

interpretation of a provision of the Social Security Act (the Act) or regulations when the Government has decided not to seek further review of the case or is unsuccessful on further review.

As provided by 20 CFR 404.985(e)(4), a Social Security AR may be rescinded as obsolete if we subsequently clarify, modify or revoke the regulation or ruling that was the subject of the circuit court holding for which the AR was issued.

On May 21, 1986, we published AR 86-17(9) to reflect the holding in *Owens v. Schweiker*, 692 F.2d 80 (9th Cir. 1982) (see 52 FR 29441, 29442 (August 7, 1987)), that SSA, for purposes of determining a surviving child's entitlement to benefits under section 216(h)(2)(A) of the Act, must apply the State law of intestate succession in effect at the time of SSA's determination or decision at any level of administrative review.

Concurrent with the rescission of this Ruling, we are publishing our final regulation adding a new paragraph (b)(4) to § 404.355 of Social Security Regulations No. 4 (20 CFR 404.355), to provide that, in determining whether an applicant has inheritance rights as the natural child of a deceased insured individual, SSA applies the version of the State law in effect when SSA makes its final decision on the application for benefits. The amended regulation further provides that, if the child does not qualify as a child under the State inheritance law in effect at the time of our final adjudication, but would qualify under the version of that law in effect when the insured individual died or any version of that law in effect at any time between the first month of the child's potential entitlement and our final decision on the child's claim, we will apply the version of the State's inheritance law that is most beneficial to the child. Because the change in the regulation adopts the *Owens* court's holding on a nationwide basis when the State law in effect when we render our final decision on the claim is most beneficial to the child, we are rescinding AR 86-17(9).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 96.001 Social Security—Disability Insurance; 96.002 Social Security—Retirement Insurance; 96.004 Social Security—Survivors Insurance)

Dated: October 20, 1998.

Kenneth S. Apfel,

Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. 98-28708 Filed 10-27-98; 8:45 am]

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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Tennessee Valley Authority.

TIME AND DATE OF MEETING: 2 P.M. (EDT), Friday, October 23, 1998.

PLACE OF MEETING: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Knoxville Office Complex, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee.

STATUS: Open.

AGENDA ITEM: A—Budget and Financing.

1. Authorization to retire Federal Financing Bank Bonds

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The TVA Board of Directors has found, the public interest not requiring otherwise, that TVA business requires that a meeting be called at the time set out above and that no earlier announcement of this meeting was possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please call TVA Media Relations at (423) 632-6000, Knoxville, Tennessee. Information is also available through TVA's Washington Office at (202) 898-2999.

Edward S. Christenbury,

General Counsel and Secretary to the Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-28994 Filed 10-26-98; 12:44 pm]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of the Republic of Gabon as a Beneficiary Developing Country Under the GSP; Solicitation of Public Comments Relating to the Designation Criteria

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment with respect to the eligibility of the Republic of Gabon for the GSP program.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of the Republic of Gabon as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria by December 10, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room 518, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The government of the Republic of Gabon has requested that it be granted eligibility for beneficiary status under the GSP program. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review to determine if the Republic of Gabon should be designated as a beneficiary developing country. A country may not be designated a GSP beneficiary developing country, absent a finding that such designation would be in the economic interests of the United States, if any one of several elements are found, including: the participation by the country in a commodity cartel that causes serious disruption to the world economy; the provision by the country of preferential treatment to products of other developed countries which has a significant adverse effect on U.S. commerce; the expropriation by the country of U.S.-owned property without compensation; a failure by the country to enforce arbitral awards in favor of U.S. persons; the support by the country of international terrorism; or a failure by the country to take steps to protect internationally recognized worker rights. Other factors taken into account in determining whether a country will be designated a beneficiary developing country include: the extent to which the country has assured the United States that it will provide market access for U.S. goods; the extent to which the country has taken action to reduce trade-distorting investment practices and policies; and the extent to which the country is providing adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. The criteria for designation are set forth in full in section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2462).

Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of Gabon for designation as a GSP beneficiary developing country. Submission of comments must be made in English in 14 copies to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, and be received in Room 518 at 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 1998. Except for submissions granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6, information and comments submitted regarding Gabon will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room. For an appointment, please call Ms. Brenda Webb at 202/395-6186. If the document contains business confidential information, 14 copies of a nonconfidential version of the