

making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 1996 (61 FR 17342).

The Department did not previously certify Venezuela and Nigeria because the governments of those countries had not demonstrated that their respective sea turtle protection programs were comparable to that of the United States, or that their specific fishing environments did not pose a threat to sea turtles. Although both governments have adopted programs comparable to the U.S. program, requiring shrimp trawl vessels to use sea turtle excluder devices, initial evidence this year indicated that neither government was enforcing its program sufficiently to warrant certification. However, in both cases, more recent evidence demonstrates that each government has taken the necessary steps to improve enforcement of its program. Accordingly, the Department of State hereby certifies Venezuela and Nigeria pursuant to Section 609(b)(2)(A) and (B).

As with the other countries currently certified, the Department of State will remain in close contact with the governments of Venezuela and Nigeria in order to ensure that their shrimp harvesting methods do not threaten sea turtles.

Dated: August 10, 1998.

**R. Tucker Scully,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Space.*

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BILLING CODE 4710-09-M

**TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**

**Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as Amended by Pub. L. 104-13; Proposed Collection, Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Tennessee Valley Authority.

**ACTION:** Proposed Collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). The Tennessee Valley Authority is soliciting public comments on this proposed collection as provided by 5 CFR Section 1320.8(d)(1). Requests for information, including copies of the information collection proposed and supporting documentation, should be directed to the Agency Clearance Officer: Wilma H. McCauley, Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street (WR 4Q), Chattanooga, Tennessee

37402-2801; (423) 751-2523. Comments should be sent to the Agency Clearance Officer no later than October 19, 1998.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.

*Title of Information Collection:*

Economic Assessment of Waterway Docks and Terminals in the Tennessee Valley and Parts of the Surrounding National Inland Waterway Network.

*Frequency of Use:* Occasional.

*Type of Affected Public:* Federal, State and Local Governments, and Private Industry.

*Small Businesses or Organizations*

*Affected:* Yes.

*Federal Budget Functional Category Code:* 450.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 1700.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 3400 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response:* 2 hours.

*Need For and Use of Information:* The information collection is necessary to assess the service capability of waterway docks and terminals located in the Tennessee Valley and surrounding States. The data will be used to help potential industrial clients with decisions regarding transportation information and the handling capabilities of waterway facilities located on various river segments. This is vital information for industry when deciding where the most economical location is for a new plant site or project. In addition the data collection surrounding the waterway terminals located on the Tennessee River is necessary for use in updating TVA's river performance indicator.

**William S. Moore,**

*Senior Manager, Administrative Services.*

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BILLING CODE 8120-08-P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Solicitation of Public Comment Regarding U.S. Preparations for the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Meeting, Fourth Quarter 1999**

**SUMMARY:** The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is providing notice of the U.S. intention to develop proposals and positions concerning the agenda of the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The TWO General Council has been instructed to prepare recommendations regarding the launch of further trade negotiations and work in the WTO, which will be considered and approved

by WTO Members meeting at their next Ministerial to be held in the United States during the fourth quarter of 1999. The TPSC invites public comment regarding the development of the agenda, scope, content and timetables for negotiations or further work in the WTO, including additional consultations with non-governmental stakeholders. The Administration seeks views on the broadcast possible range of issues for considerations, including possible subject matter and approaches to any new negotiations or future work in the WTO. The deadline for written comments is Friday, October 16, 1998.

The General Council's instructions are contained in WTO Ministerial Declarations WT/MIN(98)/DEC/1 and DEC/2 agreed on May 20, 1998, at the WTO's second ministerial meeting. In September 1998, the General Council will begin holding special sessions to prepare recommendations. Recommendations will be developed on the basis of consensus of WTO Members. The General Council is expected to review issues, at least initially, in the order presented in WT/MIN(98)/DEC/1, as well as to review the results of work carried out in accordance with WT/MIN(98)/DEC/2. This solicitation is intended to facilitate the Administration's participation in the General Council's consideration of issues, preparation of U.S. proposals and positions regarding eventual recommendations, and acceptance of such proposals by consensus of WTO Members.

**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, (202) 395-3475. General inquiries should be made to the Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs at (202) 395-6843; calls on individual subjects will be transferred within USTR as appropriate. Information about the WTO can be obtained via the Internet on [www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov), or the WTO website ([www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)). Attention is drawn, in particular, to the Ministerial Declarations (WT/Min(98)/DEC/1 and DEC/2 of May 20, 1998 regarding preparation of the WTO's forward agenda and electronic commerce) and the Ministerial Declaration resulting from the WTO's first ministerial meeting held in Singapore in December, 1996 (WT/Min(96)/DEC), which are available on the USTR and WTO websites. In addition, a detailed review of the WTO Agreements, the work of the various WTO committees and bodies and the WTO "built-in agenda" are contained in