

the same environmental review questions. Except for site-specific issues, RUS has found performing individual environmental reviews for each CT is needlessly redundant and does not contribute to better environmental decisionmaking. Therefore, RUS plans to address environmental issues common to all CTs in this programmatic level analysis. RUS will perform site-specific environmental review and analyses on each proposed CT when presented with proposed siting alternatives. This tiered approach is practicable, reduces paperwork and delays and fosters better decision making (see 7 CFR 1794.16).

Along with programmatic level environmental analysis, this document offers guidance to RUS borrowers on the scope of actions permissible under 7 CFR 1794.15 that they may take pending completion by RUS of the second analytical tier, *i.e.*, the site specific environmental analysis.

This analysis finds that considering the similar characteristics of most CTs and the limited reliable and affordable alternatives presently available for addressing rural America's needs for peaking supplies of electricity, RUS should tier its environmental analysis of CTs because it is practicable, reduces paperwork and delay, and produces better decision making. This programmatic analysis considers common characteristics and alternatives. RUS intends to consider on a case-by-case basis as they arise, whether the installation or operation of any particular CT on its proposed site will result in any significant environmental impacts. In making such individual determinations, RUS will consider the findings and requirements of other governmental entities having jurisdiction over the siting, development and operation of the CT and reserves the right to update this programmatic analysis to take additional information into account or develop particular elements of the analysis more fully as may be warranted in individual circumstances. Ordinarily, however, the analysis contained in this document will be incorporated either in its entirety or in part by reference in any further RUS analysis of particular CT projects.

In determining which loan applicant activities may proceed in connection with CTs before RUS completes the second tier of its environmental review, RUS has determined that 7 CFR 1794.15 permits an applicant to take all appropriate actions necessary to assure timely acquisition of CTs. Generally, during this period, applicants will take actions that do not have an adverse

impact and do not preclude the search for alternatives, *e.g.*, site acquisition, executing a purchase contract for a CT, making manufacturer's progress payments, and site planning and design. As contrasted with site development or project construction, which may have adverse environmental consequences, these purchase, planning and design activities clearly do not. Nor do the expenditures for these permissible activities preclude the search for alternatives. CTs are fungible, in limited supply, and have a broad worldwide market. In the unlikely event that an applicant can find no environmentally suitable site on which to locate a CT or otherwise changes its plans, commercially reasonable alternatives exist to effectively "unwind" the transaction in the case of a CT that has not yet been installed.

RUS believes that in the event that the proposed CT project is not approved by the Administrator, the amount of unrecoverable losses which an applicant would consequently absorb would not jeopardize the Government's security interest in existing assets or otherwise compromise the objectivity of RUS review. In such an eventuality, RUS expects that even in a worse case scenario the applicant would incur only a modest cancellation charge as the manufacturer could reasonably be expected to sell the CT to another purchaser for a similar price. Given the current demand for CTs, at least for some time to come, it appears that a proactive applicant may be able to assign its purchase rights or otherwise transfer its rights in the CT to a third party and completely avoid losses. Accordingly, these pre-installation expenditures will not compromise RUS objectivity.

In a deregulated electricity market, failure to take prudent steps to acquire reasonably priced, reliable power supply resources in a timely manner exposes RUS borrowers, Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) beneficiaries, and RUS to unacceptably high levels of market risk and thereby frustrates the objectives of the RE Act. This tiered analysis and regulation interpretation is fully consistent with NEPA and eliminates unnecessary procedural delays, costs and risks.

This programmatic environmental assessment can be reviewed at the headquarters of RUS at the address provided above. The document is also available for public inspection on the RUS website at: [www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm).

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS will accept questions and

comments on its proposed action for at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. RUS will take no final action related to this proposal until after notification of that action is published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 1, 2000.

**Lawrence R. Wolfe,**

*Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of Export Administration

#### International Import Certificate

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before February 9, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Dawnielle Battle, Department of Commerce, Room 6883, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20230.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Abstract**

The United States and several other countries have undertaken to increase the effectiveness of their respective controls over international trade in strategic commodities by means of an Import Certificate procedure. For the U.S. importer, this procedure provides that, where required by the exporting country with respect to a specific transaction, the importer certifies to the U.S. Government that he/she will import specific commodities into the United States and will not reexport such commodities except in accordance with the export control regulations of the

United States. The U.S. Government, in turn, certifies that such representations have been made.

#### Data

*OMB Number:* 0694-0017.

*Form Number:* Form BXA-645P, International Import Certificate.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission for extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals, businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,008.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 16 minutes per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 270.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* No start-up capital expenditures.

#### Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 6, 2000.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-31405 Filed 12-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-33-U

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of Export Administration

#### One-time Report for Foreign Software or Technology Eligible for De Minimis Exclusion

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and

respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before February 9, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Dawnielle Battle, Management Analyst, Department of Commerce, Room 6883, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Abstract

Section 734.4 exempts from the EAR reexports of foreign technology commingled with or drawn from controlled U.S. origin technology valued at 10% or less of the total value of the foreign technology. However, persons must submit a one-time report for the foreign software or technology to BXA prior to reliance upon this *de minimis* exclusion.

##### Method of Collection

Exporters intending to rely on the *de minimis* exclusion for foreign software and technology commingled with U.S. software and technology must file a one-time report for the foreign software or technology.

#### Data

*OMB Number:* 0694-0101.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission for extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals, businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7.  
*Estimated Time Per Response:* 25 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 175.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* No start-up capital expenditures.

#### Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance

of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 6, 2000.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-31406 Filed 12-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JT-U

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration, Commerce

#### Export Trade Certificate of Review

**ACTION:** Notice of Issuance of an Amended Export Trade Certificate of Review, Application No. 89-8A016.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce issued an amended Export Trade Certificate of Review to The Geothermal Energy Association ("GEA") on November 13, 2000. Notice of issuance of the original Certificate was published in the **Federal Register** on February 9, 1990 (55 FR 4647).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Morton Schnabel, Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, (202) 482-5131. This is not a toll-free number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title III of the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 (15 U.S.C. Sections 4001-21) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to issue Export Trade Certificates of Review. The regulations implementing Title III are found at 15 CFR part 325 (1998).

The Office of Export Trading Company Affairs ("OETCA") is issuing this notice pursuant to 15 CFR 325.6(b), which requires the Department of Commerce to publish a summary of a Certificate in the **Federal Register**. Under Section 305(a) of the Act and 15 CFR 325.11(a), any person aggrieved by the Secretary's determination may,