X. Can EPA Change Its Decision on these TMEs in the Future?

Yes. The Agency reserves the right to rescind approval or modify the conditions and restrictions of an exemption should any new information that comes to its attention cast significant doubt on its finding that the test marketing activities will not present any unreasonable risk of injury to human health or the environment.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Test marketing exemptions.

Dated: December 12, 2001.

Rebecca S. Cool,

Chief, New Chemicals Prenotice Branch, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

[FR Doc. 01–31248 Filed 12–18–01;8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7119–7]

Proposed Reissuance of General NPDES Permit (GP) for Alaskan Small Suction Dredging (Permit Number AKG–37–5000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposed reissuance of a general permit.

SUMMARY: This general permit was originally effective on April 7, 1997, and expires on April 9, 2002. EPA proposes to reissue this general permit with minor changes based on updated information relating to the impact of such mining activity on the environment. EPA is proposing to automatically extend coverage under this general permit, when final, to those facilities covered by the previous permit which submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) prior to April 9, 2002.

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed reissuance of the GP to EPA, Region 10 at the address below. Comments must be received by February 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the proposed General Permit should be sent to Director, Office of Water; USEPA Region 10; 1200 Sixth Avenue, OW–135; Seattle, Washington 98101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the Proposed General Permit and Fact Sheet are available upon request. Requests may be made to Audrey Washington at (206) 553–0523 or to Cindi Godsey at (907) 271–6561 or electronically mailed to: *washington.audrey@epa.gov* or *godsey.cindi@epa.gov.* These documents may be found on the Region 10 Web site at *www.epa.gov/r10earth/water.htm*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866: The Office of Management and Budget has exempted this action from the review requirements of Executive Order 12866 pursuant to Section 6 of that order.

Regulatory Flexibility Act: EPA has concluded that General NPDES permits are permits under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*, and thus not subject to APA rulemaking requirements or the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Dated: December 5, 2001.

Randall F. Smith,

Director, Office of Water, Region 10, Environmental Protection Agency.

[FR Doc. 01–31240 Filed 12–18–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

[Public Notice 48]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1945, the Export-Import Bank of the United States is submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve a revised exporter and banker survey. The purpose of the survey is to fulfill a statutory mandate (the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 635) which directs Ex-Im Bank to report annually to the U.S. Congress any action taken toward providing export credit programs that are competitive with those offered by official foreign export credit agencies. The Act further stipulates that the annual report on competitiveness should include the results of a survey of U.S. exporters and U.S. commercial lending institutions which provide export credit to determine their experience in meeting financial competition from other countries whose exporters compete with U.S. exporters.

Accordingly, Ex-Im Bank is requesting that the proposed survey (EIB No. 00–02) be sent to approximately 50 respondents, split equally between bankers and exporters. The revised survey is similar to the previous survey, as it asks bankers and exporters to evaluate the competitiveness of Ex-Im Bank's programs vis-á-vis foreign export credit agencies. However, it has been modified in order to account for newer policies and to capture enough information to provide a better analysis of our competitiveness. In addition,the survey will be administered electronically via email, with recipients encouraged to respond electronically as well.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 18, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments or requests for additional information to David Rostker, Office of Management and Budget, Information and Regulatory Affairs, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503, (202) 395–3897.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carlista D. Robinson, Export-Import Bank of the U.S., 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20571 (202) 565–3351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: With respect to the proposed collection of information, Ex-Im Bank invites comments as to:

—Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of Ex-Im Bank, including whether the information will have a practical use;

—The accuracy of Ex-Im Bank's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

—Ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected, and

—Ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Title & Form Number: Annual Competitiveness Report Survey of Exporters and Bankers, EIB Form 00–02.

OMB Number: 3048–0004.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Annual Number of Respondents: 50.

Annual Burden Hours: 50.

Frequency of Reporting or Use: Annual survey.

Dated: December 14, 2001.

Carlista D. Robinson,

Agency Clearance Officer.

BILLING CODE 6690–01–M

OMB # 3048-0004

ANNUAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT SURVEY OF EXPORTERS AND BANKERS 2001

PART 1 – EXPORTER/BANKER COMPANY PROFILE

BASIC INFORMATION

Please enter answers in the white boxes.

Company name:	
Person completing survey:	
Title:	
Address:	
Phone number:	
Fax number:	
Email address:	

EXPERIENCE

Please enter answers in the white boxes.

	1 – 3 Years	4 – 10 Years	11 – 20 Years	20+ Years
Years in business:				
Years in exporting/ trade finance:				

Exporters	< $10MM	$10 – 100MM	$100MM - $1Bn	> $1Bn
2001 Total sales volume:				
2001 Total U.S. exports sales volume:				

Bankers	< $10MM	$10 – 100MM	$100MM - $1Bn	> $1Bn
2001 Total export finance credit extended:				
2001 Total Ex-Im Bank supported export finance credit extended:				

Compared to 2000, the volume of your 2001 exports/trade finance were:

Higher	Same	Lower

Public Burden Statement: Public burden reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary data, providing the information required, and reviewing the final collection. Send comments on the accuracy of this estimate of the burden and recommendations for reducing it to: Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (#3048-0004) Washington, D.C. 20503. OMB #3048-0004. EIB Form 00-02.

PART 2 – EXPERIENCE WITH FOREIGN ECAs

Please indicate your experience in the past 12-18 months in **using, receiving support from or working with** other ECAs. Please select the appropriate white boxes below.

Export Credit Agency	Frequent	Rare	None
Canada (EDC)			
France (Coface)			
Italy (SACE)			
Germany (Hermes)			
UK (ECGD)			
Japan (JBIC)			
Japan (NEXI)			
Other (please identify below)			

Please indicate your experience in the past 12-18 months in **facing competitors that receive support** from foreign export credit agencies. Please select the appropriate white boxes below.

Export Credit Agency	Frequent	Rare	None
Canada (EDC)			
France (Coface)			
Italy (SACE)			
Germany (Hermes)			
UK (ECGD)			
Japan (JBIC)			
Japan (NEXI)			
Other (please identify below)			

Please provide comments or views on the general competitive environment, trends of specific competitors, etc.

PART 2 – EXPERIENCE WITH FOREIGN ECAs (cont.)

Why do you approach Ex-Im Bank for support? In the white boxes below, please indicate the approximate frequency with which each of the following challenges or needs arise, as well as a typical region or situation that presents such a challenge/need.

Challenge/Need	Frequency (%)	Typical region or situation
Meet official ECA competition		
Lack of market financing		
U.S. government involvement/ leverage		
Other (please identify below)		

PART 3 – COMPETITIVENESS OF EX-IM BANK POLICIES & PROGRAMS

Cost of Ex-Im Bank Financing: Please compare the cost of Ex-Im Bank support against that of the other major ECAs, focusing on the following cost aspects.

Please enter answers in the white boxes. If you do not have experience in the particular area, do not feel obliged to answer.

COST	COMPETITIVENESS					
Exposure Fees						
Medium- and long-term fees for *sovereign* borrowers (as compared to fees charged by other ECAs):	More?		Less?		Neutral?	
	Please provide examples/context for your response:					
Medium- and long-term fees for *non-sovereign* borrowers (as compared to fees charged by other ECAs):	More?		Less?		Neutral?	
	Please provide examples/context for your response:					
Interest Rates						
CIRR support (Ex-Im direct lending support vs. other ECAs' direct lending or interest make-up support):	More?		Less?		Neutral?	
	Please provide examples/context for your response:					
Interest rates offered by commercial banks under Ex-Im Bank *insurance* coverage (as compared to rates offered by banks under other ECAs' cover):	More?		Less?		Neutral?	
	Please provide examples/context for your response:					
Interest rates offered by commercial banks under Ex-Im Bank *guarantee* coverage (as compared to rates offered by banks under other ECAs' cover):	More?		Less?		Neutral?	
	Please provide examples/context for your response:					

PART 3 – COMPETITIVENESS OF EX-IM BANK POLICIES & PROGRAMS (cont.)

Do you have any further comments on cost or structural aspects that affect the competitiveness of Ex-Im Bank programs (e.g., all-in cost, interface with capital markets, interest make-up)?

Non-cost policies: How do the following policies affect Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness? Please rank Ex-Im Bank as more (+), equally (=) or less (-) competitive than other countries' ECAs.
Please enter answers in the white boxes. If you do not have experience in the particular area, do not feel obliged to answer.

	Competitiveness (Ex-Im Bank is +/=/- vis-à-vis others)					
Policy	**Canada**	**France**	**Germany**	**Italy**	**Japan**	**U.K.**
Environment						
Comments/Context:						
U.S. content requirements						
Comments/Context:						
Co-financing						
Comments/Context:						
Local costs support						
Comments/Context:						
Cover policy (e.g., number of markets covered, impact of openness in a given market, sanctions)						
Comments/Context:						
Tied aid policy (e.g., availability of tied aid support, effectiveness of matching, etc.)						
Comments/Context:						

PART 3 – COMPETITIVENESS OF EX-IM BANK POLICIES & PROGRAMS (cont.)

Of the above non-cost policies, which, if changed, would have the greatest impact on Ex-Im Bank competitiveness vis-à-vis its foreign competitors? *Comments/context welcome.*

Please comment on the policy and procedural changes approved in January 2001 for co-financing, foreign content and local costs policies. How have these changes affected your competitiveness? *Context welcome.*

To your knowledge, have you seen competition supported by market window financing? How did this affect the competitiveness of Ex-Im Bank support? *Comments/context welcome.*

How do Ex-Im Bank's products compare with the products offered by other ECAs? Is there a product that Ex-Im Bank does not offer that would be useful to you (e.g., long-term insurance, 95% guarantee, etc.)? *Comments/context welcome.*

OMB # 3048-0004

PART 4 – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Please use the following space to make additional comments on any aspect of Ex-Im Bank programs, including aspects not specifically addressed in the above questions.

Public Burden Statement: Public burden reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary data, providing the information required, and reviewing the final collection. Send comments on the accuracy of this estimate of the burden and recommendations for reducing it to: Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (#3048-0004) Washington, D.C. 20503. OMB #3048-0004. EIB Form 00-02.

PART 5 – EXAMPLES OF COMPETITION

Please provide information regarding the type of competition you faced as a result of Ex-Im Bank costs/policies/programs.

	Cost/Policy/ Program	ECA	Market	Project Description	Describe the competition you faced and the effect that it had on your business (eg forced to change sourcing; lost jobs; lower exports). *If possible, please quantify.*
Example	Cover	EDC	Iran	Power Plant	As a result of Ex-Im Bank's lack of cover for Iran, we were forced to source from outside the United States. This resulted in a loss of over $100 million in U.S. export sales.
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

[FR Doc. 01–31224 Filed 12–18–01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6690–01–C