the impediments they may face in obtaining foreign patents. The Congressional requesters expressed concern that some small businesses, particularly high-technology firms, were not obtaining patent protection overseas and thus were losing potential sales in foreign markets.

The GAO completed its report, captioned Federal Action Needed to Help Small Businesses Address Foreign Patent Challenges (GAO-02-789), in July 2002 and made it available to the public in August 2002. The report is available on-line at www.gao.gov.

According to the report, foreign patent costs are the most significant impediment that small businesses face in trying to protect their inventions abroad. The conclusion is based on information received from small businesses and patent attorneys consulted by GAO in preparation of the report. The report also identifies

impediments including companies' limited foreign patent knowledge; differences among foreign patent systems; and the existence of challenging business climates and weak patent enforcement in certain countries.

To help address these impediments, GAO recommends that USPTO obtain input from small businesses, experts in global patent issues, and other interested parties in order to assess the advantages and disadvantages of various options for achieving additional patent law harmonization. In addition, GAO recommends that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, with assistance of USPTO, collect and make available information about key aspects of foreign patent laws, requirements, procedures, and costs that would be useful to small businesses that are considering whether to obtain foreign patent protection.

Consistent with the GAO recommendation, the Congressional requesters of the GAO report have requested that the USPTO convene a series of round table meetings with small business owners and policy experts by December 31, 2002, to hear views on the harmonization of global patent laws. They further request a synopsis of the proceedings and findings by March 31, 2003.

Round Table Meetings and Request for Comments

The USPTO requests that interested parties submit comments and/or recommendations on achieving additional harmonization of patent laws. It is suggested that this input be categorized as follows:

- (1) Cost and fee related issues.
- (2) Procedural and administrative issues.
- (3) Substantive patent law issues.
- (4) Enforcement issues.
- (5) Miscellaneous issues.

Comments must be received by December 19, 2002, to ensure consideration, and should be addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of International Relations, Room 902, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, *Attn:* Jon Santamauro, Small Business/Harmonization; faxed to Jon Santamauro's attention at (703) 305-8885; or sent via electronic mail to sbpatentharmonization@uspto.gov.

In addition, the USPTO will conduct round table meetings to hear views on the harmonization of international patent laws. The round table meetings are tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2002, in the greater Los Angeles, California area; December 4, 2002, in the greater Chicago, Illinois area; and

December 19, 2002, in the greater Washington, DC area.

Requests to participate in round table meetings must be received by November 22, 2002, and should be addressed as indicated above. If it becomes necessary to limit the number of participants, preference will be given to first-in-time requests. Specific times and locations for the round table meetings will be determined based on responses received from persons who express an interest in participation. Details as to those times and locations will be communicated to participants and posted on USPTO's Web site at www.uspto.gov.

Dated: October 22, 2002.

James E. Rogan,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 02-27323 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**American Statistical Association
Committee on Energy Statistics;
Notice of Renewal**

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), I hereby certify that the renewal of the charter of the American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of Energy by law. This determination follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, pursuant to section 102-3.60, title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rachel M. Samuel at (202) 586-3279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice on a continuing basis to the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA), including:

1. Periodic review of and advice on Energy Information Administration data collections and analysis programs;
2. Advice on technical and methodological issues in planning, operation, and the review of Energy Information Administration statistical programs and their relative priorities; and
3. Advice on matters concerning improved energy modeling and forecasting tools, particularly regarding their functioning, relevancy, and results.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 18, 2002.

James N. Solit,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-27329 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Advisory Board. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, November 20th and Thursday, November 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, (Room 1E-245), Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James T. Melillo, Executive Director of the Environmental Management Advisory Board, (EM-10), 1000 Independence Avenue SW, (Room 5B-171), Washington, DC 20585. The telephone number is 202-586-4400. The Internet address is james.melillo@em.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Board is to provide the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) with advice and recommendations on corporate issues confronting the Environmental Management Program. The Board will contribute to the effective operation of the Environmental Management Program by providing individual citizens and representatives of interested groups an opportunity to present their views on issues facing the Office of Environmental Management.

Preliminary Agenda

Wednesday, November 20, 2002

1 p.m. Public Meeting Open

—Welcome

—Opening Remarks

—Orientation

—Environmental Management Overview

—Organizational Discussions

5 p.m. Public Comment Period and Adjournment

Thursday, November 21, 2002

9 a.m. Opening Remarks

—Roundtable Discussion

—Board Work Session

2 p.m. Public Comment Period and Adjournment

Public Participation: This meeting is open to the public. If you would like to file a written statement with the Board, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make an oral statement regarding any of the items on the agenda, please contact Mr. Melillo at the address or telephone number listed above, or call the Environmental Management Advisory Board office at 202-586-4400, and we will reserve time for you on the agenda. Those who call in and or register in advance will be given the opportunity to speak first. Others will be accommodated as time permits. The Board Chair will conduct the meeting in an orderly manner.

Minutes: We will make the minutes of the meeting available for public review and copying by December 20, 2002. The minutes and transcript of the meeting will be available for viewing at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room (1E-190) in the Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. The Room is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. except on Federal holidays.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 21, 2002.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-27328 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Fernald

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Fernald. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Saturday, November 16, 2002 8:30 a.m.—Noon.

ADDRESSES: Crosby Senior Center, 8910 Willey Road, Harrison, OH.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doug Sarno, The Perspectives Group, Inc., 1055 North Fairfax Street, Suite 204, Alexandria, VA 22314, at (703) 837-1197, or e-mail; djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda:

8:30 a.m. Call to Order

8:30—8:45 a.m. Chair's Remarks and Ex Officio Announcements

8:45—9 a.m. Feedback from Chairs Meeting

9—10 a.m. Silos Update and Planning for Workshop

10—10:15 a.m. Break

10:15—11:45 a.m. Stewardship Management Plan Discussion

11:45—12 p.m. Public Comment

Noon Adjourn

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board chair either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact the Board chair at the address or telephone number listed below. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Gary Stegner, Public Affairs Office, Ohio Field Office, U.S. Department of Energy, is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday—Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to the Fernald Citizens' Advisory Board, c/o Phoenix Environmental Corporation, MS-76, Post Office Box 538704, Cincinnati, OH 43253-8704, or by calling the Advisory Board at (513) 648-6478.

Issued at Washington, DC on October 22, 2002.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-27330 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

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