

- To disclose information to the news media and the public when (1) a matter involving the Department of State has become public knowledge, (2) the Under Secretary for Management determines that in response to the matter in the public domain, disclosure is necessary to provide an accurate factual record on the matter, and (3) the Under Secretary determines that there exists a legitimate public interest in the information disclosed.

Also see the "Routine Uses" paragraph of the Prefatory Statement published in the **Federal Register**.

**POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**

**STORAGE:**

Electronic media and hard copy.

**RETRIEVABILITY:**

By individual name, social security number.

**SAFEGUARDS:**

All employees of the Department of State have undergone background investigations. Access to the Department and its annexes is controlled by security guards and admission is limited to those individuals possessing a valid identification card or individuals under proper escort. All records containing personal information are maintained in secured file cabinets or in restricted areas, access to which is limited to authorized personnel. Access to computerized files is password-protected and under the direct supervision of the system manager. The system manager has the capability of printing audit trails of access from the computer media, thereby permitting regular and ad hoc monitoring of computer usage.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:**

These records will be maintained until they become inactive at which time they will be retired or destroyed in accordance with published records schedules of the Department of State and as approved by the National Archives and Records Administration. More specified information may be obtained by writing to the Director, Office of IRM Programs and Services; A/RPS/IPS; U.S. Department of State, SA-2; Washington, DC 20522-6001.

**SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:**

The Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources; Department of State; 2201 C Street, NW; Washington, DC 20520.

**NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:**

Individuals who have reason to believe that the Bureau of Human Resources might have records pertaining to themselves should write to the Director, Office of IRM Programs and Services (address above). The individual must specify that he/she wishes the Human Resources Records to be checked. At a minimum, the individuals must include: name; date and place of birth; approximate dates of employment with the Department of State or when in process for a potential appointment; current mailing address and zip code; signature and preferably, his/her social security number.

**RECORD ACCESS AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES:**

Individuals who wish to gain access to or amend records pertaining to themselves should write to the Director, Office of IRM Programs and Services (address above).

**RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:**

These records contain information obtained directly from the individual who is the subject of these records, previous employers, supervisors, Foreign Service inspectors, any/all offices within the Bureau of Human Resources (counselors, placement officers, and personnel technicians), other bureaus (administrative/executive officers, personnel and payroll offices, security, medical, and legal), reports of the Board of Examiners of the Foreign Service, Foreign Service Employee Evaluation Reports and Selection Board findings, the Foreign Service Institute, colleges, universities, Armed Forces academic institutions, contractors responsible for administration of the Foreign Service written examination, and other authorized agencies administering pre-employment tests, Office of Personnel Management and other federal agencies, prospective alien spouses of Foreign Service employees; grievance staff and appeals boards, affidavits and testimony of witnesses.

**System exempted from certain provisions of the Privacy Act:**

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(4), records contained within this system that are maintained solely for statistical purposes are exempted from 5 U.S.C. 552a (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4)(G), (H) and (I), and (f). Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a (k)(5) and (k)(7), certain records contained within this system contain confidential source information and are exempted from 5 U.S.C. 552a (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4)(G), (H) and (I), and (f). Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a (k)(6), records that contain testing or examination

material the release of which may compromise testing or examination procedures are also exempted from 5 U.S.C. 552a (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4)(G), (H) and (I), and (f). See Department of State Rules published in the **Federal Register**.

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**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

[Docket No. 301-120]

**Initiation of Section 302 Investigation and Request for Public Comment: Wheat Trading Practices of the Canadian Wheat Board**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of investigation and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has initiated an investigation under Chapter 1 of Title III of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to the wheat trading practices of the Canadian Wheat Board. The USTR invites written comments from the public on the matters being investigated, the methods to be used to conduct the investigation, and the determinations to be made pursuant to the investigation.

**DATES:** This investigation was initiated on October 23, 2000. Written comments from the public are due on or before noon on Wednesday, December 20, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20508.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Bomer Lauritsen, Director of Agricultural Affairs, (202) 395-6127, or William Busis, Associate General Counsel, (202) 395-3150. For information concerning procedures for submitting public comments, please contact Sybia Harrison, Staff Assistant to the Section 301 Committee, (202) 395-3419.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**The Allegations in the Petition**

On September 8, 2000, the North Dakota Wheat Commission filed a petition pursuant to section 302(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2412(a)), alleging that certain wheat trading practices of the Government of Canada and the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) are unreasonable, and that such practices burden or restrict U.S. commerce. The

petitioner filed additional explanatory materials on September 21, 2000, September 27, 2000, October 5, 2000, and October 10, 2000.

The petition alleges that the CWB is a state-trading enterprise with sole control over the purchase and export of western Canadian wheat for human consumption. Certain elements of the wheat trading system established by the Government of Canada allegedly provide the CWB with pricing flexibility not available to private wheat traders. According to the petition, those elements include: (i) CWB monopoly authority under Canadian federal law to purchase western Canadian wheat and to control the international marketing of western Canadian wheat; (ii) a purchasing system under which Canadian farmers are required to accept initial CWB payments based on only a portion of the price that the CWB anticipates it can obtain for the grain, with any subsequent payments to be received later in the marketing year; (iii) the provision by the Government of Canada of a full financial guarantee of the CWB's initial payments to Canadian farmers; (iv) special, preferential rail transportation arrangements which are made available to the CWB; and (v) a varietal control system which limits any foreign competition in the domestic Canadian wheat market. The petition claims that although the CWB operates in secrecy and information on the CWB's trading practices is difficult to obtain, available information indicates that the CWB exploits its pricing flexibility by engaging in certain allegedly unreasonable wheat trading practices. According to the petition, such practices include standing offers by the CWB to undersell U.S. wheat in certain third-country markets, and the targeting by the CWB of particular markets by consistently offering to sell wheat at less than the market value. The petition asserts that such practices have harmed U.S. wheat farmers by causing lost U.S. market share in the United States and particular third-country markets, by reducing the sales prices obtained by U.S. wheat farmers, and by causing a rise in unsold wheat stocks in the United States.

The petitioner does not allege that acts, policies, and practices of the Government of Canada or the Canadian Wheat Board are in violation of, or inconsistent with, the international legal rights of the United States.

### Section 301

Section 302(a) of the Trade Act authorizes the USTR to initiate an investigation under chapter 1 of Title III of the Trade Act (commonly referred to

as "section 301") in response to the filing of a petition pursuant to section 302(a)(1). Matters actionable under section 301 include, inter alia, acts, policies, and practices of a foreign country that are unjustifiable, unreasonable, or discriminatory and burden or restrict U.S. commerce. An act, policy or practice is unjustifiable if it is in violation of, or inconsistent with the international legal rights of the United States. An act, policy or practice is unreasonable if the act, policy or practice, while not necessarily in violation of, or inconsistent with, the international legal rights of the United States, is otherwise unfair or inequitable.

### Initiation of Investigation and Consultations

On October 23, 2000, the USTR determined to initiate an investigation to determine whether certain acts, policies or practices of the Government of Canada and the Canadian Wheat Board with respect to wheat trading are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce and are, therefore, actionable under section 301.

Pursuant to section 303(a) of the Trade Act, on October 23, 2000 USTR requested consultations with the Government of Canada concerning the issues under investigation. USTR will seek information and advice from the petitioner and appropriate representatives provided for under section 135 of the Trade Act in preparing the U.S. presentations for such consultations.

### Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the petition and any other submissions to USTR in this investigation. In particular, comments are invited regarding (i) the acts, policies and practices of the Government of Canada and the Canadian Wheat Board that are the subject of this investigation; (ii) the amount of burden or restriction on U.S. commerce caused by these acts, policies and practices; (iii) the methods to be used to conduct the investigation; (iv) the determinations required under section 304 of the Trade Act; and (v) appropriate action under section 301 which could be taken in response.

Comments must be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR 2006.8(b) and must be filed on or before noon on Wednesday, December 20, 2000. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Sybia Harrison, Staff Assistant

to the Section 301 Committee, Room 223, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 301-120) open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection. Copies of the public version of the petition and other relevant documents are available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. An appointment to review the docket (Docket No. 301-120) may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 101.

**William L. Busis,**

*Chairman, Section 301 Committee.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Hearing for the Chicago Terminal Airspace Project

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and conduct of a public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Great Lakes Region, is issuing this notice to advise the public that it has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Chicago Terminal Airspace Project (CTAP) and that copies of the DEIS are available for public review.

A Public Hearing and informational workshop will be held Monday, December 18, 2000, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan conference rooms at the Federal Aviation Administration, Great Lakes Region, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, IL, 60018. The entrance is