

testimony begins on Wednesday, January 31, at 12:30 p.m. CST. Public testimony may end before the published agenda time if all registered in-person and virtual participants have completed their testimony.

Thursday, February 1, 2024; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., CST

The Council will receive Committee reports from Administrative/Budget, Law Enforcement, Data Collection, Shrimp, Reef Fish, Sustainable Fisheries, Education and Outreach, and recommendations on Exempted Fishing Permit Application. The Council will receive updates from the following supporting agencies: Louisiana Law Enforcement Efforts; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE); Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Department of State.

The Council will discuss Council Planning and Primary Activities and Other Business items, Litigation Update. Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting; both in-person and virtual participation available. You may register for the webinar to listen-in only by visiting <https://www.gulfcouncil.org> and click on the Council meeting on the calendar.

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on the website as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid or accommodations should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348-1630, at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 5, 2024.

Key Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-00363 Filed 1-9-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2024-0055]

USPTO Public Engagement Partnership: Public Meeting Series To Enhance Outreach to the Public on Patent Policies and Procedures

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is announcing the Public Engagement Partnership meeting series to facilitate increased engagement with the public about the patent system. The USPTO will host the first meeting of the Public Engagement Partnership series virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters on March 1, 2024. The purpose of this meeting is to provide education about the patent system and to share ideas, experiences, and insights related to the administration of the system.

DATES: The first public meeting will take place on March 1, 2024, from 1–5 p.m. ET. Persons seeking to attend, either virtually or in person, must register by February 29, 2024, at the web page in the **ADDRESSES** section below.

ADDRESSES: Register at www.uspto.gov/patents/initiatives/PublicEngagementPartnership. The first public meeting will take place virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters, Clara Barton Auditorium, 600 Dulany St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Registration is required for both virtual and in-person attendance. All major entrances to the building are accessible to people with disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Horner, Acting Senior Lead Administrative Patent Judge, at 571-272-4596 or Linda.Horner@uspto.gov. You can also send inquiries to PublicEngagementPartnership@uspto.gov. Please direct all media inquiries to the Office of the Chief Communications Officer at 571-272-8400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO's mission is to drive U.S. innovation, inclusive capitalism, and

global competitiveness with the ultimate goal of increasing innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity for the benefit of all Americans and people around the world. In fulfilling this mission, the USPTO appreciates that its work impacts our country's economic prosperity and, in turn, the public. In January of 2023, the USPTO engaged with the public at a listening session regarding USPTO collaboration with other government agencies to ensure that the patent system is not being used to unjustifiably delay competition beyond that reasonably contemplated by applicable law. At this listening session, members of the public expressed a desire to increase engagement with the USPTO about the patent system.

To expand outreach efforts, the USPTO seeks to form a partnership with members of the public, including, for example, advocacy groups, public interest-focused nonprofits, academics, and civil society. The Public Engagement Partnership will provide an opportunity to bring the public and the USPTO together through a series of engagements to offer education about the patent system and to share ideas, experiences, and insights related to the administration of the system.

The USPTO will hold the inaugural meeting of the Public Engagement Partnership meeting series virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, on March 1, 2024. Presentations at this first meeting will provide foundational education about the patent system and the USPTO's practices and policies. The meeting will also include a panel discussion with representatives of the public interest community and advocacy groups on areas of particular interest. Subsequent meetings in the series will build on this foundational information. For example, future meetings will include presentations on tools for understanding a patent and existing mechanisms for participation in the patent procurement process, such as third-party submissions. Meetings will also cover participation in the enforcement of patents before the USPTO via ex parte reexamination requests, and petitions for inter partes review and post-grant review before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. These mechanisms are available to the public at large.

Instructions for and Information on the Public Meeting

The public meeting will take place virtually and in person at the USPTO headquarters, Clara Barton Auditorium, 600 Dulany St., Alexandria, VA 22314, on March 1, 2024, from 1–5 p.m. ET. The agenda is available on the USPTO

website at www.uspto.gov/patents/initiatives/PublicEngagementPartnership. Those interested in attending the meeting can register on the same web page.

Katherine Kelly Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2024-00317 Filed 1-9-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Initial Patent Applications

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0032 Initial Patent Applications. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the information collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this information collection must be received on or before March 11, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0032 comment" in the subject line of the message.

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-7728; or by email at raul.tamayo@uspto.gov with "0651-0032 comment" in the subject line.

Additional information about this information collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under "Information Collection Review."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is required by title 35 of the United States Code, including 35 U.S.C. 131, to examine applications for patents. The USPTO administers the patent statutes relating to examination through various rules in chapter 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), such as, for example, 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.84. Each patent applicant must provide sufficient information to allow the USPTO to properly examine the application to determine whether it meets the criteria set forth in the patent statutes and regulations for issuance as a patent. The patent statutes and regulations require that an application for patent include the following information:

(1) A specification containing a description of the invention and at least one claim defining the property right sought by the applicant;

(2) A drawing(s) or photograph(s), where necessary for an understanding of the invention;

(3) An oath or declaration signed by the applicant (under 35 U.S.C. 115(f), the time for filing the oath or declaration is no later than the date on which the issue fee for the patent is paid); and

(4) A filing fee.

Various types of patent applications are covered under this information collection:

- Noncontinuing, nonprovisional utility, plant and design applications,
- Provisional applications,
- Continuation/divisional applications of international applications,
- Continued prosecution applications (design), and
- Continuation/divisional and continuation-in-part applications of utility, plant, and design applications.

In addition, this information collection covers certain other papers filed by applicants, such as, for example, petitions to accept an unintentionally delayed priority or benefit claim, petitions to accept a filing by other than all of the inventors or a person not the inventor, and petitions requesting that applications filed under 37 CFR 1.495(b) be accorded a receipt date.

Furthermore, this information collection incorporates the lone item in 0651-0073 (Patent Law Treaty): petitions to restore the right of priority

to a foreign application under 37 CFR 1.55(c) or the benefit of a prior-filed provisional application under 37 CFR 1.78(b). The petitions are used to extend the 12-month periods set forth in 35 U.S.C. 119(a) and (e) by an additional 2 months where there is an unintentional delay in filing an application claiming priority to a foreign application or the benefit of a provisional application. Once this information collection is renewed, and the petitions are added, 0651-0073 will be discontinued.

II. Method of Collection

The items in this information collection can be submitted through the USPTO patent electronic filing system (Patent Center), the USPTO's online filing and viewing system for patent applications and related documents. The USPTO also will accept submissions by mail, hand delivery, and facsimile, except that facsimile submission of the information in this collection is limited to certain items in accordance with 37 CFR 1.6(d).

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0651-0032.
Forms: (AIA = America Invents Act; SB = Specimen Book)

- PTO/AIA/01 (Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Patent Application using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01CN (Chinese (simplified) Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01DE (German Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01ES (Spanish Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01FR (French Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01IT (Italian Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01JP (Japanese Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01KR (Korean Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))
- PTO/AIA/01NL (Dutch Language Declaration (37 CFR 1.63) for Utility or Design Application Using an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76))