

Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

A copy of this notice shall be published, in accordance with Sec. 107.730(g), in the **Federal Register** by SBA.

Dated: February 24, 2000.

Don A. Christensen,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 00-5025 Filed 3-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Applicant No. 99000356]

EDF Ventures, L.P.; Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that EDF Ventures, L.P. ("EDF"), 425 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, an applicant for a Federal License under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act"), in connection with the completed financing of a small concern is seeking an exemption under section 312 of the Act and section 107.730, Financings which Constitute Conflicts of Interest of the Small Business Administration ("SBA") rules and regulations (13 CFR 107.730 (1998)). SBA may not grant an exemption until Notices of this transaction have been published. EDF Ventures, LP plans to provide equity financing to Centromine, Inc., 3756 Plaza Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. The financing will be used for marketing and working capital purposes.

The financing is brought within the purview of section Sec. 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because Enterprise Development Fund II, L.P., an associate of EDF Ventures, LP owns greater than 10 percent of Xtera Communications, Inc., and therefore Xtera Communications is considered an Associate of EDF Ventures, LP as defined in Sec. 107.50 of the regulations.

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may, not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice, submit written comments on the transaction to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

A copy of this notice shall be published, in accordance with Sec. 107.730(g), in the **Federal Register** by SBA.

Dated: February 24, 2000.

Don A. Christensen,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 00-5026 Filed 3-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3237]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition; Determinations: "Kremlin Gold—1000 Years of Russian Gems & Jewels"

AGENCY: United States Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority of October 19, 1999, I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Kremlin Gold—1000 Years of Russian Gems & Jewels," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with foreign lenders. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Chicago, from on or about April 15—September 7, 2000, then The Field Museum, Chicago, on or about October 21, 2000—April 1, 2001, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of exhibit objects, contact Carol Epstein, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/619-6981). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44; 301-4th Street, S.W., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: 23 February 2000.

William P. Kiehl,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-5063 Filed 3-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3231]

Secretary of State's Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board; Notice of Closed Meetings

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app 2 § 10(a)(2)(1996), the Secretary of State announces the following changes and additions to the Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board (ACNAB) meetings:

Date and Location

March 8-9, 2000—Department of State, Washington, DC

April 24-25, 2000—Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA

May 8-9, 2000—Department of State, Washington, DC

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app 2 § 10(d)(1996), and in accordance with Executive Order 12958, in the interest of national defense and foreign policy, it has been determined that these Board meetings will be closed to the public, since the ACNAB members will be reviewing and discussing classified matters.

The purpose of this Advisory Board is to advise the President and the Secretary of State on scientific, technical, and policy matters affecting arms control. The board will review specific arms control and nonproliferation issues. Members will be briefed on current U.S. policy and issues regarding negotiations such as the Convention on Conventional Weapons and the Chemical and Biological Weapons Convention.

For more information, please contact Robert Sherman, Executive Director, Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board, at (202) 647-1192.

Dated: February 25, 2000.

Robert Sherman,

Executive Director, Secretary of State's Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 00-5173 Filed 2-29-00; 2:11 pm]

BILLING CODE 4710-27-P

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Regional Resource Stewardship Council

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC) will hold its first meeting to consider various

matters. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, (FACA).

The meeting agenda includes the following:

1. Introductions/TVA River System Overview
2. FACA responsibilities and committee operation
3. Public comments
4. RRSC member comments

The meeting is open to the public. Members of the public who wish to make oral public comments may do so during the Public comments portion of the agenda. Up to one hour will be allotted for the Public comments with participation available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each speaker will have from 2–5 minutes to address the Council depending on the number who register at the door. Written comments are also invited and may be mailed to the Regional Resource Stewardship Council, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11A, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902–1499, or faxed to (865) 632–3146.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 17, 2000, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., EST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Chattanooga Marriott, 2 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and will be open to the public. Anyone needing special access or accommodations should let the contact below know at least a week in advance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra L Hill, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11A, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902–1499, (865) 632–2333.

Dated: February 24, 2000.

Kathryn J. Jackson,

Executive Vice President, River System Operations & Environment, Tennessee Valley Authority.

[FR Doc. 00–4975 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8120–08–P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment Regarding Softwood Lumber Practices in Canada and Softwood Lumber Trade Between the United States and Canada

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) seeks public comment concerning softwood lumber trade between the United States and Canada, in light of the pending

expiration of the U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement in April 2001. The TPSC invites public comment with respect to Canadian softwood lumber practices. Furthermore, the TPSC invites comment with respect to economic and environmental aspects of: (a) Those softwood lumber practices, (b) related U.S.-Canada softwood lumber trade issues, and (c) a possible negotiation concerning Canadian provincial lumber practices and softwood lumber trade between the United States and Canada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For Procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative at (202) 395–3475. All other questions concerning the U.S.-Canada lumber trade issues should be addressed to Mary Ryckman in the agency's Office of North American Affairs at (202) 395–3412.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement

On May 29, 1996, the United States and Canada signed the U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement. The five-year Agreement went into effect April 1, 1996. Under the Agreement, fee free exports of softwood lumber from the four major lumber producing provinces in Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec) were limited to 14.7 billion board feet fee-free a year. These four provinces account for 95% of lumber shipments from Canada. The Agreement does not impose any restrictions on lumber coming from other provinces because timber there is sold competitively.

The details of the Agreement are as follows:

- Softwood lumber means articles classified under tariff items 4407.10.00, 4409.10.10, 4409.10.20, and 4409.10.90 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

- The Agreement establishes an export fee system. Shipments from the four provinces in excess of 14.7 billion board feet in any year are subject to a surcharge of US\$50 per thousand board feet up to an additional 650 million board feet. Once that level is reached, the surcharge is increased to US\$100 per thousand board feet. While US\$100 per thousand board feet acts as a substantial deterrent to additional shipments in all but the strongest markets, there is no point at which shipments from Canada are prohibited outright.

- The Agreement contains a trigger price mechanism, whereby an

additional 92 million board feet is allowed into the United States free of charge for every quarter in which the price of lumber equals or exceeds the trigger price (a quarterly average price of \$405 per thousand board feet of eastern spruce-pine-fir, standard or better, kiln-dried, Great Lakes delivered lumber as reported in *Random Lengths*).

- The U.S. Customs Service monitors shipment levels and fee payments to ensure that the Agreement is being properly implemented.

Modification of the Softwood Lumber Agreement

On August 26 1999, the United States and Canada resolved a U.S. dispute settlement case under the Agreement over a 1998 timber stumpage reduction in British Columbia. The United States considered the reduction to be a violation of the 1996 U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement. British Columbia's June 1, 1998 stumpage change applied to all timber grown on provincially-owned lands, which accounts for the overwhelming majority of timber harvested in the province. The province reduced its timber harvesting fees by an average of C\$8.10 per cubic meter, or 24%, for timber harvested in coastal areas and by C\$3.50 per cubic meter, or 14%, on average for inland timber. Estimates are that the new, lower fees resulted in an overall price reduction of some C\$234 million during the first year they were in effect and will lower harvesting fees by approximately C\$640 million over three years.

The settlement covers exports from British Columbia for the remainder of the Agreement. The settlement calls for Canada to impose a new, higher fee on B.C. lumber exports when exports from the province exceed recent average annual shipments to the United States. The settlement also requires Canada to begin imposing what was, until now, the highest export surcharge called for under the Agreement at lower lumber export levels than previously was the case. During year four of the Agreement (1999/2000), exports from British Columbia subject to the lower fee will be limited to 272 million board feet, while upper-fee exports will be limited to 110 million board feet. All British Columbia exports beyond those amounts will be subject to a new fee of US\$146.25/thousand board feet. In year five, the export volumes triggering fees will be the same or lower, and the new fee will be adjusted for inflation.

History of Softwood Lumber Trade Between the United States and Canada

On December 30, 1986, the United States and Canada entered into a