

**Notification to Interested Parties**

We are issuing and publishing these results in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: September 6, 2024.

**Abdelali Elouaradia,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

**Appendix****List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum**

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the *Order*
- IV. Discussion of the Methodology
- V. Currency Conversion
- VI. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2024–22521 Filed 9–30–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. PTO–P–2024–0047]

**Grant of Interim Extension of the Term of U.S. Patent No. 7,199,162—GRAFAPEX™ (Treosulfan)**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of interim patent term extension.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office has issued a certificate for a one-year interim extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 7,199,162.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen Kahler Fonda, Senior Legal Advisor (telephone (571) 272–7754; email [kathleen.fonda@uspto.gov](mailto:kathleen.fonda@uspto.gov)). Alternatively, mail may be addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Hatch-Waxman PTE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, and marked to the attention of Ms. Fonda.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 156 of title 35, United States Code, generally provides that the term of a patent may be extended for a period of up to five years if the patent claims a product, or a method of making or using a product, that has been subject to certain defined regulatory review, and that the patent may be extended for interim periods of up to one year if the regulatory review is anticipated to extend beyond the expiration date of the patent.

On August 20, 2024, Medac Gesellschaft für Klinische Spezialpräparate mbH, the patent owner of record, timely filed an application

under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for a fourth interim extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 7,199,162. The patent claims a method of using the human drug product GRAFAPEX™ (treosulfan). The application for patent term extension indicates that New Drug Application 214759 was submitted to the Food and Drug Administration on August 11, 2020, and its review in order for the patent owner to obtain permission to market and use the product commercially is ongoing.

Review of the patent term extension application indicates that, except for permission to market or use the product commercially, the subject patent would be eligible for an extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. 156, and that the patent should be extended for one year as required by 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5)(B). Because the regulatory review period will continue beyond the thrice-extended expiration date of the patent, October 12, 2024, interim extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) is appropriate.

A fourth interim extension under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) of the term of U.S. Patent No. 7,199,162 is granted for a period of one year from the thrice-extended expiration date of the patent.

**Charles Kim,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2024–22480 Filed 9–30–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–16–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2024–0051]

**Extension and Termination of the After Final Consideration Pilot Program 2.0**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On April 3, 2024, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), when setting and adjusting patent fees for fiscal year 2025, proposed a new fee to recuperate costs affiliated with the submission of a request for consideration under the After Final Consideration Pilot Program 2.0 (AFCP 2.0). Commenters on the proposal expressed concerns about the AFCP 2.0 and the proposed fee. In view of these comments, the USPTO has decided to allow AFCP 2.0 to expire. While the program currently runs through September 30, 2024, to accommodate those who may be in the

process of preparing to use the program, the USPTO will provide a short extension of the expiration of the program. The USPTO is setting December 14, 2024, as the last day to submit a request for participation under the program.

**DATES:** The USPTO will not accept requests for consideration under the AFCP 2.0 filed after December 14, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kery Fries, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571–272–7757; or Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571–272–7728, both with the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patents.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 19, 2013, the USPTO modified the After Final Consideration Pilot Program (AFCP) to create the AFCP 2.0. The three main differences between the AFCP and the AFCP 2.0 are: (1) an applicant must request to participate in AFCP 2.0; (2) a response to an after final rejection under AFCP 2.0 must include a non-broadening amendment to at least one independent claim; and (3) the examiner will schedule an interview with the applicant if the after-final response did not result in a determination by the examiner that all pending claims in the application were in condition for allowance.

The goal of the AFCP 2.0 was to improve pendency by reducing the number of Requests for Continued Examination (RCE) and encourage increased collaboration between the applicant and the examiner to effectively advance prosecution of the application. The AFCP 2.0 does not require any additional fees for an applicant to request consideration of an amendment after final rejection, but any necessary existing fee, *e.g.*, the fee for an extension of time, is required. Initially, the pilot program was scheduled to run for approximately one year and was set to end on September 30, 2014. The USPTO notified the public that the AFCP 2.0 may be extended (with or without modifications) depending on feedback from participants and based on a determination of the effectiveness of the pilot program. The USPTO repeatedly extended the pilot program, with the most recent extension set to end on September 30, 2024.

Since 2016, applicants have filed more than 60,000 AFCP 2.0 requests annually. Due to the high usage of the AFCP 2.0, costs to administer the program are significant. A large part of the AFCP 2.0's high usage is due to economic inefficiencies where participants receive program benefits without paying for the cost of the

service directly. For fiscal year 2022, the USPTO estimates it expended more than \$15 million in incurred costs associated with examiners considering the merits of AFCP 2.0 submissions. This cost is in addition to the time spent by examiners to initially evaluate the AFCP 2.0 request for program compliance, interview time, and any additional consultation with supervisors and primary examiners.

On April 3, 2024, the USPTO proposed a new fee for participation in the AFCP 2.0 when setting and adjusting patent fees for fiscal year 2025 (See Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees During Fiscal Year 2025, 89 FR 23226). The agency proposed to charge fees for filing a request for consideration under the AFCP 2.0 as follows: \$500 for requests filed by undiscounted entities; \$200 for requests filed by entities entitled to the small entity discount; and \$100 for requests filed by entities entitled to the micro entity discount. The proposed fee would have offset the USPTO's costs of administering the AFCP 2.0. The USPTO stated that if there is sufficient public support for the proposed fees, the USPTO would favor continuing the pilot program. However, the USPTO explained that if it was unable to recover the costs of the AFCP 2.0 from participants, the USPTO would consider terminating the program.

In response to the proposed new fee for participation in the AFCP 2.0, commenters expressed concerns about the program and the fee. Because the public is not widely receptive to paying a fee to participate in the AFCP 2.0, the USPTO has decided to terminate the program after a brief extension to December 14, 2024. Accordingly, the USPTO will not consider any request for consideration under the AFCP 2.0 filed after December 14, 2024.

The USPTO is providing the extension of the AFCP 2.0 until December 14, 2024, to provide program users with reasonable time to adjust to the program's upcoming termination should they be in the process of preparing a request for consideration under AFCP 2.0. Applicants still have various options available for after final consideration. For example, under routine examination practice, after the close of prosecution, proposed amendments that will place the application either (1) in condition for allowance or (2) in better form for appeal, may be entered. See 37 CFR 1.116(b). Additionally, an examiner may have an interview with the applicant to advance prosecution. See sections 713.09 and 714.12 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (9th ed., Rev. 07.2022, February 2023) (MPEP),

which may be viewed on, or downloaded from the USPTO website at [mpep.uspto.gov](http://mpep.uspto.gov) or [www.uspto.gov/MPEP](http://www.uspto.gov/MPEP). Moreover, applicants still have the option to file a pre-appeal brief request for review at the time of the filing of a notice of appeal, which provides applicants with the opportunity to have a panel decide if an issue for appeal is, in fact, present in the record. See section 1204.02 of the MPEP.

**Katherine K. Vidal,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-22481 Filed 9-30-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

[Docket No. CFPB-2024-0049]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) requests the revision of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) approval for an existing information collection titled "Making Ends Meet Survey" approved under OMB Number 3170-0080.

**DATES:** Written comments are encouraged and must be received on or before October 31, 2024 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. In general, all comments received will become public records, including any personal information provided. Sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, should not be included.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Anthony May, Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, at (202) 435-7278, or email: [CFPB\\_PRA@cfpb.gov](mailto:CFPB_PRA@cfpb.gov). If you require this document in an alternative electronic format,

please contact [CFPB\\_Accessibility@cfpb.gov](mailto:CFPB_Accessibility@cfpb.gov). Please do not submit comments to these email boxes.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Making Ends Meet Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 3170-0080.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,500.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,060.

*Abstract:* The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act charges the CFPB with researching, analyzing, and reporting on topics relating to the Bureau's mission including consumer behavior, consumer awareness, and developments in markets for consumer financial products and services. To improve its understanding of how consumers engage with financial markets, the CFPB has successfully used surveys under its "Making Ends Meet" program. The "Making Ends Meet" program has also used the CFPB's Consumer Credit Information Panel (CCIP) as a frame to survey people about their experiences in consumer credit markets. The CFPB seeks approval for two yearly surveys under the "Making Ends Meet" program. These surveys solicit information on the consumer's experience related to household financial shocks, particularly shocks related to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, how households respond to those shocks, and the role of savings to help provide a financial buffer.

The first survey will be a follow-up to respondents from the CFPB's 2024 "Making Ends Meet" survey to better understand household financial experiences dealing with medical debt as well as consumers' interactions with various financial products. The second survey will go to a new sample of consumers from the CCIP and will address several topics of interest to the CFPB, possibly including the impact of natural disasters and other environmental events, credit shopping behavior, additional follow-up regarding debt collection, and the assessment of various fees throughout the financial services ecosystem.

*Request for Comments:* The CFPB published a 60-day **Federal Register** notice on March 26, 2024 (89 FR 20950) under Docket Number: CFPB-2024-0013. The CFPB is publishing this notice and soliciting comments on: (a) Whether the collection of information is