INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation 332–393]

Ammonium Nitrate: A Comparative Analysis of Factors Affecting Global Trade

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of public hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 27, 1998.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request on April 2, 1998, from the Senate Committee on Finance, the Commission instituted investigation No. 332–393, Ammonium Nitrate: A Comparative Analysis of Factors Affecting Global Trade, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Industry-specific information may be obtained from Ms. Elizabeth Nesbitt (202–205–3355), Office of Industries, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20436. For information on the legal aspects of this investigation contact Mr. William Gearhart of the Office of the General Counsel (202–205–3091). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202) 205–1810.

Background:

In its report, the Commission will, as requested by the Committee in its letter, provide a comparative analysis of factors affecting global trade in ammonium nitrate, with special emphasis on the industries in the United States, the European Union, and Russia. As requested, the Commission will provide the following information, to the extent information is available, with data presented for the most recent five-year period, or except as noted:

- An overview of the world ammonium nitrate market, including examination of consumption (for the most recent 10-year period), import, and export trends, and information on future consumption in the major markets;
- Industry profiles of the principal manufacturers and traders, their pattern of ownership and investment, including the extent to which government programs may affect production and may impede trade in ammonium nitrate between the specified countries. Examples of such programs cited by the Committee are farm policies, industrial policies, economic policies, trade policies, and other governmental measures that may affect the cost of raw materials and transportation;
- An overview of the ammonium nitrate production process, with information on costs of production, including those of its major raw material components, and the principal sources of these feedstocks; and
- Information on trends in domestic and export prices of ammonium nitrate.

In its request letter the Committee noted that the United States is a major producer and consumer of nitrogenous fertilizers, including urea and ammonium nitrate. The Committee stated that it has recently come to its attention that U.S. ammonium nitrate producers have concerns about competitive conditions affecting their industry, including increased imports of ammonium nitrate from Russia. The producers believe that these increased imports are the indirect result of the European Union's (EU) imposition of an antidumping order in 1995 on EU imports of ammonium nitrate from Russia. The letter continues by stating that moreover, the producers are concerned about additional imports of Russian ammonium nitrate into the United States as a result of the EU's recent institution of a review of the original order.

Public Hearing

A public hearing in connection with the investigation will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on June 16, 1998. All persons shall have the right to appear, by counsel or in person, to present information and to be heard. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, no later than 5:15 p.m., June 2, 1998. Any prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., June 4, 1998; the deadline for filing post-hearing briefs or statements is 5:15 p.m., June 30, 1998. In the event that, as of the close of business on June 2, no witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or non-participant may call the Secretary of the Commission (202–205–1816) after June 2, 1998, to determine whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions

In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements concerning the matters to be addressed by the Commission in its report on this investigation. Commercial or financial information that a submitter desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each clearly marked ''Confidential Business Information'' at the top. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of section § 201.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission for inspection by interested parties. To be assured of consideration by the Commission, written statements relating to the Commission's report should be submitted to the Commission at the earliest practical date and should be received no later than 5:15 p.m. on June 30, 1998. All submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436.

Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202–205–2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (http://www.usitc.gov).

List of Subjects

Ammonium nitrate, ammonia, natural gas, urea.

Issued: April 28, 1998.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 753–TA–34]

In the Matter of Extruded Rubber Thread from Malaysia; Notice of Commission Determination to Conduct a Portion of the Hearing in Camera

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Closure of a portion of a Commission hearing to the public.

SUMMARY: Upon request of respondents in the above-captioned investigation, the Commission has determined to conduct a portion of its hearing scheduled for May 5, 1998 in camera. See Commission rules 207.23(d), 201.13(m) and 201.35(b)(3) (19 CFR 207.23(d), 201.13(m) and 201.35(b)(3)). The remainder of the hearing will be open to the public. The Commission has