

organization ("MCO")² for over-the-counter derivatives instruments ("OTC derivatives")³ if, among other alternatives, it is supervised by a foreign financial regulator that the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commission, as applicable, has determined satisfies appropriate standards.

NetThruPut, Inc. ("NTP") has requested that the Commission determine that the oversight of its activities by the Alberta Securities Commission satisfies the criteria for operating as an MCO set forth in Section 409(b)(3) of FDICIA.⁴ NTP intends to operate as an MCO with respect to OTC derivatives transactions to be executed on its online trading platform. NTP's online trading platform provides anonymous trading of crude oil, condensate and other energy contracts.

In its request, NTP provided the Commission with a detailed description of the regulatory program applicable to clearing organizations in Alberta, Canada. NTP also provided the Commission with information comparing the regulatory requirements applicable to NTP and the regulatory requirements applicable to derivatives clearing organizations ("DCOs") in the U.S.,⁵ as set forth in Section 5b of the CEA and Part 39 of the Commission's regulations.⁶ The Commission evaluated the regulatory program of the ASC in the context of the Principles and Objectives

² Section 408(1) of FDICIA defines MCO to mean "a system utilized by more than [two] participants in which the bilateral credit exposures of participants arising from the transactions cleared are effectively eliminated and replaced by a system of guarantees, insurance, or mutualized risk of loss."

³ Section 408(2) of FDICIA defines OTC derivative instrument to include any agreement, contract, or transaction exempt under Section 2(h) of the CEA.

⁴ Letter from Kenneth M. Raisler, Esq., Sullivan & Cromwell, counsel to NTP, to Jean Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, dated November 7, 2005, with exhibits.

⁵ As a matter of first impression, the ASC determined to direct NTP to address in its application for recognition compliance with the fourteen Core Principles set forth under Section 5b(c)(2) of the CEA for registration as a DCO and to provide supporting documentation manifesting its compliance with the Core Principles. See Letter from Allan R. Twa, counsel for NTP, to the ASC, dated November 10, 2004 ("Recognized Clearing Agency Application—NetThruPut Inc.").

⁶ See 66 FR 45604 (August 29, 2001). Part 39 of the Commission's regulations stipulates the form and provides guidance for what should be included in applications for DCO registration. Part 39 also addresses ongoing compliance by DCOs with the Core Principles and other provisions of the CEA and regulations thereunder. The guidance set forth in Part 39 merely illustrates the manner in which a clearing organization may meet a Core Principle and is not intended to be a mandatory checklist.

of Securities Regulation issued by the International Organization of Securities Commissions.

In support of NTP's request for relief, the ASC confirmed that:

- The ASC is authorized under the Alberta Securities Act to supervise the clearing of financial instruments by persons located in Alberta, Canada, and has the ability to enforce compliance with the applicable laws, rules and regulations;

- Clearing in Alberta, Canada, of exchange contracts, as defined in the Alberta Securities Act, may be conducted only by a clearing agency recognized by the ASC;⁷

- The clearing of contracts entered into on NTP's online trading platform is subject to regulatory oversight by the ASC;

- The ASC is an associate member of IOSCO, has adopted IOSCO's Principles and Objectives of Securities Regulation, and has established systems consistent with those Principles and Objectives; and

- The ASC has the ability and undertakes to share with the Commission, upon request, information in its possession regarding NTP's activities as a recognized clearing agency and to otherwise cooperate with the CFTC, subject to Alberta law.⁸

Based upon the information and materials submitted by NTP, and the representations made by the ASC, the Commission has determined that the supervision by ASC of an MCO for OTC derivatives operated by NTP satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 409(b)(3) of FDICIA. Any material changes or omissions in the facts and circumstances pursuant to which this Order is issued might require the Commission to reconsider this matter.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 27, 2006.

Jean A. Webb,
Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 06-1940 Filed 3-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-P

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

⁷ See Alberta Securities Act Section 67.

⁸ See Securities Act, Sections 46 and 46.1; see also the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. Sec. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirement on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently, the Corporation is soliciting comments concerning its proposed marketing questionnaire to help inform volunteer and member recruitment efforts for its various programs and initiatives. The survey, which would be completed voluntarily by current and prospective volunteers or program participants (for example, AmeriCorps members or RSVP volunteers), would be conducted online with visitors to the Corporation's website domains and in focus groups and public discussions with current and prospective volunteers and program participants. Completion of the survey is voluntary.

Copies of the information collection requests can be obtained by contacting the office listed in the address section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the individual and office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section by May 2, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by the title of the information collection activity, by any of the following methods:

(1) By mail sent to: Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Public Affairs; Attention Shannon Maynard, Senior Marketing Specialist, Room 10304C; 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20525.

(2) By hand delivery or by courier to the Corporation's mailroom at Room 8102C at the mail address given in paragraph (1) above, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

(3) By fax to: (202) 606-3460, Attention Shannon Maynard, Senior Marketing Specialist.

(4) Electronically through the Corporation's e-mail address system: smaynard@cns.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Maynard, (202) 606-6713 or by e-mail at smaynard@cns.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Corporation is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Propose to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are expected to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses).

Background

The Corporation for National and Community Service is committed to fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering. As part of its efforts to inspire all Americans to serve their communities, the Corporation conducts public service campaigns and awareness activities to recruit participants for its programs—Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America—as well as volunteers for its special initiatives such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. In order to be more effective in its marketing and recruitment efforts, the Corporation proposed the creation of a uniform marketing survey for all its programs and initiatives. Survey findings will educate the Corporation about how best to reach potential volunteers with information about volunteer and national service opportunities.

Current Action

The Corporation is soliciting comments concerning its proposed marketing questionnaire to help inform volunteer and member recruitment efforts for its various programs and initiatives. The survey, which would be completed voluntarily by current and prospective volunteers or program participants (for example, AmeriCorps members or RSVP volunteers), would be conducted online with visitors to the Corporation's website domains and in focus groups and public discussions with current and prospective volunteers

and program participants. Completion of the survey is voluntary.

Type of Review: New.

Agency: Corporation for National and Community Service.

Title: CNCS Marketing and Recruitment Questionnaire.

OMB Number: None.

Agency Number: None.

Affected Public: Corporation program participants and volunteers.

Total Respondents: 1000.

Frequency: On occasion.

Average Time Per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 50 hours

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): None.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 27, 2006

Sandy Scott,

Director of Public Affairs.

[FR Doc. E6-3038 Filed 3-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050--SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability of Non-Exclusive, Exclusive License or Partially Exclusive Licensing of U.S. Patent Concerning Enzymatic Template Polymerization

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6, announcement is made of the availability for licensing of U.S. Patent No. US 7,001,996 B1 entitled "Enzymatic Template Polymerization" issued February 21, 2006. This patent has been assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Army.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Rosenkrans at U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, Kansas Street, Natick, MA 01760, Phone: (508) 233-4928 or e-mail: Robert.Rosenkrans@natick.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Any licenses granted shall comply with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 06-1989 Filed 3-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Project

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: This notice of intent (NOI) is for the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) Project. This notice of intent addresses the coastal area of southern Louisiana from the state boundary of Louisiana and Mississippi at the Pearl River in the east to the state boundary of Louisiana and Texas at the Sabine River in the west as identified in the Coast 2050 coastal Louisiana restoration plan.

ADDRESSES: Scoping meeting comments regarding the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the LACPR may be provided orally or in writing at the scoping meetings; sent via e-mail to LACPR_EIS@mvn02.usace.army.mil; sent via the worldwide Web at <http://www.lacpr.usace.army.mil/>; or sent via letter postmarked not later than the close of the scoping comment period to the LACPR EIS Environmental Manager, CEMVN-PM-R, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267. Comments will not be accepted if submitted by facsimile (fax).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LACPR EIS Environmental Manager, Bruce Baird, (504) 862-2526.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Background:* On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a major hurricane (sixth strongest Atlantic basin cyclone on record), made landfall in southeast Louisiana and left in its path the costliest natural disaster recorded in the relatively young history of the United States of America. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita (fourth strongest Atlantic basin cyclone on record), made landfall in southwest Louisiana leaving in its path a trail of severely impacted communities and infrastructure.

Congress has directed the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, in