

inventories, measure current levels of production. New orders figures serve as an indicator of future production commitments. Changes in the level of unfilled orders, because of excess or shortfall of new orders compared with shipments, are used to measure the excess (or deficiency) in the demand for manufactured products. Changes in the level of inventories and the relation of these to shipments are used to project future movements in manufacturing activity. These statistics are valuable for analysts of business cycle conditions, including members of the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Federal Reserve Board (FRB), the Department of the Treasury, The Conference Board, business firms, trade associations, private research and consulting agencies, and the academic community.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 131, 182, and 193.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website 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 and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0607–0008.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2023–27722 Filed 12–15–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of

1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on August 3, 2023, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

Title: Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions.

OMB Control Number: 0607–0110
Form Number(s): SOC–QI/SF.1 and SOC–QI/MF.1.

Type of Request: Regular submission, request for an extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

Number of Respondents: We collect data for approximately 21,363 new buildings a year. A builder or owner may be contacted several times based on how long the construction project takes. We estimate the average number of times we need to contact the builder or owner is between 7 and 8 times. The total number of responses annually is 161,412.

Average Hours per Response: 5 minutes.

Burden Hours: 13,451.

Needs and Uses: The U. S. Census Bureau is requesting an extension of the currently approved collection for the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions, otherwise known as the Survey of Construction (SOC). The SOC is co-sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Government agencies and private companies use statistics from SOC to monitor and evaluate the large and dynamic housing construction industry. Data for two principal economic indicators are produced from the SOC: New Residential Construction (housing starts and housing completions) and New Residential Sales. In addition, a number of other statistical series are produced, including extensive information on the physical characteristics of new residential buildings, and indexes measuring rates of inflation in the price of new buildings. These statistics are based on a sample of residential buildings in permit-issuing places and a road canvass in a sample of land areas not covered by building permit systems.

Census Bureau field representatives (FRs) mail forms to new respondents to

complete. A few days later, the FRs either call or visit the respondents to enter their survey responses into a laptop computer using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) software. The respondents are home builders, real estate agents, rental agents, or new homeowners of sampled residential buildings. FRs contact respondents multiple times based on the number of projects in the sample and the number of months required to complete the project.

The Census Bureau uses the information collected in the SOC to publish estimates of the number of new residential housing units started, under construction, completed, and the number of new houses sold and for sale. The Census Bureau also publishes many financial and physical characteristics of new housing units. Government agencies use these statistics to evaluate economic policy, measure progress towards the national housing goal, make policy decisions, and formulate legislation. For example, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System uses data from this survey to evaluate the effect of interest rates. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the data in developing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The private sector uses the information for estimating the demand for building materials and the many products used in new housing and to schedule production, distribution, and sales efforts. The financial community uses the data to estimate the demand for short-term (construction loans) and long-term (mortgages) borrowing.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: The Census Bureau is authorized under title 13, United States Code, sections 131 and 182 to collect information, and under title 13 section 8(b) to perform survey work for other agencies, including HUD. HUD is authorized under title 12 U.S.C., sections 1701z–1 and 1701z–2g to collect or obtain information on new residential buildings.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website 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 and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0607–0110.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2023–27729 Filed 12–15–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–49–2023]

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 81; Authorization of Production Activity; Millipore Corporation; (Beverage Filtration and Purification Devices); Jaffrey, New Hampshire

On August 15, 2023, Millipore Corporation submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ Board for its facility within Subzone 81D, in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

The notification was processed in accordance with the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400), including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public comment (88 FR 56794, August 21, 2023). On December 13, 2023, the applicant was notified of the FTZ Board's decision that no further review of the activity is warranted at this time. The production activity described in the notification was authorized, subject to the FTZ Act and the FTZ Board's regulations, including section 400.14.

Dated: December 13, 2023.

Elizabeth Whiteman,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023–27743 Filed 12–15–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–63–2023]

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 17, Notification of Proposed Production Activity; Panasonic Energy Corporation of North America; (Lithium-Ion Battery Cells); De Soto, Kansas

Panasonic Energy Corporation of North America submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ Board (the Board) for its facilities in De Soto, Kansas within FTZ 17. The notification conforming to the requirements of the Board's regulations (15 CFR 400.22) was received on December 11, 2023.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 400.14(b), FTZ production activity would be limited to the specific foreign-status material(s)/ components and specific finished product described in the submitted notification (summarized below) and subsequently authorized by the Board. The benefits that may stem from conducting production activity under FTZ procedures are explained in the background section of the Board's website—accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz.

The proposed finished product is finished lithium-ion battery cells (duty rate is 3.4%).

The proposed foreign-status materials and components include: graphite components (natural; synthetic; natural and synthetic blend); sealants; N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP); N-methylpyrrolidone with carbon black conductive agent; lithiated nickel oxide; silicon monoxide; lithiated silicate; silicon composite material; poly(vinylidene fluoride) binder (PVDF); polyacrylamide; sodium carboxymethyl cellulose thickener; polypropylene components (film with acrylic adhesive tape; gaskets; insulator); polyimide adhesive tape; polyethylene separators; styrene butadiene rubber latex; copper foil; nickel clad copper negative tabs; and, aluminum components (rolls; foil; rupture discs; cathode tabs) (duty rate ranges from duty-free to 6.5%). The request indicates that some components are subject to an antidumping/ countervailing duty (AD/CVD) order/ investigation if imported from certain countries. The Board's regulations (15 CFR 400.14(e)) require that merchandise subject to AD/CVD orders, or items which would be otherwise subject to suspension of liquidation under AD/CVD procedures if they entered U.S. customs territory, be admitted to the zone in privileged foreign (PF) status (19 CFR 146.41). The request also indicates that certain materials/components are subject to duties under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (section 232) or section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (section 301), depending on the country of origin. The applicable section 232 and section 301 decisions require subject merchandise to be admitted to FTZs in PF status.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary and sent to: ftz@trade.gov. The closing period for their receipt is January 29, 2024.

A copy of the notification will be available for public inspection in the "Online FTZ Information System" section of the Board's website.

For further information, contact Juanita Chen at juanita.chen@trade.gov.

Dated: December 12, 2023.

Juanita Chen,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023–27700 Filed 12–15–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–570–155]

Certain Pea Protein From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, Preliminary Affirmative Critical Circumstances Determination, and Alignment of Final Determination With Final Antidumping Duty Determination

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of certain pea protein (pea protein) from the People's Republic of China (China) during the period of investigation, January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable December 18, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristen Johnson and Laura Griffith, AD/CVD Operations, Office III, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4793 and (202) 482–6430, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 703(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on August 7, 2023.¹ On September 8, 2023, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation until December 11, 2023.²

¹ See *Certain Pea Protein from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 88 FR 52116 (August 7, 2023) (*Initiation Notice*).

² See *Certain Pea Protein from the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 88 FR 62055 (September 8, 2023).