



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH December 26, 2012**

**Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA**

***Happy Holidays to all!***

**NAEGA Holiday Hours:** The NAEGA Office will be on Monday, December 31, 2012 and Tuesday, January 1, 2013 for New Year’s. We wish all of you a Happy New Year!

### **In this Issue:**

#### **Member participation requested:**

- Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting!
- Inter-market Survey of Official Inspection
- Rapid Response Mechanism and SPS TBT Enforcement - NAEGA policy papers posted for your consideration and use.

#### **Action Reports**

- China, Biotech Authorizations, Safety Certificates Update
- U.S., Mississippi River Update
- U.S., Letter on Port Labor Negotiations

#### **New Issues**

- U.S Grants Russia & Moldova Permanent Normal Trade Relations Status

#### **NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices**

- Upcoming events and notices for members

### **Retirement Best Wishes!**

“Looking back I have to say that my connection with NAEGA provided a tremendous wealth of information and insight to me and Toepfer”, said Klaus May, Head of Execution and Vice President of Alfred C. Toepfer International upon recently sharing with us a company retirement announcement. A longtime NAEGA committee volunteer, Klaus will be among several North America based Toepfer employees retiring soon.

Klaus currently serves on the Contracts and Grades & Inspections Committees as well as the committee on Strikes, Riots, Lockouts, and Embargoes. Klaus wrote that “after working for almost 46 years under the flag of this great company (of which 41 years in the United States) time has come for me to focus on things I didn’t have enough time for in the past.” Klaus began his affiliation with NAEGA in the 1970’s and continued through to the present and his contributions to the Association over the years have been numerous and invaluable. We hope that he continues to stay in touch with NAEGA and his friends in the industry

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The Toepfer announcement of the retirements of 6 employees in the North American offices of Toepfer International also included Klaus Neitzel, Senior Vice President Grain Trade and former NAEGA Board member, and Ronald Weber, Plant Manager and Vice President at Tampa Bulk who is a company contact for the NAEGA-NGFA Alternate Security Program.

Please join us in thanking these Toepfer employees for their friendship and contributions to the industry and NAEGA.

### **NAEGA member participation requested:**

#### **Mark Your Calendars! NAEGA 2013 Annual Meeting Date & Location Set!**

We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco in March! The 2013 NAEGA Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, March 18, 2013 at the [Westin St. Francis Hotel](#) in San Francisco, California. NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 17-19 2013 National Grain & Feed Association Convention. Formal notice of the NAEGA meetings including details on how to book a room and agendas will be available next week.

**Inter-market Survey of Official Inspection** – NAEGA members are encouraged to participate in an Inter-Market Monitoring Survey of Official Inspections developed by NAEGA in cooperation with the USDA’s Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). The goal of the survey is to test U.S. sampling methods for both the import and export of grains & oilseeds to provide a quicker response time to any grading differences between the origin and export system. A description of the Survey method is [available through this link](#). NAEGA launched the survey earlier in 2012, though delays in starting the project prevented the collection of enough data to be useful at that time.

In August, NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk communicated to the Grades & Inspections Committee that they should have their companies begin work on the project as soon as possible. So far, GIPSA reports that they have only received a handful of samples, none complete, from just two participants.

For the project to be successful, greater participation and a large data sample is needed. NAEGA members who have already agreed to participate in the project are asked to check with their companies to check on the status of the project. NAEGA members who are not already participating are encouraged to take part. Please contact Arvid Hawk at [ahawk@naega.org](mailto:ahawk@naega.org) if you would like to take part of if you have an update on your company’s participation status.

**Rapid Response Mechanism and SPS TBT Enforcement - NAEGA UPDATED policy papers posted for your consideration and use** – NAEGA has recently updated policy papers to improve the predictability and efficiency of trade:

1. A briefing paper urging the inclusion of a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in trade agreements. RRM would provide a commercially-meaningful method by which to

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resolve trade disputes related to plant quarantine and other risk management measures deployed by importing governments. The paper is [available through this link](#).

2. Second is a comprehensive set of recommendations for Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) enforcement for inclusion in the Trans Pacific Partnership. The paper is [available through this link](#).

Your review and assistance in communicating these policies is requested.

*Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the [Meetings & Events Section of the NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#) and the [Personal Pages Website](#)*

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## Reports on NAEGA actions

**China, Biotech Authorizations, Safety Certificates Renewed** –We received confirmation from USDA’s Foreign Agriculture Service that 12 biotech event safety certificates set to expire on December 20, 2012 were renewed by China’s Ministry of Agriculture before their expiration. Exporters should contact technology providers for the safety certificates needed for applications to the MOA for Biosafety Certificates for Import needed to accompany shipments.

NAEGA worked with member companies, several stakeholder organizations and governments to bring the need for the renewals to the attention of the MOA. Instrumental in the timely reauthorization of the events was the 23rd session of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), which took place on December 18-19, 2012 in Washington, DC. Unfortunately we also understand that new events previously submitted are all still pending. Six of those new events completed every step of the regulatory and scientific review in China earlier this year. For these 6 we think all that is needed is Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu's signature to issue the safety certificates. We believe 4 or more new events are ready to advance to the next step of the regulatory and scientific review process, but also need Minister Han's to do so. Other events may also be earlier in the cue.

We will now put a priority on new event safety certificates / approvals and responsible actions by technology providers.

The Office of the USTR also reported that the results of the JCCT meetings also included a commitment to a biotechnology pilot program between USDA and China’s MOA that could provide greater cooperation in the approval process for new products. The full statement from the USTR on the JCCT [is available here](#).

NAEGA has been tracking this issue on the Biotech Committee webpage on the [NAEGA Member’s Only Site](#) and on the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site.

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**U.S., Mississippi River Update** – The U.S Army Corps of Engineers has begun to increase the release of Missouri River water from the Gavins Point Dam located on the Nebraska-South Dakota border to assist navigation on the Mississippi River. Additionally, the Corps has started to release water from reservoirs located on the Kaskaskia River south of St. Louis to support navigation over the rock pinnacles near Grand Tower and Thebes, Ill., and areas of the Mississippi River needing dredging. The full effect of this release is expected to provide up to an additional six inches of depth in this critical stretch of the river.

As we have reported, navigation on the strategic 200-mile stretch of the Mississippi River between St. Louis, MO, and Cairo, IL will be severely impaired – and barge transportation may well cease altogether – unless emergency action is taken to ensure the statutorily authorized 9-foot draft needed to maintain commercial navigation. Waterway organizations, led by Waterways Council Inc. (WCI), project that the combination of the above actions will now keep the Mississippi River navigable at least until January 31. The Missouri River historically provides up to 80 percent of the water flow for the Mississippi River. NAEGA joined with industry groups in submitting a letter to President Obama in late November, urging him to issue an emergency declaration ordering the corps to alter the flow of the Missouri to allow sufficient water flows on the Mississippi. There has not yet been a response to this letter, but the actions by the corps are in line with what industry had requested the administration take.

Your continued support and additional outreach to anyone who might help encourage action by the Obama Administration on the issue of authorizing the release of measured but sufficient flows from Missouri River reservoirs dams to maintain a 9-foot navigation channel on the Mississippi River to sustain commercial navigation is appreciated. Please share the agriculture coalition letter, [available here](#), and other material [provided by WCI](#). We are tracking this issue on the [NAEGA Member’s Only Site](#) and on the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site. We appreciate your work and support on this important issue.

**U.S., Letter on Port Labor Negotiations** – NAEGA has signed onto a letter from almost 100 trade and industry associations to U.S. President Barack Obama regarding the increasing potential for a strike by International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) that would impact the East and Gulf Coast ports. The ongoing labor contract negotiations between the ILA and the U.S. Maritime Alliance, LTD (USMX) broke down on December 18 without resolution and a strike may occur current contract extension expires on December 29, 2012.

The letter notes that failure to reach an agreement resulting in a coast wide shutdown will have serious economy-wide impacts. The Northeast is still recovering from Hurricane Sandy and a port strike or other shutdown will only add to the economic problems in the region. Just the threat of a shutdown creates a level of uncertainty in the current economic climate, and the letter notes that the West Coast lockout 10 years ago cost the U.S. economy \$1 billion a day and took over six months to recover from.

The letter urges the President to take all available actions available to him, including the authority under the Taft-Hartley Act, to keep the parties negotiating and avoid a coast wide port

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shutdown. The full text of the letter has been posted to the NAEGA Public website under [Public Comments & Policy Statements](#).

**NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:**

## **2013**

### **January**

**9** – Comments due to BIS on proposed 180-day Deadline to Complete Voluntary Self-Disclosures: [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-27206\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-27206_PI.pdf)

**19** – Comments due to Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada on the proposed Domestic Policy and Implementation Framework on the Management of Low-Level Presence of Genetically Modified Crops in Imports:

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1347469689149&lang=eng>

**28** – Comments due to BIS on Proposed Changes to Clarify Commerce Control list:

[http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-28363\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-28363_PI.pdf)

### **February**

**TBD** – Comments to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on draft directives D-12-05 & D-12-05: [http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA\\_Draft\\_D-12-05.pdf](http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA_Draft_D-12-05.pdf)

*NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on both the Member's Only Section under their relevant committee pages and the on the Personal Page's site. Updates to tracked issues are posted in this section.*

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## **New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration**

**U.S Grants Russia & Moldova Permanent Normal Trade Relations Status** – In the December 10, 2012 edition of OUTREACH, we reported that the U.S. Senate had authorized President Barack Obama to extend Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status to both of these Russian & Moldova. On December 20, President Obama formally extended PNTR status to goods imported from both countries. This step will allow the U.S. to take full advantage of all the trade liberalization measures associated with the World Trade Organization (WTO) accessions of these countries.

One immediate result of this proclamation could be the filing of WTO dispute settlement cases by the U.S. and Russia against each other. The U.S. recently complained about Russia's ban on imports of meat treated with the feed additive ractopamine while Moscow could protest Washington's antidumping and countervailing duties on Russian steel products.

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*If you would like more information or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.*

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## **NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices**

### **December**

**31-January 1, 2013** – NAEGA office closed for New Years

### **2013**

#### **January**

**6-9** – Guangzhou, China – USSEC North Asia Regional Meeting & Select Customer Meetings

**11-12** – Jakarta, Indonesia - 2013 USSEC Southeast Asia Regional Meeting & Select Customer Meetings

**24** – St. Cloud, Minnesota – Minnesota Grain and Feed Association Annual Meeting – Gary Martin Invited to attend & present

**30** - Washington, DC - ASA Soybean Biotechnology Working Group - Gary Martin Invited to attend & present

#### **February**

**20** – Washington, DC – U.S. Coast Guard ASP User’s Meeting – Hosted by NAEGA at the NAEGA offices

#### **March**

**17-19** – San Francisco, California – NGFA Annual Convention

**18-** San Francisco, California – NAEGA Annual Meetings

#### **November**

**12-15** – Lisbon, Portugal - 6th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains: [www.gmcc13.org](http://www.gmcc13.org)

### **Member Notices**

**The New NAEGA.org** – NAEGA’s public website at [www.NAEGA.org](http://www.NAEGA.org) has been redesigned and launched as of June 18, 2012. The new NAEGA.org features a more user-friendly interface, a better search engine, and integration with the NAEGA Personal Pages website. The new site also features social media tools for sharing public NAEGA actions on a wider scale. NAEGA accounts have been established at LinkedIn and Twitter, and stories on the public site can be shared on Google Plus. NAEGA members and staff should take the opportunity to enhance their

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experience with a NAEGA Members Personal Page. NAEGA Director of Operations Patrick Hayden is will assist you to setup and maintain your NAEGA Personal Page.

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