time until a late stage of the investigation such as at the hearing or in a prehearing brief.

Third, under proposed § 207.20(c)(4), within five business days of the filing of issues briefs, the Director of Operations will conduct a conference concerning the issues raised in the brief. The purpose of the conference is to provide a vehicle for the parties to identify and discuss, and where possible, agree on threshold issues, such as domestic like product, domestic industry, cumulation and negligible imports. The conference also should help identify issues that may need more specific or different data collection than that contemplated in the draft questionnaires. The Commission will retain authority to resolve all threshold and data collection issues. These matters, of course, will not be formally resolved by the Commission at the time of the conference. However, the Commission will give full consideration to the outcome of the conference and, to the extent practicable, provide guidance to the parties to permit them to focus their attention and resources on the significant issues outstanding in the investigation.

The Commission anticipates that the new procedures proposed in § 207.20 will permit it to mail questionnaires within a week of issuance of an affirmative preliminary dumping or subsidy determination by Commerce. In investigations in which Commerce's preliminary determination modifies the scope of the investigation from that stated in its notice of initiation, the date of mailing may be delayed.

Notice of Scheduling of Final Phase Investigation

§§ 201.13 and Renumbered §§ 207.21, 207.23, 207.24, 207.25, and 207.29

As previously stated, under the Commission's "continuous investigation" proposal, the Commission will institute its final phase investigation at the same time it publishes notice of its preliminary determination. Neither the Commission's notice of institution nor the Director of Operation's scheduling notice under proposed § 207.20(a) will be able to contain a complete schedule of activities for the final phase investigation. The Commission will not be able to schedule dates for all activities until it is aware of the date on which its final determination is due. It will not know this date, however, before Commerce issues its preliminary determination.

Accordingly, the Commission is proposing to revise and retitle current § 207.20, which is to be renumbered

§ 207.21. (Because the Commission is proposing issuance of a new § 207.20, current §§ 207.20 through 207.29 will be renumbered §§ 207.21 through 207.30, respectively). Under the revised rule, upon receipt of an affirmative preliminary determination from Commerce, the Commission will issue a Final Phase Notice of Scheduling. This notice will contain scheduling information equivalent to that provided by the notice of institution of a final investigation currently issued under § 207.20(b). The Commission is proposing to amend proposed renumbered §§ 207.23 and 207.25 (corresponding respectively to current §§ 207.22 and 207.24) to reference this notice of scheduling in lieu of the current references to the notice of institution. (An additional amendment proposed for renumbered § 207.23 with respect to page limits is discussed separately below.)

Proposed § 207.21(c) carries forward two provisions in the current rules. The first, which now appears in § 207.18, authorizes the Director of Operations to continue investigative activity as appropriate should Commerce issue a negative preliminary determination. The second carries forward a provision currently in § 207.20(b) indicating that the Commission investigation shall be terminated if Commerce should make a negative final determination.

Additionally, the Commission is proposing amendments to renumbered \$\ 207.21, 207.24, and 207.29 (corresponding respectively to current \$\ 207.20, 207.23, and 207.28) to delete references to former \$\ 303 \text{ of the Act.}
Further amendments are proposed to \$\ 201.13(m) and to renumbered \$\ 207.24 to change cross-references to other renumbered sections.

Single Entry of Appearance Sections 201.11 and 207.10

To implement its "continuous investigation" proposal, the Commission is proposing to amend § 201.11(b) governing the filing of notices of appearance in antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. Under proposed § 201.11(b)(2), a party that files a timely notice of appearance during the preliminary phase of an investigation need not file any further notices of appearance before the Commission in that antidumping or countervailing duty investigation. A corresponding change is proposed to § 207.10(a) to eliminate the requirement that petitioners file an entry of appearance during the final phase of an investigation.

Additionally, under proposed § 201.11(b)(4) a party will still be able to file a notice of appearance as late as 21 days after publication in the Federal Register of the Final Phase Notice of Scheduling. Nevertheless, a party that does not enter an appearance within 60 days after issuance of the Commission's notice of Preliminary Determination will be precluded by proposed § 207.20(c)(3) from raising issues requiring collection of further data by the Commission subsequently in the investigation.

Page Limits

Renumbered Section 207.23

The current Commission rules impose page limits on postconference briefs and posthearing briefs. Interim rule § 207.29(b) promulgated on January 3, 1995, imposes page limits for final comments on factual information. Additionally, proposed § 207.20(c)(3) would impose a 50-page limit on issues briefs.

The one brief that is not currently subject to page limits in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations is the prehearing brief.

The Commission proposes that renumbered § 207.23 (corresponding to current § 207.22) be amended to impose a 50-page limit on prehearing briefs. The 50-page limit would encompass all textual material, including attachments that contain textual material. The page limit would not apply to nontextual material in briefs (such as a table of contents) or exhibits (such as an illustration of a product). The Commission's objective in proposing a page limit is to encourage parties to present arguments concisely, and to limit argument to those issues central to a case. The Commission believes that the new issues brief to be submitted pursuant to proposed § 207.20(c)(3) will reduce the number of arguments particularly pertaining to domestic like product—that must be presented in the prehearing brief and consequently will permit such briefs to be much shorter. The Commission also desires to discourage parties from submitting lengthy attachments to briefs that merely reiterate the arguments presented in the main brief.

The Commission invites commenters to address whether its proposed amendment to renumbered § 207.23 will accomplish these objectives while permitting parties ample opportunity to present evidence and argument to the Commission. Commenters may further address whether they believe that page limits for prehearing briefs should be established at a level different from the