(primarily duty-free for finished pharmaceuticals and up to 14.6% for intermediates) for the foreign materials noted above (duty rates ranging from duty-free to 14.5%). The application indicates that the expanded use of FTZ procedures will help improve Merck's international competitiveness.

The application has requested review under § 400.32(b)(1) of the FTZ Board regulations on the basis that the proposed activity is the same, in terms of products involved, to activity recently approved by the Board and similar in circumstances.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is January 2, 2001. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to January 16, 2001).

Copies of the applications will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Export Assistance Center, 6001 Chatham Center Drive, Suite 100, Savannah, Georgia 31405.

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 4008, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: November 17, 2000.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00–30565 Filed 11–29–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 59–2000]

Foreign-Trade Zone 22—Chicago, Illinois; Application For Foreign-Trade Subzone Status, Northrop Grumman Corporation—Defense Systems Division (Radar and Electro-Optical Systems), Rolling Meadows, Illinois

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Illinois International Port District, grantee of FTZ 22, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the manufacturing facilities (radar and electro-optical systems) of the Defense Systems Division (DSD) of Northrop Grumman Corporation, located in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. The application was submitted pursuant to the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on November 15, 2000.

The Northrup Grumman DSD facilities are located at 600 Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, Illinois (2 buildings/959,000 square feet on 50 acres). The facilities (2,500 employees) are used for the development and manufacture of radar and electro-optical systems for defense, aerospace, and transportation applications. Some of the components used in the manufacturing process are purchased from abroad (an estimated 40% of finished product value), including: plastic boxes or crates; vulcanized rubber products; printed labels; transfers (decalomanias); self-adhesive plastic flat shapes; aluminum castings; hand tools; mirrors; pressure-reducing valves; electric motors and generators; electrical transformers, static converters, and inductors; plugs or sockets; printed-circuit assemblies and assembly parts; electrical switching/connection/circuit-protection parts; arc lamps; coaxial cable; electric conductors; mirrors and other optical elements, instruments, and devices, including parts; lasers; materials testing machines; and oscilloscopes, oscillographs, and other measuring or checking instruments. Duty rates on these imported items range from 1.7% to 5.8%. The company also uses a number of foreign-sourced items that are duty free.

Zone procedures would exempt DSD from Customs duty payments on foreign components used in export production. FTZ procedures will help DSD to implement a more cost-effective system for handling Customs requirements (including reduced brokerage fees and Customs merchandise processing fees). On its domestic sales, DSD would be able to choose the lower duty rate that applies to the finished products (duty-free to 2.8%), where applicable, for the foreign components noted above. DSD would also be able to defer payment of duties on imported components until Customs entry is made on the finished products. The company would be exempt from duty payments on foreign merchandise that becomes scrap/waste (scrap rate estimated at 1.5% of parts). FTZ status may also make a site eligible for benefits provided under state/local programs. The application indicates that the savings from zone procedures would help improve the plant's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is January 29. 2001. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to February 13, 2001.

A copy of the application and the accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4008, 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230

U.S. Department of Commerce Export Assistance Center 55 W. Monroe St., Suite 2440, Chicago, Illinois 60603

Dated: November 16, 2000.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00–30567 Filed 11–29–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 61–2000]

Foreign-Trade Zone 93—Raleigh/Durham, NC; Expansion of Facilities and Manufacturing Authority—Subzone 93C; Merck & Co., Inc. Plant (Pharmaceuticals) Wilson County, NC

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Triangle J Council of Governments, grantee of FTZ 93, pursuant to § 400.32(b)(1) of the Board's regulations (15 CFR Part 400), requesting on behalf of Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck), to add capacity and to expand the scope of manufacturing authority under zone procedures at Subzone 93C, the Merck pharmaceutical plant in Wilson County, North Carolina. It was formally filed on November 17, 2000.

Subzone 93C was approved by the Board in 1994 at a single site (225 acres, 257,576 sq. ft., 7 bldgs.) located at 4633 Merck Road, near the intersection of I–95 and U.S. Hwy. 264, in the town of Wilson (Wilson County), North Carolina, some 40 miles east of Durham. The facility (605 employees) is used to produce a range of human health products. Merck is now proposing to add 1 building and expand existing buildings. The proposed subzone would

then include 8 bldgs. consisting of 609,927 sq. ft. (a 237% increase) on 225 acres.

The application also requests to expand the scope of authority for manufacturing activity conducted under FTZ procedures at Subzone 93C to include additional general categories of inputs that have recently been approved by the Board for other pharmaceutical plants. They include chemically pure sugars, empty capsules for pharmaceutical use, protein concentrates, natural magnesium phosphates and carbonates, gypsum, anhydrite and plasters, petroleum jelly, paraffin and waxes, sulfuric acid, other inorganic acids or compounds of nonmetals, ammonia, zinc oxide, titanium oxides, fluorides, chlorates, sulfates, salts of oxometallic acids, radioactive chemical elements, compounds of rare earth metals, acyclic hydrocarbons, derivatives of phenols or peroxides, acetals and hemiacetals, phosphoric esters and their salts, diazo-compounds, glands for therapeutic uses, wadding, gauze and bandages, pharmaceutical glaze, hair preparations, lubricating preparations, albumins, prepared glues and adhesives, catalytic preparations, diagnostic or laboratory reagents, prepared binders, acrylic polymers, self-adhesive plates and sheets, other articles of vulcanized rubber, plastic cases, cartons, boxes, printed books, brochures and similar printed matter, carboys, bottles, and flasks, stoppers, caps, and lids, aluminum foil, tin plates and sheets, taps, cocks and valves, and medical instruments and appliances.

FTZ procedures would exempt Merck from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export activity. On its domestic sales, the company would be able to elect the duty rates that applies to finished products (primarily duty-free for finished pharmaceuticals and up to 14.6% for intermediates) for the foreign materials noted above (duty rates ranging from duty-free to 14.5%). The application indicates that the expanded use of FTZ procedures will help improve Merck's international competitiveness.

The application has requested review under § 400.32(b)(1) of the FTZ Board regulations on the basis that the proposed activity is the same, in terms of products involved, to activity recently approved by the Board and similar in circumstances.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is January 2, 2001. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to January 16, 2001).

Copies of the applications will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Export Assistance Center, 333 Fayetteville St., Suite 1150, Raleigh, NC 27601

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 4008, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230

Dated: November 17, 2000.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00–30564 Filed 11–29–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 60–2000]

Foreign-Trade Zone 35B—Philadelphia Regional Port Authority; Expansion of Facilities and Manufacturing Authority—Subzone 35B; Merck & Co., Inc. Plant (Pharmaceuticals) West Point, PA

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, grantee of FTZ 35, pursuant to § 400.32(b)(1) of the Board's regulations (15 CFR part 400), requesting on behalf of Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck), to add capacity and to expand the scope of manufacturing authority under zone procedures at Subzone 35B, at the Merck pharmaceutical plant in West Point, Pennsylvania. It was formally filed on November 17, 2000.

Subzone 35B was approved by the Board in 1994 at a single site (387 acres, 4,230,000 sq. ft., 83 bldgs.) located at Sunneytown Pike and Broad Street, in the town of West Point, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, some 15 miles northwest of Philadelphia. The facility (9,500 employees) is used to produce a range of human health products. Merck is now proposing to add 23 buildings (totaling 2,087,280 sq. ft) and 18 acres. The proposed subzone would then include 106 bldgs., consisting of 6,317,280 sq. ft. (a 49% increase) on 405 acres.

The application also requests to expand the scope of authority for manufacturing activity conducted under FTZ procedures at Subzone 35B to include additional general categories of inputs that have recently been approved by the Board for other pharmaceutical plants. They include chemically pure sugars, empty capsules for pharmaceutical use, protein concentrates, natural magnesium phosphates and carbonates, gypsum, anhydrite and plasters, petroleum jelly, paraffin and waxes, sulfuric acid, other inorganic acids or compounds of nonmetals, ammonia, zinc oxide, titanium oxides, fluorides, chlorates, sulfates, salts of oxometallic acids, radioactive chemical elements, compounds of rare earth metals, acyclic hydrocarbons, derivatives of phenols or peroxides, acetals and hemiacetals, phosphoric esters and their salts, diazo-compounds, glands for therapeutic uses, wadding, gauze and bandages, pharmaceutical glaze, hair preparations, lubricating preparations, albumins, prepared glues and adhesives, catalytic preparations, diagnostic or laboratory reagents, prepared binders, acrylic polymers, self-adhesive plates and sheets, other articles of vulcanized rubber, plastic cases, cartons, boxes, printed books, brochures and similar printed matter, carboys, bottles, and flasks, stoppers, caps, and lids, aluminum foil, tin plates and sheets, taps, cocks and valves, and medical instruments and appliances.

FTZ procedures would exempt Merck from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export activity. On its domestic sales, the company would be able to elect the duty rates that applies to finished products (primarily duty-free for finished pharmaceuticals and up to 14.6% for intermediates) for the foreign materials noted above (duty rates ranging from duty-free to 14.5%). The application indicates that the expanded use of FTZ procedures will help improve Merck's international competitiveness.

The application has requested review under § 400.32(b)(1) of the FTZ Board regulations on the basis that the proposed activity is the same, in terms of products involved, to activity recently approved by the Board and similar in circumstances.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is January 2, 2001. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to January 16, 2001).

Copies of the applications will be available for public inspection at the following locations: