Room, room 101, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For an appointment call Brenda Webb on 202–395–6186. Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR 2003.6. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or page and each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof.

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 96–15435 Filed 6–17–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190–01–M

[Docket No. 301–99]

Section 304 Determinations: Barriers to Access to the Japanese Market for Consumer Photographic Film and Paper

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of determinations.

SUMMARY: On June 13, 1996, the Acting United States Trade Representative (USTR) determined, pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C. 2414, (the Trade Act) that certain acts, policies, and practices of the Government of Japan with respect to the sale and distribution of consumer photographic materials in Japan are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce. Specifically, the USTR found that the Government of Japan established and tolerated a market structure that impedes U.S. exports of consumer photographic materials to Japan, and in which practices occur that also impede U.S. exports of these products to Japan, thereby denying fair and equitable market opportunities. The USTR also concluded that there is reason to believe based on strong evidence that certain Japanese Government liberalization countermeasures, including *inter alia,* distribution guidelines and related measures, the Law Pertaining to Adjustment of Business Activities of the Retail Industry for Large Scale Retail Stores (LSRS Law) and the Law Against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations (Premiums Law) contravene Japan's obligations under the Multilateral Trade Agreements annexed to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), and nullify or impair benefits accruing to the United States under the WTO agreements. As provided by the Trade Act, the United States will invoke the dispute settlement procedures of the WTO with respect to these measures and their application. The United States also will request consultations with the Government of Japan under a WTO provision for consultations on restrictive business practices. As appropriate, the USTR will determine what further action under section 301 is warranted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 13, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Weisel, Director of Policy Planning for Japan and China, (202) 395–5070; or, for legal issues, Joanna McIntosh, Associate General Counsel, (202) 395–7203, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In July 1995, the USTR initiated an investigation under section 302(a) of the Trade Act with respect to certain acts, policies, and practices of the Government of Japan affecting access to the Japanese market for consumer photographic film and paper. Upon initiating the investigation, the United States requested bilateral consultations with the Government of Japan. At an October 3, 1995 meeting in Tokyo, U.S. Government officials were prepared to discuss the substance of the issues involved in the investigation, and they solicited the views of and information from Japanese officials concerning those issues. However, at that meeting and throughout the course of the investigation, the Government of Japan unreasonably refused to consult on the substance of the matters under investigation, despite repeated U.S. attempts to engage in consultations.

As a result of the investigation conducted by USTR and USTR's review of all of the information submitted by the petitioner and other parties, and in the absence of rebuttal from the Government of Japan, the USTR determined that, pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act that certain acts, policies, and practices of the Government of Japan with respect to the sale and distribution of consumer photographic materials in Japan are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce. Specifically, the USTR found that the Government of Japan established and tolerated a market structure that impedes U.S. exports of these products to Japan, and in which practices occur that also impede U.S. exports of these products to Japan, thereby denying fair and equitable market opportunities.

The USTR found that when the Japanese Government gradually withdrew its formal restrictions on imports and inward investment following international pressure beginning in the late 1960s, it simultaneously implemented liberalization countermeasures designed to restrict access of foreign capital and goods to the Japanese market. The capital and import liberalization countermeasures implemented beginning in the 1960s, included measures to block or limit foreign direct investment in both new and established enterprises with the intent and effect, *inter alia,* of limiting market access for imported products. Because of the perceived need to protect the Japanese photographic materials industry from foreign products, the consumer photographic materials sector was among the last to be liberalized. Restrictions on foreign investment in existing enterprises remained in effect until the early 1980s. During the period of capital and import liberalization countermeasures, the Government of Japan, in particular the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), took steps to restructure the distribution sector to prevent foreign products from making inroads into the Japanese market. For example, MITI promulgated distribution guidelines for photographic film, and the market structure and practices established under and promoted by these guidelines fostered a dependent and exclusionary relationship among Japan's major photographic materials manufacturer, the primary wholesalers (*tokuyakuten*), secondary wholesalers, and retailers. The distribution structure, retail sales environment, and business relationships in this sector that were established as a result of MITI's protection of the sector remain in place today.

USTR also uncovered significant evidence of anticompetitive activities that warrants full and thorough examination.

The USTR determined that these acts, policies and practices should be addressed comprehensively as follows.

(1) Having concluded that there is reason to believe based on strong evidence that certain Japanese Government liberalization countermeasures, including inter alia, distribution guidelines and related measures, the LSRS Law, and the Premiums Law, violate Japan's obligations and commitments under the WTO agreements and nullify or impair benefits accruing to the United States under those agreements, the United States immediately will seek recourse to the dispute settlement procedures of the WTO to challenge these measures and their application, as provided by the Trade Act and in accordance with

Article 23 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). If, at the conclusion of dispute settlement proceedings, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body finds that Japanese government acts, policies or practices violate, or are inconsistent with, the provisions of, or otherwise deny benefits accruing to the United States under, any of the WTO agreements, and, unless Japan is taking satisfactory measures to grant the rights of the United States under the WTO agreements, has agreed to eliminate or phase out the affected act, policy or practice, or agreed to an imminent satisfactory solution to the burden or restriction on U.S. commerce, or provided satisfactory compensatory trade benefits, the United States shall take action under section 301 in accordance with the DSU.

(2)(a) The United States will request consultations immediately with the Government of Japan pursuant to arrangements for consultations on restrictive business practices adopted by the GATT Contracting Parties in 1960 and carried forward into the WTO; (b) in light of Prime Minister Hashimoto's statements of his personal commitment and the series of commitments made by the Government of Japan under the Structural Impediments Initiative and the Joint Statement on the U.S.-Japan Framework for a New Economic Partnership to strengthen the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) and enforcement of Japan's competition laws, the United States (i) is requesting that Kodak provide information for submission to the JFTC concerning certain anticompetitive practices in the Japanese consumer photographic materials market, and (ii) will provide information to the JFTC to enforce competition laws in the consumer photographic materials markets; (c) the Department of Justice will seek to cooperate with the JFTC in its review of evidence of anticompetitive practices in the Japanese market and in consideration of remedial actions, as appropriate, and USTR will consult with the Department of Justice in assessing efforts of the JFTC to enforce competition laws in Japan's photographic materials market; and (d) the United States will study the extent to which Japan's market structure for consumer photographic materials distorts competition or causes economic harm in the United States and in third markets and consider any appropriate responses.

At the appropriate time, based on developments in these consultations and proceedings, the USTR will consider what further action needs to be taken to ensure that barriers in the Japanese consumer photographic materials sector are eliminated.

Irving A. Williamson,
Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

[FR Doc. 96–15436 Filed 6–17–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190–01–M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Review of a Currently Approved Information Collection: RI 38–45

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of a currently approved information collection, RI 38–45, We Need the Social Security Number of the Person Named Below, is used by the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System to identify the records of individuals with similar or the same names. It is also needed to report payments to the Internal Revenue Service.

We estimate 3,000 RI 38–45 forms are completed annually. Each form takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. The annual estimated burden is 250 hours.

For copies of this proposal, contact Jim Farron on (202) 418–3208, or E-mail to jimfarron@mail.opm.gov

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before July 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—

Lorraine E. Dettman, Chief, Operations Support Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3349, Washington, DC 20415

and

Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management & Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION—CONTACT: Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Management Services Division, (202) 606–0623.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.
Lorraine A. Green,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 96–15404 Filed 6–17–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–01–M

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. A96–18; Order No. 1116]

Trevett, Maine 04571 (Arthur W. Ridlon, Petitioner); Notice and Order Accepting Appeal and Establishing Procedural Schedule Under 39 U.S.C. 404(b)(5)

Issued: June 12, 1996.

Docket Number: A96–18.

Name of Affected Post Office: Trevett, Maine 04571.

Name(s) of Petitioner(s): Arthur W. Ridlon.

Type of Determination: Closing.

Date of Filing of Appeal Papers: June 10, 1996.

Categories of Issues Apparently Raised:

1. Effect on postal services [39 U.S.C. 404(b)(2)(C)].

2. Effect on the community [39 U.S.C. 404(b)(2)(A)].

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth above. Or, the Commission may find that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues.

The Postal Reorganization Act requires that the Commission issue its decision within 120 days from the date this appeal was filed (39 U.S.C. 404(b)(5)). In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service to submit memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. If requested, such memoranda will be due 20 days from the issuance of the request and the Postal Service shall serve a copy of its memoranda on the petitioners. The Postal Service may incorporate by reference in its briefs or motions, any arguments presented in memoranda it previously filed in this docket. If necessary, the Commission also may ask petitioners or the Postal Service for more information.

The Commission orders:

(a) The Postal Service shall file the record in this appeal by June 25, 1996.

(b) The Secretary of the Postal Rate Commission shall publish this Notice and Order and Procedural Schedule in the Federal Register.