ACTION: Invitation to comment on requested petition for exemption from Trade Regulation Rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission solicits public comment on a petition filed by Paccar, Inc., for an exemption from the requirements of the Franchise Rule.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until May 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be filed in person or mailed to: Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Requests for copies of the petition and the Franchise Rule should be directed to the Public Reference Branch, Room 130, (202) 326–2222.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Toporoff, Attorney, Room 238, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326–3135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 21, 1978, the Federal Trade Commission promulgated a trade regulation rule entitled ''Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising and Business Opportunity Ventures (''the Rule'').'' 16 CFR part 436. In general, the Rule provides for pre-sale disclosure to prospective franchisees of important information about the franchisor, the franchise business, and the terms of the proposed franchise relationship. A summary of the Rule is available from the FTC Public Reference Branch, upon request.

Section 18(g) of the Federal Trade Commission Act provides that any person or class of persons covered by a trade regulation rule may petition the Commission for an exemption from such rule. If the Commission finds that the application of such rule to any person or class of persons is not necessary to prevent the unfair or deceptive acts or practices to which the rule relates, then the Commission may exempt such person or class from all or any part of the rule.

Paccar, Inc. (''Paccar'') has filed a petition for an exemption from the Franchise Rule pursuant to section 18(g) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. 57a(g). Paccar manufacturers heavy-duty and medium-duty trucks, truck parts, and accessories, which it distributes through a network of dealers operating under the name ''Kenworth'' or ''Peterbilt.'' In its petition, Paccar asserts that an exemption should be granted because Paccar dealers are sophisticated business persons with experience in the industry, and the information-exchange and negotiation process leading to execution of a dealership agreement takes place over a period of several months, ensuring adequate time for review. Petitioner asserts that the experience and sophistication of prospective dealers and the company's lengthy selection process leading to the execution of the dealership agreement make the abuses identified by the Commission as the basis for the Franchise Rule unlikely and render application of the Rule to Paccar unnecessary and burdensome.

For a complete presentation of the arguments submitted by Petitioner, please refer to the full text of the petition, which may be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Branch, on request.

In assessing the present exemption request, the Commission solicits comments on all relevant issues germane to the proceeding, including the following: (1) Is there evidence indicating that Petitioner may engage in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the offer and sale of dealership franchises? (2) Are there other reasons that might militate against granting Petitioner an exemption from the Franchise Rule?

The Commission has considered the arguments made by Petitioner and concludes that further inquiry is warranted before a decision regarding the petition may be made. The Commission, therefore, seeks comment on the exemption requested by Petitioner.

All interested parties are hereby notified that they may submit written data, views, or arguments on any issue of fact, law, or policy that may have some bearing on the requested exemption, whether or not such issues have been raised by the petition or in this notice. Such submission may be made for sixty days to the Secretary of the Commission.

Comments should be identified as ''Paccar Franchise Rule Exemption Comment'' and three copies should be submitted.

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 436

Trade Practices and Franchising.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–7610 Filed 3–28–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising and Business Opportunity Ventures

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Invitation to comment on requested petition for exemption from Trade Regulation Rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission solicits public comment on a petition filed by Rolls-Royce Corp., for an exemption from the requirements of the Franchise Rule.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until May 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be filed in person or mailed to: Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Requests for copies of the petition and the Franchise Rule should be directed to the Public Reference Branch, Room 130, (202) 326–2222.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Toporoff, Attorney, Room 238, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580 (202) 326–3135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 21, 1978, the Federal Trade Commission promulgated a trade regulation rule entitled ''Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising and Business Opportunity Ventures'' (''the Franschise Rule'' or ''Rule''). 16 CFR Part 3436. In general, the Rule provides for pre-sale disclosure to prospective Franchisees of important information about the francisor, the franchise business, and the terms of the proposed Franchise relationship. A summary of the Rule is available from the FTC Public Reference Branch upon request.

Section 18(g) of the Federal Trade Commission Act provides that any person or class of persons covered by a trade regulation rule may petition the Commission for an exemption from such rule. If the Commission finds that the application of such rule to any person or class of persons is not necessary to prevent the unfair or deceptive acts or practices to which the rule relates, then the Commission may exempt such person or class from all or any part of the rule.

Rolls-Royce Corp. (''Rolls-Royce'' or ''Petitioner'') has filed a petition for an exemption from the Franchise Rule pursuant to section 18(g) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. 57a(g). Rolls-Royce manufacturers turboprop, turbofan, and industrial gas turbine engines for sale in the defense and civilian aerospace and industrial markets. It also provides aftermarket support for some of its model engines though a combination of company-owned and independent authorized maintenance centers (''AMCs''). The AMCs perform repair, overhaul, and maintenance services for customers under the Rolls-Royce trademark.

In its petition, Roll-Royce asserts that an exemption should be granted because AMC purchasers are sophisticated business persons with extensive prior experience in the industry, and the information-exchange and negotiation process leading to execution of an AMC agreement takes place over a period of several months, ensuring adequate time for review. Petitioner asserts that the experience and sophistication of prospective dealers and the company's lengthy selection process leading to the execution of the dealership agreement make the abuses identified by the Commission as the basis for the Franchise Rule unlikely and render application of the Rule to Rolls-Royce unnecessary and burdensome.

For a complete presentation of the arguments submitted by Petitioner, please refer to the full text of the petition, which may be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Branch, on request.

In assessing the present exemption request, the Commission solicits comments on all relevant issues germane to the proceeding, including the following: (1) Is there evidence indicating that Petitioner may engage in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the offer and sale of dealership franchises? (2) Are there other reasons that might militate against granting Petitioner an exemption from the Franchise Rule?

The Commission has considered the arguments made by Petitioner and concludes that further inquiry is warranted before a decision regarding the petition may be made. The Commission, therefore, seeks comment on the exemption requested by Petitioner.

All interested parties are hereby notified that they may submit written data, views, or arguments on any issues of fact, law, or policy that may have some bearing on the requested exemption, whether or not such issues have been raised by the petition or in this notice. Such submission may be made for sixty days to the Secretary of the Commission.

Comments should be identified as ''Rolls-Royce Corp. Franchise Rule Exemption Comment'' and three copies should be submitted.

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 436

Trade practices and Franchising.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–7611 Filed 3–28–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 992 3298]

The Ted Warren Corporation, et al.; Analysis to Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed consent agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 23, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed in paper form should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159–H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Comments filed in electronic form should be directed to: *consentagreement@ftc.gov,* as prescribed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Salsburg or Stephen Gurwitz, FTC, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326–3402 or 326–3272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 CFR 2.34, notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for March 24, 2003), on the World Wide Web, at ''*http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/03/index.htm.*'' A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room 130–H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326–2222.

Public comments are invited, and may be filed with the Commission in either paper or electronic form. Comments filed in paper form should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159–H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. If a comment contains nonpublic information, it must be filed in paper form, and the first page of the document must be clearly labeled ''confidential.'' Comments that do not contain any nonpublic information may instead be filed in electronic form (in ASCII format, WordPerfect, or Microsoft Word) as part of or as an attachment to email messages directed to the following email box: *consentagreement@ftc.gov.* Such comments will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

Analysis of Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement containing a consent order from The Ted Warren Corporation, The Ken Roberts Institute, Inc., and The Ken Roberts Company, corporations, and Ken Roberts, as an officer of the corporations (together, ''respondents'').

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty (30) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make final the agreement's proposed order.

Respondents advertise and sell materials (''Investment Courses'') that purport to teach purchasers how to profitably trade stocks, commodity futures and options, and real estate. The Investment Courses sold by respondents include the ''TWC Stock Course'' for trading stocks, the ''KRI Investment Portfolio'' for creating an investment portfolio, the ''KRC Commodity Course'' for trading commodity futures contracts and options, and the ''Jim Banks Probate Course,'' pursuant to a marketing agreement with J.G. Banks, Inc., for purchasing real estate and personal property through probate proceedings. Respondents have sold these Investment Courses through the Internet Web site *http://www.kenroberts.net* and related Web sites.