difficulties that small business contractors and subcontractors generally experience with access to capital and bonding. This loan pilot program is a key part of an initiative that will first operate in Rhode Island and, may be expanded to other areas of the country.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This pilot will be effective on January 22, 2001 and will remain in effect for 18 months.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Hayward, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration—Rhode Island District Office, 380 Westminster Mall, 5th floor, Providence, RI 02903, (401) 528–4540; FAX: (401) 528–4539.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Small Business Administration is establishing a streamlined, user friendly loan pilot program designed to help contractors and subcontractors more readily obtain financing and bonding.

SBA found that small business contractors and sub-contractors historically have not received the procurement, management, technical, and financial assistance necessary to maintain their viability. A Rhode Island advisory panel comprised of local lenders, contractors, bonding agents, and state agencies examined the problem and determined that lending to contractors and subcontractors was specialized financing and that the local lending community was disinclined to provide the same level of underwriting and post approval oversight on loans of $250,000 or less as they were for larger contract loans. Moreover, the interest of the taxpayers whose funds support the SBA guaranty had to be protected.

The principal barriers were seen as (i) too much risk and (ii) excessive cost of monitoring. SBA concluded that if borrowers received specialized technical assistance and the contribution of additional guaranty support from sources outside SBA, financing might be more forthcoming from local lenders.

To that end, the Agency has authorized the acceptance of a supplemental guaranty on a portion (up to 90 percent) of the unguaranteed percentage of SBA 7(a) loans, that will be offered by a lending entity of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. The lending entity will contribute as much as $250,000 to assist minority business enterprises.

The specialized technical assistance component will include the utilization of a SBDC to provide the loan packaging assistance that would help the contractors and sub-contractors prepare their commercial loan applications. Non-SBA funds will support the hiring of an experienced team of contracting professionals with the proper knowledge, skills, and abilities to assist the 15–30 client contractors expected to participate in the pilot in bidding, managing, and completing their projects for 18 months. These professionals will be selected by an Executive Committee consisting of SBA staff, local lenders, contractors, bonding agents, and state agencies in a private/state/federal partnership. The Executive Committee also will provide guidance and oversight of the program. The non-SBA funding and resource partners are private foundations, state agencies, banks, and corporations who are committed to producing positive results. Finally, as part of the technical assistance, an Advisory Board is being formed consisting of prime contractors and state agencies to assure deal flow and expertise.

This pilot program emphasizes collaboration and partnerships with Federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector partners. The pilot program is scheduled to last 18 months, beginning January 22, 2001. Prior to the termination date, SBA will evaluate the program to determine if it should be continued as is, expanded, or ended.

Program authority: 15 U.S.C. 636(a)(25)(b) or Section 7(a)(25)(b) of the Small Business Act.

Dated: January 11, 2001.

Charles D. Tansey,

Associate Deputy Administrator for Capital Access.

[FR Doc. 01–1787 Filed 1–19–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–U

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of teleconference and meeting.

DATES: Teleconference: January 23, 2001, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Meeting

February 6, 2001, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
February 7, 2001, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
February 8, 2001, 9:00 a.m.–5 p.m.

ADDRESSES:

Teleconference

Social Security Administration, International Trade Center, 500 E St. SW, 8th Floor, Theatre Room, Washington, DC 20254.

Meeting

Bethesda Hyatt, One Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda, MD, 20814; Phone 301–657–1234; Fax, 301–657–6453. The hotel is located two doors down from the Bethesda Metro Station on the Red line.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Type of meeting: These meetings are open to the public. Interested parties are invited to attend the meetings. The public is invited to participate by coming to the addresses listed above or calling into the teleconference. The public is also invited to submit comments in writing at any time on or before February 8, 2001.

Purpose: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announces meetings of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) Advisory Panel (the Panel). Section 101(f) of Public Law 106–170 establishes the Panel to advise the Commissioner of SSA, the President, and the Congress on issues related to work incentives programs, planning and assistance for individuals with disabilities as provided under section 101(f)(2)(A) of the TWWIIA. The Panel is also to advise the Commissioner on matters specified in section 101(f)(2)(B) of that Act, including certain issues related to the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 101(a) of that Act.

The Panel will meet by teleconference commencing Tuesday, January 23, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Panel will use the teleconference to conduct full Panel deliberations on the implementation of the TWWIIA. Public testimony will not be taken.

Agenda (Teleconference): The Panel will deliberate on the implementation of TWWIIA. The public is invited to participate by coming in to the address listed above or calling in to the scheduled teleconference to listen. No public testimony will be taken.

The Panel will meet in person commencing Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, February 7, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, February 8, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Panel will use the meeting to receive public testimony, hear presentations on the implementation of TWWIIA, conduct full Panel deliberations, receive briefings and conduct business.

Agenda (Meeting): Public testimony will be heard in person on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 and Wednesday, February 7, 2001 from 8:30 to 9:30. Individuals interested in providing

testimony in person should contact the Panel staff as outlined below to schedule time slots. Members of the public must schedule a timeslot in order to comment.

Each presenter will be called on by the Chair in the order in which they are scheduled to testify and is limited to a maximum five-minute verbal presentation. Full written testimony on TWWIIA Implementation, no longer than 5 pages, may be submitted in person or by mail, fax or email on an on-going basis to the Panel for consideration.

In the event that the public comments do not take up the scheduled time period for each day, the Panel will use that time to deliberate and conduct other Panel business. Since seating and teleconference ports may be limited, persons interested in providing testimony at the in person meeting or in attending these meetings should contact the Panel staff by E-mailing Kristen M. Breland, at *'kristen.m.breland@ssa.gov'* or calling (410) 966–7225.

The full agendas for the meetings follow this announcement. The agendas are posted on the Internet at *http://www.ssa.gov/work/Resources/Toolkit/* or can be received in advance electronically or by fax upon request. Seating may be limited so persons interested in attending this meeting should contact the Panel staff by e-mail or telephone.

Contact Information: Anyone requiring information regarding the Panel should contact the TWWIIA Panel staff. Records are being kept of all Panel proceedings and will be available for public inspection by appointment at the Panel office. Anyone requiring information regarding the Panel should contact the Panel staff by:

- Mail addressed to Social Security Administration, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Staff, 107 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore MD, 21235.
- Telephone contact with Kristen Breland at (410) 966–7225.
- Fax at (410) 965–9063.
- E-mail to *TWWIIAPanel@ssa.gov.*

Dated: January 17, 2001.

Deborah M. Morrison,

Designated Federal Officer.

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel—Public Teleconference Meeting

Social Security Administration, 8th Floor Theatre Room, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20254

Agenda

Tuesday, January 23, 2001

1:30 PM
Meeting Convened by Designated Federal Officer, Deborah Morrison; Sarah Wiggins Mitchell, Chair, Presiding
1:30–3:15 PM
Deliberations on the Implementation of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act
3:15–3:30 PM
Administrative Issues
3:30 PM
Adjournment

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel—Public Meeting

Bethesda Hyatt, One Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda, MD 20814, Phone: (301) 657–1234; Fax (301) 657–6453. The hotel is located two doors down from the Bethesda Metro Station on the Red line.

Agenda

February 6, 7 and 8, 2001

Tuesday, February 6, 2001, Day 1

8:30 AM
Meeting Called to Order by Deborah Morrison, Designated Federal Officer; Welcome and Introductions—Sarah Mitchell, Chair, Presiding
8:30 to 9:30 AM
Public Testimony Comment Period on TWWIIA Implementation
9:30 to 10:30 AM
Presentations from SSA officials
10:30 to 10:45 AM
Break
10:45 to 11:45 AM
Presentations from Congressional Committee Staff
11:45 AM to 1:15 PM
Lunch (On Your Own)
1:15 PM
Meeting Reconvenes, Sarah Mitchell, Presiding
1:15 to 3:00 PM
Panel Deliberations on TWWIIA Implementation
3:00 to 3:30 PM
Break
3:00 to 5:00 PM
Panel Deliberations on TWWIIA Implementation
5:00 PM
Adjournment

Please note: If time allotted for public comment exceeds the time required, the Panel will use the time to deliberate on TWWIIA implementation.

Wednesday, February 7, 2001, Day 2

8:30 to 9:30 AM
Public Testimony Comment Period on TWWIIA Implementation
9:30 to 11:45 AM
Panel Deliberations on TWWIIA Implementation
11:45 AM to 1:15 PM
Lunch (On Your Own)
1:15 PM
Meeting Reconvenes Sarah Mitchell, Presiding
1:15 to 3:30 PM
Panel Deliberations on TWWIIA Implementation
3:30 to 3:45 PM
Break
3:45 to 5:00 PM
Panel Deliberations on TWWIIA Implementation
5:00 PM
Adjournment

Please note: If time allotted for public comment exceeds the time required, the Panel will use the time to deliberate on TWWIIA implementation.

Thursday, February 8, 2001, Day 3

9:00 to 11:45AM
Panel Deliberations on TWWIIA Implementation
11:45 AM to 1:15 PM
Lunch (On Your Own)
1:15 PM
Meeting Reconvenes Sarah Mitchell, Presiding
1:15 to 3:30 PM
Panel Deliberations on TWWIIA Implementation
3:30 to 3:45 PM
Break
3:45 to 5:00 PM
Business Meeting
5:00 PM

Adjournment by Designated Federal Officer

[FR Doc. 01–1952 Filed 1–19–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191–02–U

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3553]

Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Public Meeting To Discuss Recently Completed Negotiations on an International Agreement Through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

SUMMARY: The United States Government, through an interagency working group chaired by the U.S. Department of State, participated in the successful fifth negotiating session on a global agreement to address the release of certain POPs. The Department of State will host a public meeting for interested parties, including