

be released to the public by the submitter. Confidential business information must be clearly designated as such, the submission must be marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page, and the submission should indicate, via brackets, the specific information that is confidential. Additionally, "Business Confidential" must be included in the "Type Comment & Upload File" field. Anyone submitting a comment containing business confidential information must also submit as a separate submission a non-confidential version of the confidential submission, indicating where confidential information has been redacted. The non-confidential version will be placed in the docket and open to public inspection.

Notice of Public Hearing

A hearing will be held by the GSP Subcommittee of the TPSC on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 for the country practice petition described above beginning at 9:30 a.m. at 1724 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20508. The hearing will be open to the public, and a transcript of the hearing will be made available for public inspection or can be purchased from the reporting company. No electronic media coverage (recording devices) will be allowed.

All interested parties wishing to make an oral presentation at the hearing must submit, following the above "Requirements for Submissions," the name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number and email address, if available, of the witness(es) representing their organization to William D. Jackson, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for GSP, by 5 p.m., January 10, 2012. Requests to present oral testimony must be accompanied by a written brief or statement, in English. Oral testimony before the GSP Subcommittee will be limited to five-minute presentations that summarize or supplement information contained in briefs or statements submitted for the record. Post-hearing briefs or statements will be accepted if they conform with the regulations cited above and are submitted, in English, by 5 p.m., February 14, 2012. Parties not wishing to appear at the public hearing may submit pre-hearing briefs or statements, in English, by 5 p.m., January 10, 2012, and post-hearing written briefs or statements, in English, by 5 p.m., February 14, 2012.

Cancellation of the 2010 Review of CNL Waiver Petitions

The statute governing the GSP program, 19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2), provides

that the President shall, not later than July 1 of the next calendar year, terminate the duty-free treatment for articles from GSP beneficiary countries that exceed the statutory competitive need limitations for the preceding year. In view of the lapse in the authorization of the GSP program from January 1, 2011 to November 5, 2011, a review of products subject to CNLs based on calendar year 2010 trade data and petitions seeking waivers of CNLs based on calendar year 2010 trade data could not be completed prior to the statutory deadline. Therefore, no CNL-related actions will be taken in 2011, including no CNL-related removals of GSP-eligible products based on 2010 trade and no redesignations of GSP-eligible products currently subject to CNL exclusions for specific GSP beneficiary countries. Petitions for CNL waivers that were accepted in December 2010 are dismissed.

The schedule for petitions seeking waivers of CNLs based on calendar year 2011 trade data is set forth in a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the 2011 GSP Annual Review.

William D. Jackson,

Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Generalized System of Preferences, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 2011-28248 Filed 10-31-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W2-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Notice of Initiation of the 2011 Annual GSP Product and Country Practices Review; Deadlines for Filing Petitions

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of procedures for submission of petitions from the public.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is prepared to receive petitions to modify the list of products that are eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP program and to modify the GSP status of certain GSP beneficiary developing countries because of country practices. The deadline for submission of country practice petitions for the 2011 Annual Review is 5 p.m., December 5, 2011. The deadline for submission of product petitions, other than those requesting competitive need limitation (CNL) waivers, is 5 p.m., December 5, 2011. The deadline for submission of petitions requesting CNL waivers is 5 p.m.,

Friday, December 16, 2011. Decisions on which of the petitions that are submitted are accepted for review will be announced in the **Federal Register** at later dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tameka Cooper, GSP Program, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971; the fax number is (202) 395-9674, and the email address is Tameka_Cooper@ustr.eop.gov.

Public versions of all documents relating to the 2011 Annual Review will be made available for public viewing in docket USTR-2011-0015 at <http://www.regulations.gov> upon completion of processing and no later than approximately two weeks after the relevant due date.

I. 2011 Annual GSP Review

The GSP regulations (15 CFR part 2007) provide the timetable for conducting an annual review, unless otherwise specified by **Federal Register** notice. Notice is hereby given that, in order to be considered in the 2011 Annual Review, all petitions to modify the list of articles eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP or to review the GSP status of any beneficiary developing country must be received by the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee no later than December 5, 2011. Petitions requesting CNL waivers must be received by the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, December 16, 2011. Petitions submitted after the respective deadlines will not be considered for review. Decisions on which petitions are accepted for review, along with a schedule for any related public hearings, will be announced at a later date.

GSP Product Review Petitions

Interested parties, including foreign governments, may submit petitions to:

- (1) Designate additional articles as eligible for GSP benefits, including to designate articles as eligible for GSP benefits only for countries designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries, or only for countries designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA);
- (2) withdraw, suspend or limit the application of duty-free treatment accorded under the GSP with respect to any article, either for all beneficiary developing countries, least-developed beneficiary developing countries or beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, or for any of these countries

individually; (3) waive the “competitive need limitations” for individual beneficiary developing countries with respect to specific GSP-eligible articles (these limits do not apply to least-developed beneficiary developing countries or AGOA beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries); and (4) otherwise modify GSP coverage.

As specified in 15 CFR 2007.1, all product petitions must include, *inter alia*, a detailed description of the product and the eight-digit subheading of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under which the product is classified.

As noted above, product petitions requesting CNL waivers for GSP-eligible articles from beneficiary developing countries that exceed the CNLs in 2011 must be received on or before the Friday, December 16, 2011, deadline described above. Before submitting petitions for CNL waivers, prospective petitioners may wish to review the year-to-date import trade data for products of interest. This data is available via the U.S. International Trade Commission’s “Dataweb” database at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov/>.

Country Practices Review Petitions

Any interested party may submit a petition to review the GSP eligibility of any beneficiary developing country with respect to any of the designation criteria listed in sections 502(b) or 502(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b) and (c)). As noted above, such petitions are due no later than 5 p.m. on December 5, 2011.

II. Requirements for Submissions

All submissions for the GSP Annual Review must conform to the GSP regulations set forth at 15 CFR part 2007, except as modified below. These regulations are reprinted in the “U.S. Generalized System of Preferences Guidebook” (“GSP Guidebook”), available at: http://www.ustr.gov/webfm_send/2880. The GSP Guidebook also contains general instructions on how to submit a GSP petition. Any person or party making a submission is strongly advised to review the GSP regulations and the GSP Guidebook.

Submissions in response to this notice must be submitted electronically using <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number USTR–2011–0015. Hand-delivered submissions will not be accepted. Submissions must be submitted in English to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee by the applicable deadlines set forth in this notice. Submissions that do not provide the information required by sections

2007.0 and 2007.1 of the GSP regulations will not be accepted for review, except upon a detailed showing in the submission that the petitioner made a good faith effort to obtain the information required.

To ensure their most timely and expeditious receipt and consideration, petitions provided in response to this notice, including those containing business confidential information, must be submitted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. To make a submission using <http://www.regulations.gov>, enter docket number USTR–2011–0015 in the “Enter Keyword or ID” filed on the home page and click “go.” The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice by selecting “Notice” under “Document Type” in the top-middle section of the search-results page, and click on the link entitled “Submit a Comment.” The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site offers the option of providing comments by filling in a “Type Comment” field or by attaching a document using the “Upload file(s)” field. Submissions must be in English, with the total submission not to exceed 30 single-spaced standard letter-size pages in 12-point type, including attachments. Any data attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Given the detailed nature of the information sought by the GSP Subcommittee, it is expected that most submissions will be in the form of an attached document. When attaching a document, please type in the “Type Comment” field the relevant eight-digit HTSUS subheading number(s) (for product petitions) or the country name (for country practice petitions), and indicate on the attachment whether the document is a “Country Practice Review Petition for [Country]” or “Product Review Petition for [HTSUS Subheading Number], [Product Name], and (if pertinent) [Country].”

Submissions must include at the beginning of the submission, or on the first page (if an attachment), the following text (in bold and underlined): (1) “2011 GSP Annual Review”; and (2) the eight-digit HTSUS subheading number in which the product is classified (for product petitions) or the name of the country (for country practice petitions). Furthermore, interested parties submitting petitions that request action with respect to specific products should also list at the beginning of the submission, or on the first page (if an attachment) the

following information: (1) The requested action; and (2) if applicable, the beneficiary developing country.

Each submitter will receive a submission tracking number upon completion of the submissions procedure at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The tracking number will be the submitter’s confirmation that the submission was received into <http://www.regulations.gov>. The confirmation should be kept for the submitter’s records. USTR is not responsible for any delays in a submission due to technical difficulties, nor is it able to provide any technical assistance for the Web site. Documents not submitted in accordance with these instructions may not be considered in this review. If unable to provide submissions as requested, please contact the GSP Program at USTR to arrange for an alternative method of transmission.

Business Confidential Petitions

A petitioner requesting that information contained in a petition be treated as business confidential information must certify that such information is business confidential and provide an explanation as to why the information should be protected in accordance with 15 CFR 2007.7. Confidential business information must be clearly designated as such. The submission must be marked “BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL” at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page, and the submission should indicate, via brackets, the specific information that is confidential. Additionally, “Business Confidential” must be included in the “Type Comment” field. Anyone submitting a petition containing business confidential information must also submit as a separate submission a non-confidential version of the confidential submission, indicating where confidential information has been redacted. The non-confidential version will be placed in the docket and open to public inspection.

Business confidential submissions that are submitted without the required markings, or are not accompanied by a properly marked non-confidential version, as set forth above, might not be accepted or may be considered public documents.

III. Public Viewing of Review Submissions

Submissions in response to this notice, except for information granted “business confidential” status under 15 CFR 2003.6, will be available for public viewing pursuant to 15 CFR 2007.6 at

<http://www.regulations.gov> upon completion of processing and no later than approximately two weeks after the relevant due date. Such submissions may be viewed by entering the docket number USTR-2011-0015 in the search field at: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

William D. Jackson,

Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Generalized System of Preferences and Chair of the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 2011-28252 Filed 10-31-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W2-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Cities of South Lake Tahoe, CA and Stateline, NV

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for a proposed highway realignment project on US Highway 50 (US 50) in the Cities of South Lake Tahoe, California and Stateline, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cesar Perez, Senior Transportation Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100, Sacramento, California 95814, telephone (916) 498-5065.

Suzanne Melim, Senior Environmental Coordinator, California Department of Transportation, 703 B Street, P.O. Box 911, Marysville, CA 95901, telephone (530) 741-4484.

Steve Cooke, Chief, Nevada Department of Transportation, 1263 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89712, telephone; (775) 888-7686.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The California and Nevada Divisions of FHWA, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Tahoe Transportation District, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to realign US Highway 50 (US 50) around the Stateline casino corridor area and convert the existing US 50 roadway, between Pioneer Trail in California and Lake Parkway in Nevada into a two-lane roadway. The California Division FHWA, in cooperation with Nevada FHWA, will serve as the lead Federal

agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The joint document will also serve as environmental compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Environmental Impact Report) and TRPA's own EIS requirements. The work includes converting the existing US 50 into a two-lane roadway (one travel lane in each direction). Additional work may include a center median, landscaping and turn pockets at major driveways and intersections. Expanded sidewalks and bicycle lanes are proposed to be constructed in this section within the casino corridor to improve pedestrian safety and encourage use of alternative transportation modes, and traffic signals would be installed and synchronized to improve the flow of traffic. The affected segment of existing US 50 is approximately 1.1 miles long.

The proposed action involves realigning US 50 from its intersection at Lake Parkway in Nevada along Lake Parkway on the mountain (southeast) side of the Stateline casino corridor area behind Montbleu and Harrah's casinos. West of the casinos, the realigned US 50 would continue behind (south of) Heavenly Village Center (Raley's Shopping Center) and then along a new alignment between Fern and Echo Roads, rejoining the existing US 50 at its intersection with Pioneer Trail in California. The proposed new US 50 alignment would be four lanes (two travel lanes in each direction) with left-turn pockets at intersections. One Build Alternative includes a new, two-lane roundabout at the intersection of US 50 and Lake Parkway in Stateline, Nevada. The other Build Alternative under consideration would have a signalized intersection rather than a roundabout. A number of other Build Alternatives have been investigated, but have not been carried through for additional consideration. These alternatives and evaluations will be fully disclosed in the EIS.

The realignment of US 50 is considered necessary to: (1) Improve pedestrian safety, mobility, and multi-modal transportation options to accommodate increased pedestrian traffic created by existing and proposed resort development in the project area; (2) help achieve TRPA's adopted environmental threshold carrying capacities and TRPA, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) regulations and requirements, while enhancing the community and tourism experience; and (3) mitigate severe summer and winter peak period traffic

congestion along US 50 in the project area by achieving and maintaining acceptable Levels of Service for existing and future traffic demand. The EIS will also address the intent of the Loop Road System concept described in Article V(2) of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (Pub. L. 96-551), 1980 and incorporate the various regional and local plans for the area including the Lake Tahoe Regional Transportation Plan, the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program, and Stateline/Ski Run Community Plan

Alternatives under consideration include (1) Taking no action; (2) a Build Alternative with a roundabout at Lake Parkway in Stateline and (3) a Build Alternative that it would install a signalized intersection at the intersection of US 50 and Lake Parkway instead of a roundabout; and (4) potentially one or more additional Build Alternatives identified in the scoping or environmental evaluation process that will address identified impacts and achieve project goals. Grade and alignment design variations will be incorporated into and studied with the build alternatives' footprints.

Notices describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Two public scoping meetings will be held in November and December 2011. At least two public hearings on the draft EIS will also be held. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the hearings. Public notices giving the time and place of the meetings and hearings will be widely circulated, including notification in locally prominent media.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA, NDOT, and/or Caltrans at the addresses provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, 49 CFR 1.48(d)(17), and 40 CFR 1501.7.