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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** An agency that has acquired property or services from a business concern and has failed to pay for the complete delivery of property or service by the required payment date shall pay the business concern an interest penalty. 31 U.S.C. 3902(a). The Contract Disputes Act of 1978, Sec. 12, Public Law 95-563, 92 Stat. 2389, and the Prompt Payment Act of 1982, 31 U.S.C. 3902(a), provide for the calculation of interest due on claims at the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Secretary of the Treasury has the authority to specify the rate by which the interest shall be computed for interest payments under § 12 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 and under the Prompt Payment Act. Agencies must pay the interest penalty calculated with the interest rate, which is in effect at the time the agency accrues the obligation to pay a late payment interest penalty. *Id.* "The interest penalty shall be paid for the period beginning on the day after the required payment date and ending on the date on which the payment is made." 31 U.S.C. 3902(b). Under the Prompt Payment Act, if an interest penalty is owed to a business concern, the penalty shall be paid regardless of whether the business concern requested payment of interest.

Therefore, notice is given that the Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the rate of interest applicable for the period beginning January 1, 2009, and ending on June 30, 2009, is 5½% per centum per annum.

**Kenneth E. Carfine,**

*Fiscal Assistant Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of Foreign Assets Control

#### Unblocking of Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers Pursuant to Executive Order 12978

**AGENCY:** Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") is publishing the names of three individuals whose property and interests in property have been unblocked pursuant to Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, *Blocking Assets and Prohibiting Transactions With Significant Narcotics Traffickers*.

**DATES:** The unblocking and removal from OFAC's "Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons" list ("SDN list") of three individuals identified in this notice whose property and interests in property were blocked pursuant to Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is effective on December 22, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Assistant Director, Compliance Outreach & Implementation, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20220, tel.: 202/622-2490.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Electronic and Facsimile Availability**

This document and additional information concerning OFAC are available from OFAC's Web site (<http://www.treas.gov/ofac>) or via facsimile through a 24-hour fax-on demand service, tel.: (202) 622-0077.

**Background**

On October 21, 1995, the President, invoking the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706), issued Executive Order 12978 (60 FR 54579, October 24, 1995) (the "Order"). In the Order, the President declared a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia and the harm that they cause in the United States and abroad.

Section 1 of the Order blocks, with certain exceptions, all property and interests in property that are in the United States, or that hereafter come within the United States or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, of: (1) The persons listed in an Annex to the Order; (2) any foreign person determined by the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and Secretary of State: (a) To play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia; or (b) to materially assist in, or provide financial or technological support for or goods or services in support of, the narcotics trafficking activities of persons designated in or pursuant to the Order;

and (3) persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, persons designated pursuant to the Order.

On December 22, 2008, the Director of OFAC removed from the SDN list three individuals listed below, whose property and interests in property were blocked pursuant to the Order:

1. CHANG BARRERO, Pedro Antonio, c/o DISTRIBUIDORA MIGIL LTDA., Cali, Colombia; c/o RADIO UNIDAS FM S.A., Cali, Colombia; DOB 1 May 1946; Cedula No. 14960909 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT].

2. BUITRAGO, Sulay (a.k.a. HERRERA BUITRAGO, Sulay), c/o AGROPECUARIA Y REFORESTADORA HERREBE LTDA., Cali, Colombia; c/o CONSTRUEXITO S.A., Cali, Colombia; c/o INDUSTRIA AVICOLA PALMASECA S.A., Cali, Colombia; c/o INVERSIONES HERREBE LTDA., Cali, Colombia; DOB 27 Nov 1967; Cedula No. 31176167 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT].

3. GARCIA VASQUEZ, Isabel Fernanda, c/o ALERO S.A., Cali, Colombia; Cedula No. 31983848 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT].

Dated: December 23, 2008.

**Adam J. Szubin,**

*Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Women Veterans; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans will meet February 18-20, 2009, in room 230 at VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, from 8:30 until 4:30 p.m., each day. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding the needs of women veterans with respect to health care, rehabilitation, compensation, outreach, and other programs and activities administered by VA designed to meet such needs. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary regarding such programs and activities.

The agenda will include briefings on the VA claims adjudication process,