purpose of the meeting is to plan future projects.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Joseph Mathewson, 312–360–1110, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312–353–8311 (TDD 312–353–8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, September 24, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98–27111 Filed 10–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on October 29, 1998, at the Comfort Suites-Fargo, 1415 35th Street, South, Fargo, North Dakota 58103. The purpose of the meeting is to provide orientation for new members and review draft of a Committee report concerning civil rights enforcement efforts in North Dakota.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact John Dulles, Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 303–866–1040 (TDD 303–866–1049). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, September 24, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98–27112 Filed 10–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket No. 980729251–8251–01]

RIN 0607–AA19

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Automated Export System (AES) Program Status

AGENCIES: Census, Commerce, and Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: On June 19, 1995, the Department of the Treasury's Customs Service announced the implementation of the Automated Export System (AES), a reporting system jointly developed by the Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) and the Customs Service (Customs) allowing for the electronic transmission of shipper's export information, in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 32040). This notice informs the public of the current status of the AES program and enhancements that will be made to the AES as a result of Interest Based Negotiations (IBN) between Customs, the Census Bureau, and representatives of the trade community to create a more viable export reporting program. This notice also informs the public that the present Automated Export Reporting Program (AERP), a Census Bureau program, will expire on December 31, 1999, and that the AES Post-Departure Authorized Special Status (AES–PASS) program, a feature of AES developed to address specific concerns of the trade community, will cease operation. This notice further announces that the Census Bureau and Customs are developing regulations to implement provisions and requirements for filing export information electronically using the AES.

The continuing development of the AES functions is designed to facilitate trade by reducing the administrative costs for both industry and government in the reporting, collection, and processing of required export information, and providing the government with better law enforcement opportunities in the administration of export laws by allowing for the earlier collection and review of export information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: At Customs: John Dagostino, Office of Field Operations, Outbound Process, 7501 Boston Boulevard, Mail stop 208/d–98, Springfield, VA 22153; by phone at (703) 921–7464. At Census: C. Harvey Monk, Jr., Chief, Foreign Trade Division, Bureau of the Census, Room 2104, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20223–6700; by phone at (301) 457–2255; by fax on (301) 457–2645; or by e-mail at c.h.monk.jr@ccmail.census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Export Filing Requirements

Pursuant to Title 13, United States Code (U.S.C.) 301, the Secretary of Commerce is required to collect information from all persons engaged in foreign commerce or trade; the Census Bureau has been delegated this responsibility by the Secretary of Commerce. The filing requirements applicable to vessel outward manifests are contained in Section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 U.S.C. App. 91). The regulations that implement the Census Bureau's procedures regarding the submission of Shipper's Export Declarations (SEDs) for commodity information are contained in the Foreign Trade Statistics Regulations, 15 CFR Part 30.

The Census Bureau is responsible for collecting, compiling, and publishing export trade statistics. However, Customs physically collects the outward manifest and SED documents and forwards the SEDs to the Census Bureau for processing (see 13 U.S.C. 303). The regulations that provide for Customs procedures regarding the submission of outbound manifests are found in Parts 4 (for Sea Carriers) and 122 (for Air Carriers) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR Parts 4 and 122). Customs uses the information contained in outward manifests to enforce export laws and regulations administered by the Bureau of Export Administration, the Office of Defense Trade Controls, the Office of Foreign Asset Controls, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of the Treasury, and other local and federal agencies.

Current Filing Procedures

Current Census Bureau export filing requirements provide for the reporting of information by exporters using the paper SED (15 CFR 30.3). Normally, the exporter is required to submit SED information prior to the exportation of the merchandise (15 CFR 30.12). Census Bureau Regulations (15 CFR 30.39(b)) also provide for the alternate reporting of certain export information electronically after departure through the AERP. The AERP allows certain participating exporters to report their export information electronically to the Census Bureau on a monthly basis, in a

single report. The AERP provides a convenience to exporters for Census Bureau statistical purposes, but is of limited value to Customs in its enforcement of export laws because there is no export information required to be filed prior to the export of the merchandise. For these and other reasons discussed below, the AERP will be terminated on December 31, 1999.

Census Bureau Regulations (15 CFR 30.39) also allow for export reporting through the AES, a separate electronic filing system jointly developed with Customs. As originally designed, use of the AES required that all export information be submitted prior to departure and did not provide the same monthly reporting privileges to exporters as the AERP. In order to meet the needs of the trade community for a post-departure filing option, the AES–PASS program was developed. The AES–PASS program allowed qualified exporters to transmit pre-departure ''IOU'' information electronically to Customs, to be followed by post-departure submission of the remaining commodity information within a specified time period.

Development of the AES

The purpose of the AES is to support the Customs outbound mission by providing a voluntary information gateway through which the trade community and Federal Government agencies can electronically exchange export data that will facilitate the collection and processing of export information and improve enforcement and compliance with U.S. export laws. The AES provides an alternative to filing the paper SED that is perceived as burdensome by the trade community, inefficient by the government for the collection of statistics, and of limited use in the enforcement of U.S. export laws. The AES is being designed to give the trade community the following benefits: (a) Fewer delays by Customs due to missing paper work; (b) fewer, but more efficient, inspections of export shipments; (c) more consistent application of export laws, and (d) reduced administrative costs due to automation. Further, AES enables government agencies with export responsibilities to collect statistics more efficiently, enforce their export requirements, and reduce their administrative costs.

In July of 1995, AES was initiated (see **Federal Register**, June 19, 1995 (60 FR 32040)) in the vessel ports of Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, Houston, and Los Angeles. By the end of 1996, AES was expanded to all Customs vessel ports of entry. The AES is continually being enhanced to ensure that the system is in conformance with standard industry practices concerning the collection of manifest information from sea carriers and commodity information from exporters. Future plans for the AES include the development of modules to accept: (1) Air and rail manifest information; (2) consolidated shipment information from exporter's agents; (3) manifest and shipment information from express carriers; and (4) drawback claims.

While the AES has been continually enhanced since its implementation, the trade community has expressed concerns over the design of AES, specifically the requirement to transmit all commodity information prior to departure of the exporting carrier. As mentioned previously, the AES did not provide some of the privileges afforded by the Census Bureau's AERP. Although AES–PASS was developed by Customs in an attempt to provide some of these privileges to exporters, the trade community continued to express the opinion that neither AES nor AES–PASS conformed to current business practices and that each program constituted a hindrance to the total voluntary acceptance of AES by the trade community.

To ensure that the AES meets current business practices and voluntary acceptance by the trade community, Customs and the Census Bureau entered into IBN with representatives of the trade community to discuss further enhancements and to determine time frames for the submission of export information. The trade community was represented by the Customs Oversight Activities Committee and other members of the exporting community.

As a result of the IBN, two significant improvements to the AES were agreed to:

1. Creation of a filing option that requires no pre-departure information be filed by qualified participants (with the filing of full commodity information within ten (10) working days from the date of exportation).

2. Creation of a two-stage filing option available to all filers that allows for transmissions where some basic export information is filed prior to departure with the remainder of the information filed within five (5) working days from the date of exportation.

The four filing options, outlined in the agreement, for the submission of commodity information are:

Option 1—Paper SEDs and Pre-Departure Filing

With Option 1, filers will continue the current procedure of filing paper SEDs with all pre-departure export information. This option will have no AES electronic component and maintains the present practice for filing export commodity information.

Option 2—AES Filing of All Pre-Departure Information

With Option 2, all commodity information will be filed electronically prior to the departure of the carrier.

Option 3—AES Filing of Partial Pre-Departure Information

With Option 3, filers will file fourteen (14) identified data elements of commodity information prior to exportation of the merchandise and transmit the remaining applicable data elements within five (5) working days of the date of exportation. This option will be available to all AES filers for those shipments that do not require full pre-departure information. However, this option will apply only to sea and air modes of transportation.

Option 4—AES Filing of Post-Departure Information:

With Option 4, qualified exporters will be allowed to export approved commodities without filing any pre-departure information. However, complete commodity information must be filed within ten (10) working days from the date of exportation. Filers with Option 4 privileges will be preapproved, having complied with a formal screening and review process through Customs, the Census Bureau, and other participating partnership agencies.

Expiration of AERP and AES–PASS

In light of the foregoing, the following programs will be terminated as follows:

1. AERP will expire December 31, 1999.

2. AES–PASS will cease operation one year after the full implementation of Option 4.

Regulations

The Census Bureau and Customs are developing regulations to implement provisions and requirements for filing export information electronically using the AES. These regulations will also include requirements for implementing the provisions of the IBN agreement.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

Concurred by:

Raymond W. Kelley,

Commissioner, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

Dated: October 2, 1998.

Concurred by:

Bradford R. Huther,

Deputy Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

[FR Doc. 98–27096 Filed 10–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity To Request Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity to request administrative review of Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, finding, or suspended investigation.

Background

Each year during the anniversary month of the publication of an antidumping or countervailing duty order, finding, or suspension of investigation, an interested party, as defined in section 771(9) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, may request, in accordance with § 351.213 of the Department of Commerce (the Department) Regulations (19 CFR 351.213 (1997)), that the Department conduct an administrative review of that antidumping or countervailing duty order, finding, or suspended investigation.

Opportunity To Request a Review

Not later than the last day of October 1998, interested parties may request administrative review of the following orders, findings, or suspended investigations, with anniversary dates in October for the following periods:

	Period
Antidumping Duty Proceedings	
Italy: Pressure Sensitive Tape, A–475–059	10/1/97–9/30/98
Japan:.	
Steel Wire Rope, A–588–045	10/1/97–9/30/98
Tapered Roller Bearings, Over 4 Inches, A–588–604	10/1/97–9/30/98
Tapered Roller Bearings, Over 4 Inches, A–588–054	10/1/97–9/30/98
Vector Supercomputers, A–588–841	10/16/97–9/30/98
Malaysia: Extruded Rubber Thread, A–557–805	10/1/97–9/30/98
The People's Republic of China: Barium, Chloride, A–570–007	10/1/97–9/30/98
Lock Washers, A–570–822	10/1/97–9/30/98
Shop Towels, A–570–003	10/1/97–9/30/98
Yugoslavia: Industrial Nitrocellulose, A–479–801	10/1/97–9/30/98
Countervailing Duty Proceedings	
Argentina: Leather, C–357–803	1/1/97–12/31/97
Brazil: Certain Agriculture Tillage Tools, C–351–406	1/1/97–12/31/97
Iran: Roasted In-Shell Pistachios, C–507–602	1/1/97–12/31/97
Sweden: Certain Carbon Steel Products, C–401–401	1/1/97–12/31/97
Suspension Agreements	
Kazakhstan: Uranium, A–834–802	10/1/97–9/30/97
Uranium, A–835–802	10/1/97–9/30/97
Russia: Uranium, A–821–802	10/1/97–9/30/97
Uzbekistan: Uranium, A–844–802	10/1/97–9/30/97

In accordance with § 351.213 of the regulations, an interested party as defined by section 771(9) of the Act may request in writing that the Secretary conduct an administrative review. In revisions to its regulations, the Department changed its requirements for requesting reviews of countervailing duty orders. Pursuant to 771(9) of the Act, an interested party must specify the individual producers or exporters covered by the order or suspension agreement for which they are requesting a review (Department of Commerce Regulations, 62 FR 27295, 25494 (May 19, 1997)). Therefore, for both antidumping and countervailing duty reviews, the interested party must specify for which individual producers or exporters covered by an antidumping finding or an antidumping or countervailing duty order it is requesting a review, and the requesting party must state why it desires the Secretary to review those particular producers or exporters. If the interested party intends for the Secretary to review sales of merchandise by an exporter (or a producer if that producer also exports merchandise from other suppliers) which were produced in more than one country or origin and each country of origin is subject to a separate order, then the interested party much state specifically, on an order-by-order basis, which exporter(s) the request is intended to cover.

Seven copies of the request should be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Room 1870, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. The Department also asks parties to serve a copy of their requests to the Office of Antidumping/Countervailing Enforcement, Attention: Sheila Forbes, in room 3065 of the main Commerce Building. Further, in accordance with § 351.303(f)(i) of the regulations, a copy of each request must be served on every party on the Department's service list.

The Department will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of ''Initiation of Administrative Review of Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation'' for requests received by the last day of October 1998. If the Department does not receive, by the last day of October 1998, a request for review of entries covered by an order, finding, or suspended investigation listed in this notice and for the period identified above, the Department will instruct the Customs Service to assess antidumping or countervailing duties on those entries at a rate equal to the cash