have authorized unescorted access into the protected area will be allowed to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing the LaSalle County Station.

All other access processes, including search function capability and access revocation, will remain the same. A security officer responsible for access control will continue to be positioned within a bullet-resistant structure. It should also be noted that the proposed system is only for individuals with authorized unescorted access and will not be used for those individuals requiring escorts.

Sandia National Laboratories conducted testing which demonstrated that the hand geometry equipment possesses strong performance characteristics. Details of the testing performed are in the Sandia report, ''A Performance Evaluation of Biometric Identification Devices,'' SAND91—0276 UC—906 Unlimited Release, June 1991. Based on the Sandia report and the licensee's experience using the current photo picture identification system, the false acceptance rate for the proposed hand geometry system would be at least equivalent to that of the current system. To assure that the proposed system will continue to meet the general performance requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), the licensee will implement a process for testing the system. The site security plans will also be revised to allow implementation of the hand geometry system and to allow employees and contractors with unescorted access to keep their picture badges in their possession when leaving LaSalle County Station.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage meet the same high assurance objective and the general performance requirements of 10 CFR 73.55. In addition, the staff has determined that the overall level of the proposed system's performance will provide protection against radiological sabotage equivalent to that which is provided by the current system in accordance with 10 CFR 73.55.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, this exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the following exemption:

The requirement of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) that individuals who have been granted unescorted access and are not employed by the licensee are to return their picture badges upon exit from the protected area is no longer necessary. Thus, these individuals may keep their picture badges in their possession upon leaving LaSalle County Station.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact (61 FR 17329).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of April, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jack W. Roe,

Director, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 96–10177 Filed 4–24–96; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. 301–100 and WTO/D–4]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceedings Concerning the European Communities' Banana Regime

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 127(b)(1) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that the United States has requested the establishment of a dispute settlement panel under the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) to examine the regime of the European Communities (EC) for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in the dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before May 16, 1996. In order to be assured of timely consideration by USTR in preparing its first written submission to the panel.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to the Office of the General Counsel, Attn: EC Bananas, Room 223, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Shub, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395–7305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 27, 1995, the USTR initiated an investigation under Section 302(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2412(b)) of the EC's regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas (Docket No. 301–100) (60 FR 52026; October 4, 1995). This investigation specifically concerns EC Council Regulation No. 404/93 and related measures discriminating against U.S. marketing companies importing bananas from Latin America, including a restrictive and discriminatory licensing scheme designed to transfer market share to and from U.S. banana marketing firms to firms traditionally trading bananas from African, Caribbean and Pacific sources and from EC territories and dependencies.

Two rounds of WTO consultations with the EC did not result in a resolution of the dispute. Accordingly, on April 11,1 1996, the United States, jointly with the governments of Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, requested the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel to review the EC banana regime. Acting jointly and severally, the United States and the other complaining countries have asked that panel review EC Regulation 404/93 and subsequent EC measures implementing the banana regime (including those reflecting the 1994 Framework Agreement on Bananas between the EC and Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Venezuela), and find that they are inconsistent with the following agreements and provisions, among others: (1) Articles I, II, III, X, XI and XIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, (2) Articles 1 and 3 of the Agreement on Importing Licensing Procedures, (3) the Agreement on Agriculture, (4) Articles II, XVI and XVII of the General Agreement on Tradein in Services, and (5) Article 2 of the Agreement of Trade-Related Investment Measures.

Members of the panel will be selected after the panel is established by the WTO. The panel is expected to meet as necessary at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland to examine the dispute. Under normal circumstances, the panel would be expected to issue a report detailing its findings and recommendations six to nine months after it is established.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. The provisions of 15 CFR §§ 2006.13(a) and (c) (providing that comments received will be open to public inspection) and

2006.15 will apply to comments received. Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies. Pursuant to 15 CFR § 2006.15, confidential business information must be clearly marked ''BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL'' in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA, USTR will maintain a public file on this dispute settlement proceeding, which will include a list of comments received, in the USTR Reading Room: Room 101, Office of the Untied States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington DC 20508. An appointment to review the docket (Docket WTO/D–3, ''United States—EC: EC Banana Regime''), may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395–6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Jennifer Hillman,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 96–10168 Filed 4–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190–01–M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35–26508]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended (''Act'')

April 19, 1996.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated thereunder. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendments thereto is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Office of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by May 13, 1996, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing shall identify specifically the issues of fact or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After said date, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

SEI Holdings, Inc. (70–8823)

SEI Holdings, Inc. (''Holdings''), 900 Ashwood Parkway, Suite No. 500, Atlanta, Georgia, 30338, a wholly-owned non-utility subsidiary of The Southern Company (''Southern''), a registered holding company, has filed an application pursuant to sections 9(a) and 10 of the Act and rule 54 thereunder.

By order dated February 2, 1996 (HCAR No. 26468) (''Order''), Holdings was authorized, through December 31, 2000, to acquire directly, or indirectly through one or more other subsidiaries (''Intermediate Subsidiaries''), the securities of or other interests in one or more energy-related businesses or facilities (''Energy-Related Companies''). The Energy-Related Companies could include companies that derive substantially all of their revenues from brokering or marketing of electric power, provided that the purchaser or seller, or both the purchaser and seller, were located within the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council (''SERC'').[1]

Holdings now requests that the Commission eliminate the restriction imposed under the Order on the geographic region in which such marketing and brokering activities may be conducted. Holdings also requests that the Commission expand the terms of the Order to allow Holdings, through one or more Energy-Related Companies (''Marketing Subsidiaries''), to broker or market other forms of energy commodities, in addition to electric power, to include, without limitation, natural gas, oil and coal, and to provide related services to customers. No other modification to the Order is requested.

In particular, Holdings proposes to engage in wholesale electric power marketing on a national scale. Holdings also proposes to provide related ''value added'' services to customers, such as fuel management, storage and procurement services. Although the Marketing Subsidiaries might acquire physical assets that are necessary and appropriate to the conduct of such business, such as oil and storage facilities, gas reserves, gas pipeline facilities and coal, Holdings represents that no Marketing Subsidiary will acquire any assets if, as a result thereof, it would be or become an ''electric utility company'' or a ''gas utility company'' under the Act.

The Marketing Subsidiaries would engage in various types of marketing activities. These activities would include (i) electric power and/or fuel arbitrage transactions, which involve simple exchanges of fuel for electric power; (ii) dispatch control of energy assets, which involves fixed-price electric power in exchange for dispatch control of electric power generation facilities; (iii) sales of options on capacity or energy; and (iv) national energy supply agreements, which involve retail sales to large energy consumers, with facilities in many different locations, that wish to ''outsource'' all of their energy needs to achieve volume discounts and to eliminate the high cost of separate procurement programs.

Holdings proposes that the Marketing Subsidiaries be authorized to engage in such activities without regard to location or identity of customers provided that the customers exclude the electric public utilities within the Southern system and Southern Company Services, Inc., a subsidiary service company of Southern. Holdings also states that the Marketing Subsidiaries will not sell electric power at retail unless such sale is approved or allowed under applicable state law.

All activities, to include the fuel-for-energy and energy commodity brokering and marketing activities, will generally be carried on by personnel employed by Southern Electric International, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Holdings. Those personnel are already experienced in the day-to-day electric power marketing activities of Southern Energy and fuel procurement activities of associate independent power projects owned by Holdings.

It is anticipated that in the normal course of business the Marketing Subsidiaries would take appropriate measures to hedge the risk associated with electric power and fuel purchase or sales contracts. Such measures could include matches between long-term firm or variable price electric power sales contracts and long-term firm or variable price fuel purchase contracts. The Marketing Subsidiaries might may also hedge fuel price risk through the

[1] As a practical matter, the ability of Holdings to compete, through Energy-Related Companies in wholesale electric power markets in the Southern system's franchised service territories is limited by the Codes of Conduct submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (''FERC'') in connection with the market-based wholesale rate application filed by Southern Energy Marketing, Inc. (''Southern Energy''), a subsidiary of Holdings and an exempt wholesale generator. In addition, under current FERC interpretations of section 32 of the Act, Southern Energy cannot engage in fuel marketing or in other expanded fuel-related activities.