

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****Notice of Preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Structure Removal Operations in the Gulf of Mexico (2003)**

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Preparation of a programmatic environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will prepare a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) to assess the potential impacts of explosive and nonexplosive structure removal operations in the Gulf of Mexico. Preparation of the PEA is an important step in the decision process for future permitting for the removal of offshore structures and for further consultation and coordination with other Federal agencies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Mr. T.J. Broussard, telephone (504) 736-3245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PEA will focus on the decommissioning activities related to the explosive and non-explosive severing of seafloor obstructions and facilities (e.g., wellheads, caissons, conductors, platforms, mooring devices) and the subsequent salvage operations that may be employed. The PEA will examine the potential impacts of structure removal operations on marine and socioeconomic environments. The geographic area of the proposed action includes all water depths of the Central and Western Planning Areas and the 256-block area currently available for leasing in the Eastern Planning Area. The PEA will be used as part of the rulemaking process by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration for incidental take regulations under Subpart I of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and to initiate consultation for explosive, structure removal operations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Topics of primary concern to be addressed in the PEA include removal technologies, industry needs related to water depth and location, and the potential impacts of structure removal operations on marine and socioeconomic environments.

Public Comments: The MMS requests that affected and/or interested parties submit their comments regarding any information or issues that should be

addressed in the PEA to the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Leasing and Environment, Attention: Regional Supervisor (MS 5410), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. Comments should be enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on the Structure Removal Operations PEA." You may also comment by e-mail to environment@mms.gov. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments must be submitted no later than 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 25, 2003.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.
[FR Doc. 03-9330 Filed 4-15-03; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 731-TA-1020 (Final)]

Barium Carbonate From China

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Scheduling of the final phase of an antidumping investigation.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the scheduling of the final phase of antidumping investigation No. 731-TA-1020 (Final) under section 735(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673d(b)) (the Act) to determine whether an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded, by reason of less-than-fair-value imports from China of barium carbonate, provided for in subheading 2836.60.00

of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.¹

For further information concerning the conduct of this phase of the investigation, hearing procedures, and rules of general application, consult the Commission's rules of practice and procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A and C (19 CFR part 207).

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 17, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Deyman (202) 205-3197, Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—The final phase of this investigation is being scheduled as a result of an affirmative preliminary determination by the Department of Commerce that imports of barium carbonate from China are being sold in the United States at less than fair value within the meaning of section 733 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673b). The investigation was requested in a petition filed on September 30, 2002, by Chemical Products Corp., Cartersville, GA.

Participation in the investigation and public service list.—Persons, including industrial users of the subject merchandise and, if the merchandise is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations, wishing to participate in the final phase of this investigation as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in § 201.11 of the Commission's rules, no later than 21 days prior to the hearing date specified in this notice. A party that filed a notice of appearance during the preliminary phase of the investigation need not file an additional notice of appearance during this final phase. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their

¹ For purposes of this investigation, the Department of Commerce has defined the subject merchandise as "barium carbonate, regardless of form or grade."