

Management may exercise any function delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs by this delegation. The Secretary of State and the Deputy Secretary of State may exercise the functions conferred by section 403(b) of the IAA and delegated under section 1(b) to the Under Secretary for Management.

(b) As used in this delegation of authority, the term "functions" includes any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, discretion, determination, or activity.

(c) The functions delegated by this delegation of authority may be redelegated to the extent authorized by law except that the authority of the Secretary of State under subsection 204(c) of the IAA, relating to the temporary and permanent debarment of adoption service providers, may not be redelegated.

(d) Any reference in this delegation of authority to any act, executive order, determination, delegation of authority, regulation or procedure shall be deemed to be a reference to such act, order, determination, delegation of authority, regulation, or procedure as amended from time to time.

(e) This delegation shall be published in the **Federal Register** and is effective upon the date of my signature.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

Colin L. Powell,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Policy Staff Committee; Initiation of Environmental Review of Bahrain Free Trade Negotiations; Public Comments on Scope of Environmental Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This publication gives notice that, pursuant to the Trade Act of 2002, and consistent with Executive Order 13141 (64 FR 63169) (Nov. 18, 1999) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), through the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), is initiating an environmental review of the proposed United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement. The TPSC is requesting written comments from the public on what should be

included in the scope of the environmental review, including the potential environmental effects that might flow from the free trade agreement and the potential implications for U.S. environmental laws and regulations, and identification of complementarities between trade and environmental objectives such as the promotion of sustainable development. The TPSC also welcomes public views on appropriate methodologies and sources of data for conducting the review. Persons submitting written comments should provide as much detail as possible on the degree to which the subject matter they propose for inclusion in the review may raise significant environmental issues in the context of the negotiation.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than December 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by electronic mail: FR0099@ustr.gov.

Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-6143.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3475. Questions concerning the environmental review should be addressed to David J. Brooks, Environment and Natural Resources Section, USTR, telephone (202) 395-7320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background Information

On August 4, 2003, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, notified Congress of the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Bahrain. Ambassador Zoellick outlined specific U.S. objectives for these negotiations in the notification letters to Congress. Copies of the letters are available at <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Bahrain/2003-08-04-notification-house.pdf>, <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Bahrain/2003-08-04-notification-senate.pdf>.

The TPSC has invited the public to provide written comments and/or oral testimony at a public hearing on November 5, 2003 in order to assist USTR in amplifying and clarifying negotiating objectives for the proposed FTA and to provide advice on how specific goods and services and other matters should be treated under the

proposed agreement (68 FR 51062) (August 25, 2003).

An FTA with Bahrain will promote the President's initiative to advance economic reforms in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, moving us closer to the creation of a Middle East Free Trade Area. A U.S.-Bahrain FTA will build on the FTAs that we already have with Israel and Jordan, as well as the FTA that we are currently negotiating with Morocco. A comprehensive FTA will also provide an opportunity to work with Bahrain to encourage other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council to adopt high trade and investment standards.

In 2002, the United States exported \$419.2 million worth of aircraft, machinery, vehicles, pharmaceutical products, toys, games, sports equipment, and other goods to Bahrain. An FTA with Bahrain is expected to benefit American manufacturers—as well as U.S. exports of meats and high-value processed agricultural products—by enhancing access to Bahrain's market and promoting Bahrain's role as a regional business hub for the Gulf. An FTA is also expected to provide new export opportunities for U.S. services firms in sectors such as telecommunications, finance, distribution, energy, construction, engineering, health care, legal services, accountancy, tourism and travel, and environmental services. An FTA will also support Bahrain's commitment to transparency, openness, and the rule of law, thereby enhancing respect for intellectual property, labor rights, and environmental protection.

2. Environmental Review

USTR, through the TPSC, will perform an environmental review of the agreement pursuant to the Trade Act of 2002 and consistent with Executive Order 13141 (64 FR 63169) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442).

Environmental reviews are used to identify potentially significant, reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts (both positive and negative), and information from the review can help facilitate consideration of appropriate responses where impacts are identified. Reviews address potential environmental impacts of the proposed agreement and potential implications for environmental laws and regulations. The focus of the review is on impacts in the United States, although global and transboundary impacts may be considered, where appropriate and prudent.