



U. S. Department of Justice

Civil Division

JED:RTBlades
DJ No. 54-2522

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Washington, D.C. 20530

February 18, 2008

Adrian Winstanley
Registrar
LCIA
70 Fleet Street
London EC4Y 1EU

Re: The United States of America v. Canada, Arbitration No. 81010

Dear Mr. Winstanley:

Pursuant to the LCIA Arbitration Rules, Articles 5 and 7, and Article XIV, ¶ 9 of the Softwood Lumber Agreement (“SLA”), the claimant in the above-captioned matter, the United States of America, respectfully submits its arbitrator nomination. We nominate David A R Williams, QC.

As the LCIA may be aware, the parties agreed in the SLA to an expedited schedule of proceedings in which the parties must nominate their respective arbitrators within 30 days after the filing of the arbitration request. SLA Art. XIV, ¶ 9. The two arbitrators then must jointly nominate the Chair of the tribunal within ten days. SLA Art. XIV, ¶ 10. The LCIA then “shall endeavour to appoint the 3 arbitrators” within five business days after the date on which the chair is nominated. SLA Art. XIV, ¶ 11. Finally, the parties agreed that the tribunal “shall endeavour to issue an award not later than 180 days after the LCIA Court appoints the tribunal.” SLA Art. XIV ¶ 19.

Because of this expedited schedule, and to honor the parties’ agreement to the extent possible, we respectfully propose that, once the LCIA appoints the tribunal, it consider holding a first procedural meeting as soon as practicable.

Thank you for your consideration of our nomination.

Very truly yours,

Reginald T. Blades, Jr.

Assistant Director

Commercial Litigation Branch

cc: Guillermo Aguilar-Alvarez, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP