

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of the Secretary****Bureau of International Labor Affairs;
U.S. National Administrative Office;
North American Agreement on Labor
Cooperation; Hearing on Submission
#9703**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Labor.
ACTION: Notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce a hearing, open to the public, on Submission #9703.

Submission #9703, was filed with the U.S. National Administrative Office (NAO) on December 15, 1998, by the Echlin Workers Alliance, a group that includes the Teamsters; the Canadian Auto Workers; the Union of Needletrades and Industrial Textile Employees (UNITE); the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America; the Paperworkers; and the Steelworkers. Twenty-four other organizations, including non-governmental organizations, human rights groups and labor unions from the three NAFTA countries are cited as concerned organizations in the submission. The submission was accepted for review by the NAO on January 30, 1998, and a Notice of acceptance for review was published in the **Federal Register** on February 4, 1998.

Article 16(3) of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) provides for the review of labor law matters in Canada and Mexico by the NAO in accordance with U.S. domestic procedures. Revised procedural guidelines pertaining to the submission, review, and reporting process utilized by the Office were published in the **Federal Register** on April 7, 1994 (59 FR 16660). The guidelines provide for a discretionary hearing as part of the review.

DATES: The hearing will be held on March 23, 1998, commencing at 9:00 a.m. Persons desiring to present oral testimony at the hearing must submit a request in writing, along with a written statement or brief desiring the information to be presented or position to be taken.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held at the Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Room C-5515 1A and 1B, in Washington, D.C. Written statements or briefs and requests to present oral testimony may be mailed or hand delivered to the U.S. National Administrative Office (NAO), Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room C-4327,

Washington, D.C. 20210. Requests to present oral testimony and written statements or briefs must be received by the NAO no later than close of business, March 13, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Irasema T. Garza, Secretary, U.S. National Administrative Office, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room C-4327, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 501-6653 (this is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Nature and Conduct of Hearing**

As set out in the notice published in the **Federal Register** on February 4, 1998, the objective of the NAO's review of the submission is to gather information to better understand and publicly report on the Government of Mexico's promotion of, compliance with, and effective enforcement of, its labor law through appropriate government action, among them its laws relating to freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively as well as its labor laws relating to the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses in violation of the NAALC article 3(1). The review will also address the composition of the labor tribunal in this case in view of its compliance with Article 5(4) of the NAALC which commits the Parties to ensuring that tribunals that conduct review proceedings are impartial and independent and do not have any substantial interest in the outcome of the matter.

The hearing will be conducted by the Secretary of the NAO or the Secretary's designee. It will be open to the public. All proceedings will be conducted in English, with simultaneous translation in English and Spanish provided. The public files for the submission, including written statements, briefs, and requests to present oral testimony, will be made a part of the appropriate hearing record. The public files will also be available for inspection at the NAO prior to the hearing.

The hearing will be transcribed. A transcript of the proceeding will be made available for inspection, as provided for in Section E of the procedural guidelines, or may be purchased from the reporting company.

Disabled persons should contact the Secretary of the NAO no later than March 17, 1998 if special accommodations are needed.

II. Written Statements or Briefs and Requests to Present Oral Testimony

Written statements or briefs shall provide a description of the information

to be presented or position taken and shall be legibly typed or printed. Requests to present oral testimony shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the witness, the organization represented, if any, and any other information pertinent to the request. Five copies of a statement or brief and a single copy of a request to present oral testimony shall be submitted to the NAO at the time of filing.

No request to present oral testimony will be considered unless accompanied by a written statement or brief. A request to present oral testimony may be denied if the written statement or brief suggests that the information sought to be provided is unrelated to the review of the submission or for other appropriate reasons. The NAO will notify each requester of the disposition of the request to present oral testimony.

In presenting testimony, the witness should summarize the written statement or brief, may supplement the written statement or brief with relevant information, and should be prepared to answer questions from the Secretary of the NAO or the Secretary's designee. Oral testimony will ordinarily be limited to a ten minute presentation, not including the time for questions. Persons desiring more than ten minutes for their presentation should so state in the request, setting out reasons why additional time is necessary.

The requirements relating to the submission of written statements or briefs and requests to present oral testimony may be waived by the Secretary of the NAO for reasons of equity and public interest.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on February 13, 1998.

Irasema T. Garza,
Secretary, U.S. National Administrative Office.

[FR Doc. 98-4371 Filed 2-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-28-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment Standards Administration
Wage and Hour Division****Minimum Wages for Federal and
Federally Assisted Construction;
General Wage Determination Decisions**

General wage determination decisions of the Secretary of Labor are issued in accordance with applicable law and are based on the information obtained by the Department of Labor from its study of local wage conditions and data made available from other sources. They specify the basic hourly wage rates and