

the Antidumping Duty Investigation of Polyvinyl Alcohol from the People's Republic of China." On November 7, 2002, we informed Chang Chun that, due to the fact that the customs data in question was not public information, we were unable to provide it with this information. We received no further correspondence from Chang Chun.²

On November 6, 2002, Wego Chemical & Mineral Corporation (Wego), an importer of PVA from the PRC, notified the Department that it sold subject merchandise in the United States, and that these sales constituted "relevant sales" within the meaning of sections 772(a) and (b) of the Act. Based on these assertions, we informed Wego that it was eligible to participate as a voluntary respondent in this investigation and on November 7, 2002, we issued it a questionnaire. For further discussion, see the November 7, 2002, memorandum from Alice Gibbons to the File entitled "Issuance of Questionnaire to Wego Chemical & Mineral Corp. in the Antidumping Duty Investigation of Polyvinyl Alcohol from the People's Republic of China." On November 25, 2002, Wego informed us that it did not intend to submit a voluntary response in this proceeding.

On November 25, 2002, the Department invited interested parties to comment on surrogate country selection and to provide publicly available information for valuing the factors of production. We received a response from the petitioners on January 6, 2003, and from SVW on February 14, 2003.

During the period November 2002 through February 2003, the Department received responses to sections A, C, and D of the Department's original and supplemental questionnaires from SVW. We received no other responses to our questionnaire from any of the other exporters noted above.

On January 21, 2003, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioners³ made a timely request to postpone the preliminary determination for 30 days. We granted this request and, on January 23, 2003, postponed the preliminary determination until no later than March 14, 2003. See *Postponement of Preliminary Determinations of Antidumping Duty Investigations: Polyvinyl Alcohol from the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea*, 68 FR 4763 (Jan. 30, 2003).

Postponement of Final Determination

Section 735(a)(2) of the Act provides that a final determination may be postponed until not later than 135 days after the date of the publication of the preliminary determination if, in the event of an affirmative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by exporters who account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise, or in the event of a negative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by the petitioner. The Department's regulations, at 19 CFR 351.210(e)(2), require that requests by respondents for postponement of a final determination be accompanied by a request for extension of provisional measures from a four-month period to not more than six months.

On January 9, 2003, SVW requested that the Department postpone its final determination until 135 days after the publication of the preliminary determination. SVW also included a request to extend the provisional measures to not more than six months. Accordingly, since we have made an affirmative preliminary determination and no compelling reasons for denial exist, we have postponed the final determination until not later than 135 days after the publication of the preliminary determination.

Period of Investigation

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.204(b)(1), the POI for an investigation involving merchandise from a non-market economy (NME) is the two most recent fiscal quarters prior to the month of the filing of the petition (*i.e.*, September 2002). Therefore, in this case, the POI is January 1, 2002, through June 30, 2002.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the preamble to our regulations (see Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997)), we set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage and encouraged all parties to submit comments within 20 calendar days of publication of the initiation notice. See the *Initiation Notice*, 67 FR 61591. Although no comments on the scope of the investigation were received in this proceeding, scope comments were received in the companion Japanese case. Because these comments relate to PVA in general, we find that they are applicable to this proceeding. Accordingly, we have placed on the record of this proceeding all public scope comments as well as all public versions of the proprietary scope

documents filed in the companion Japanese case, and we have modified the scope to conform to that set forth in the preliminary determination of that proceeding. See the "Scope Comments" section of the *Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Polyvinyl Alcohol from Japan*, 68 FR 8203, 8204–05 (Feb. 20, 2003).

Scope of Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is PVA. This product consists of all PVA hydrolyzed in excess of 80 percent, whether or not mixed or diluted with commercial levels of defoamer or boric acid, except as noted below.

The following products are specifically excluded from the scope of this investigation:

- (1) PVA in fiber form.
- (2) PVA with hydrolysis less than 83 mole percent and certified not for use in the production of textiles.
- (3) PVA with hydrolysis greater than 85 percent and viscosity greater than or equal to 90 cps.
- (4) PVA with a hydrolysis greater than 85 percent, viscosity greater than or equal to 80 cps but less than 90 cps, certified for use in an ink jet application.
- (5) PVA for use in the manufacture of an excipient or as an excipient in the manufacture of film coating systems which are components of a drug or dietary supplement, and accompanied by an end-use certification.
- (6) PVA covalently bonded with cationic monomer uniformly present on all polymer chains in a concentration equal to or greater than one mole percent.
- (7) PVA covalently bonded with carboxylic acid uniformly present on all polymer chains in a concentration equal to or greater than two mole percent, certified for use in a paper application.
- (8) PVA covalently bonded with thiol uniformly present on all polymer chains, certified for use in emulsion polymerization of non-vinyl acetic material.
- (9) PVA covalently bonded with paraffin uniformly present on all polymer chains in a concentration equal to or greater than one mole percent.
- (10) PVA covalently bonded with silan uniformly present on all polymer chains certified for use in paper coating applications.
- (11) PVA covalently bonded with sulfonic acid uniformly present on all polymer chains in a concentration level equal to or greater than one mole percent.

² We note, however, that we did not designate Chang Chun as a mandatory respondent in this investigation.

³ The petitioners in this investigation are Celanese Chemicals Ltd. and E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. (collectively, "the petitioners").