

Washington, DC 20520. The application and related documents that are part of the record to be considered by the Department of State in connection with this application are available for inspection in the Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy during normal business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pedro Erviti, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy (EB/ESC/IEC/EPC), Department of State, Washington, DC 20520; or by telephone at (202) 647-1291; or by fax at (202) 647-4037.

Dated: October 17, 2002.

Matthew T. McManus,

Acting Director, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, Department of State.
[FR Doc. 02-27009 Filed 10-22-02; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Determinations Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has determined that, as of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Republic of Sierra Leone will begin receiving the trade benefits provided for in the African Growth and Opportunity Act for articles other than textiles and apparel.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 23, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Constance Hamilton, Senior Director for African Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-9514.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-200) (AGOA) provides trade benefits to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to promote increased trade and investment between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa to promote increased trade and investment between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa and economic development in the region.

In Proclamation 7360 (Oct. 2, 2000), the President designated Sierra Leone as a "beneficiary sub-Saharan African country," as well as a "lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country," but with delayed implementation. Proclamation 7360

delegated to the USTR the authority to determine the effective date of the designation of Sierras Leone as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, and, therefore, the date upon which Sierra Leone will be considered a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country and begin receiving the trade benefits of the AGOA for articles other than textiles and apparel. The President directed the USTR to announce any such determination in the **Federal Register**. Based on progress that Sierra Leone has made in stabilizing its political and security situation, I have determined that Sierra Leone should begin receiving the trade benefits of the AGOA for articles other than textiles and apparel, effective as of the date of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Sierra Leone may now begin the process to become eligible for the trade benefits of the AGOA for textile and apparel articles.

Robert B. Zoellick,

United States Trade Representative.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and conduct public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: This Notice provides information to Federal, state, and local agencies, affected Native American tribes, and other interested persons on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority's (OSIDA's) proposal to operate a commercial launch site at the Clinton-Sherman Industrial Airpark (CSIA). The FAA, as the lead Federal agency, will prepare the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 4321 *et seq.*) and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 1500-1508), as part of its licensing process for the proposed Oklahoma Spaceport. Because the United States Air Force proposes to continue its use of CSIA (preferred alternative site for the Spaceport) as a

training facility, the FAA has requested and the United States Air Force has agreed to be a cooperating agency (40 CFR 1501.6) on this EIS.

OSIDA has entered into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with various interested parties who wish to construct and operate facilities for the purpose of conducting commercial space launches of reusable launch vehicles (RLVs) from the proposed Oklahoma Spaceport. The potential users of the launch site would be responsible for obtaining any necessary permits or approvals including a launch license from the FAA. Proposed operations include the launch, reentry, landing, and recovery of orbital and sub-orbital launch vehicles. OSIDA plans to support the launch of communications, commercial, and government satellites into low earth orbits, as well as using vehicles for travel to other parts of the world and space tourism.

Background

The FAA is preparing an EIS to analyze the environmental impacts of OSIDA's proposed operation of a launch facility in Oklahoma. The EIS will cover construction of facilities, ground activities (component testing, transportation and storage of fuels and explosives, *etc.*), pre-flight vehicle and payload preparation activities, launch, reentry, and landing/recovery operations.

The FAA is the lead Federal agency in preparing the EIS because of its licensing authority for commercial launch activities under 49 U.S.C. subtitle IX, ch. 701, formerly the Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984, as amended (CSLA). The CSLA authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to oversee, license and coordinate U.S. commercial space launch activities. Under the CSLA, the Secretary exercises this authority in a manner that ensures the protection of public health and safety, the safety of property, and national security and foreign policy interests of the United States. The Secretary has delegated this authority to the Administrator of the FAA, who in turn has delegated this authority to the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST). OSIDA intends to apply for a license to operate a launch site at CSIA or an alternative location. Because licensing OSIDA's operations is a major Federal action, compliance with NEPA is required.

A license to operate a launch site authorizes a licensee to operate a launch site in accordance with the representations contained in the licensee's application, with terms and