FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202–720–8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512–1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the August 1, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 41335), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Lima and Virginia to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by September 2, 1997. Lima and Virginia, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Lima and Virginia were the only applicants, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Lima and Virginia are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective February 1, 1998, and ending January 31, 2001, Virginia is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the August 1, 1997, **Federal Register**. Effective February 1, 1998, and ending January 31, 1999, Lima is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the August 1, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Lima at 419–223–7866 and Virginia at 757–494–2464.

Authority: Pub. L. 94–582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 10, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 97–33829 Filed 12–31–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–EN–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Santa Cruz River Watershed, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Rules (7 CFR Part 650), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the repair of Floodwater Retarding Structure 3 in the Santa Cruz River Watershed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosendo Trevino III; State Conservationist; Natural Resources Conservation Service; 6200 Jefferson, NE; Albuquerque, NM 87109–3734; telephone 505–761–4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Rosendo Trevino III, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is flood prevention. The action includes the repair of one floodwater retarding dam.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FNSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment is on file and may be reviewed by contacting Rosendo Trevino III.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials)

Rosendo Trevino III,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 97–34182 Filed 12–31–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–16–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Risk Management Agency

Dairy Options Pilot Program

AGENCY: Risk Management Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Advanced Notice of Availability; Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public comment period on a new Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP) to be administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) in conjunction with the private sector. RMA plans to implement DOPP which would partially subsidize the purchase of put options for dairy producers. The objective of DOPP is to ascertain whether put options can provide producers with reasonable protection from the price risk. RMA is soliciting comments on DOPP, the method used to select program participants, and its information collections. RMA specifically requests comments on the role of brokers as outlined in the Broker Agreement contained in this Advanced Notice of Availability, whether the tasks required of the brokers including responsibilities listed in subsections 3(a) through 3(h), are appropriate and whether there are other cost-effective alternatives that would satisfy the program's need for accurate reporting and oversight while maintaining a significant role for the private sector in the program. The RMA was established by Public Law 104–127, on April 4, 1996.

DATES: Submit data, comments or opinions on or before February 2, 1998. The comment period for information collections under the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 continues through March 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the DOPP to Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Insurance Services, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., STOP 0830, room 6739–S, Washington, D.C., 20250–0830. A copy of each response will be available for public inspection and copying from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday, except holidays, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Connor, Financial Analyst, Reinsurance Services Division, Risk Management Agency, at the Washington, D.C. address listed above, telephone (202) 720–4232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

The Risk Management Agency is seeking comments on the following Information Collection Request (ICR).

Title: Dairy Options Pilot Program.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Parties affected by the information collection requirements included in this advanced notice are producers and brokers.

Abstract: The dairy industry has recently witnessed unprecedented price volatility and, after 1999, will no longer be eligible to receive USDA program benefits of any kind except export incentives.

The Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Act) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct, and RMA to administer, options pilot until December 31, 2002. RMA appreciates the active interest and initiative shown by the Coffee, Sugar, & Cocoa Exchange and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in the development of this program which draws heavily from their ideas and input. If successful, the educational benefits of the DOPP to the producer will prepare the producer to manage price risk independently through the commodities futures and options markets.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 15 minutes per participant because of the high degree of automation associated with the data collection.

Respondents: Producers and brokers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 35,329.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 16,951 hours.

The information to be collected includes an application (Form CCC–320), a record of all trading activity on the producer's behalf and the actual prices obtained by the producer for the production, and a voluntary survey. The information collected from the application, trading record and prices received by the producer will be electronically submitted to FCIC by the broker or brokerage firm. Potential respondents to this information collection are dairy producers, brokers, and brokerage firms. The information collected will be used to determine producer eligibility, to track program compliance and to evaluate the effectiveness of the hedge positions.

Comments: RMA is requesting comments on the following: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information gathering technology.

Comments regarding paperwork reduction should be submitted to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is required to make a decision concerning the collections of information contained in this notice between 30 and 60 days after submission to OMB. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. This does not affect the deadline for the public to comment on the notice.

Executive Order 12866

OMB has determined this notice to be significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, this notice has been reviewed by OMB.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

The program is designed to increase the level of understanding of options contracts as risk management tools among dairy producers and to explore their specific applicability to the dairy industry. The costs to the Government of options premium under the program are estimated to be about $10 million annually. If successful, the program will help create liquid markets in basic formula price (BFP) futures and options contracts which would be sustained, in part, by the on-going hedging of output price risk by dairy producers benefiting from the educational aspect of the program. Under that scenario, the benefits of the program would include furnishing producers with a viable price risk management alternative, exerting a stabilizing influence on the dairy industry, and contributing to the Department's goals of supporting market oriented reforms in the agricultural sector.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), Pub. L. 104–4, establishes requirements for Federal agencies to assess the effects of their regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector. This notice contains no Federal mandates (under the regulatory provisions of Title II of the UMRA) for State, local, and tribal governments or the private sector. Therefore, this notice is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of the UMRA.

Executive Order 12612

It has been determined under section 6(a) of Executive Order 12612, Federalism, that this notice does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment. The provisions contained in this notice will not have a substantial direct effect on States or their political subdivisions, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This notice will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The provisions included in this notice will not impact small entities to a greater extent than large entities. All participants will be required to fill out an application and provide documentary evidence of monthly production for at least the previous six months. The amount of work required of brokers will only increase slightly because the information to determine the eligibility of producers and trading activities is already collected by brokers specializing in hedge positions and the only additional burden is collecting the price for the sale of production and the electronic transmittal of this information. Therefore, this action is determined to be exempt from the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605) and no Regulatory Flexibility Analysis was prepared.

Federal Assistance Program

This program is not currently listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.450.

Executive Order 12372

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which require intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. See the Notice related to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, published at 48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983.

Executive Order 12988

This notice has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order No. 12988 on civil justice reform. The provisions of this notice will not have retroactive effect. The provisions of this notice will preempt State and local laws to the extent such State and local laws are inconsistent herewith. The administrative appeal provisions published at 7 CFR part 11 must be exhausted before action against RMA for judicial review may be brought.

Environmental Evaluation

This action is not expected to have any significant impact on the quality of the human environment, health, and safety. Therefore, neither an

Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is needed.

Background

Section 191 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot program for one or more agricultural commodities to determine the feasibility of the use of futures and options as risk management tools to protect producers from fluctuations in price, yield and income. Accordingly, the Secretary has directed the RMA to develop the DOPP.

The intent of this notice is to solicit public comments on DOPP. DOPP will not be published as a proposed or final rule unless the program is offered to all producers on a nationwide basis. DOPP will be in effect when applications and contracts are made available by RMA and producers are provided actual notice of availability.

DOPP is intended to offer a risk management tool to dairy producers to offset the unprecedented price volatility, the elimination of price supports, and the current unavailability of production insurance. DOPP will be offered on a pilot basis to determine the feasibility of using commodity futures and options markets.

The program represents a joint initiative between RMA and the private sector. DOPP was first proposed to RMA by the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange (CSCE). During the development of this program, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) provided additional recommendations. If successful, the educational benefits of DOPP will prepare producers to manage their price risk independently through the commodities futures and options markets.

DOPP is scheduled for initial implementation in thirty-six counties (six counties in each of six states). The program will be available in those states and counties as determined by RMA. The participation limit per county is set at 150 producers, subject to adjustments as described below. Counties with a higher number of participants signing-up will have participants selected through a lottery. Applicants who miss the opportunity to participate the first time the program is offered will get preference the next round. When a county has fewer than the maximum number of participants, the excess program vacancies will be pooled and distributed among counties where more than the maximum number has signed up. Producers wishing to participate in the program must fill out an application (Form CCC–320).

The program will last six months for each round of participants. For example, if registration and required training take place in December, the producer would begin buying options in January. The participant would be required to take options positions at least two months in the future to ensure some time in the position to allow for the educational benefits for the participant. Therefore, the producer would purchase options on the Basic Formula Price (BFP) futures for any of the months from April through September.

In order to introduce the new trading volume on to the markets slowly, each round of participants will commence trading at different times by state. RMA will also consider other phase-in ideas.

The two exchanges where the BFP futures and put options are currently available are the CSCE and the CME. The contracts on the two exchanges differ with regard to quantity. Under the program, a participating producer will be permitted to purchase contracts to hedge between 200,000 and 600,000 pounds of milk over a six-month period. Producers will be required to submit documentation supporting their operation's production of at least 200,000 pounds of milk over a six-month period.

RMA will enter into contracts with producers and brokers who elect to participate in DOPP.

Notice: The terms and provisions for the DOPP Producer Contract are as follows: United States Department of Agriculture, Risk Management Agency, Dairy Options Pilot Program Contract.

Participation in the Dairy Options Pilot Program is voluntary. Neither the United States, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Risk Management Agency, the Department of Agriculture, nor any other Federal agency is authorized to guarantee that participants in this pilot program will be better or worse off financially as a result of participation in the pilot program than the producer would have been if the producer had not participated in the pilot program.

1. Definitions

Application. Form CCC–320 that is required to be completed and signed by the producer before the producer is eligible to participate in this program.

Basic formula price. The price established by the Department of Agriculture, and provided to the marketing order administrators to be used to set regional minimum prices, used in calculating the gains or losses under a put option.

Broker. A broker or brokerage firm registered under the Commodities Exchange Act that has entered into an agreement with RMA to participate in the program.

CME. Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

CSCE. Coffee, Sugar, and Cocoa Exchange.

Eligible markets. Commodity futures and options markets designated as contract markets under the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*).

Exercise. The action taken by the holders of a put option on a futures contract if they wish to sell the underlying futures contract.

Expiration Date. The last date on which the put option may be exercised.

Futures contract. A contract to buy or sell a commodity on an eligible market at some point in the future.

Open outcry. Method of public auction required to make bids and offers in the trading pits, or rings, of commodity exchanges.

Out-of-the-money. Put option whose strike price is less than the underlying futures contract price.

Premium. The price of a put option determined by open outcry. The premium does not include related brokerage commission fees.

Producer. An individual, entity, or joint operation, which as owner, operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, is entitled to share in the production available for marketing from the farm, or share in the proceeds thereof.

Program. The Dairy Options Pilot Program.

Put Option. A contract traded on eligible markets that gives the buyer the right to sell the underlying futures contract at the strike price on or before the expiration date.

RMA. Risk Management Agency, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Sale. Transfer of title through the selling of the value of the put option.

Settlement price. The price of a specific put option as published by the exchange on which that contract trades at the end of each day's trading.

Strike price. The price at which the holders of a put option may choose to sell the underlying futures contract.

2. Eligibility

(a) To be eligible for any benefits under this contract, a producer must:

(1) Be eligible for a production flexibility contract, a marketing assistance loan or any other assistance under the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996;

(2) Volunteer to participate in this program;

(3) Operate a farm located in a county selected for the pilot program; and

(4) Have documented production history of at least 200,000 pounds over the most recent six months.

(b) This program is available to producers in states and counties as designated by RMA.

3. Responsibilities

(a) Producers who elect to participate in the program agree:

(1) To attend not less than one training session conducted by RMA to educate the producer on the program's operation and the use of put options.

(2) To buy put options on a minimum of 200,000 pounds of milk on an eligible market, through an eligible broker, at some time over the first two months of the program's six-month duration beginning on the date the producer attends a training session;

(3) That put options on no more than 200,000 pounds of milk will be purchased for any one month under this program;

(4) That the put options will be purchased at least two months before the put options expire.

(5) That the put options will be purchased at a strike price that is at least 25 cents out of the money;

(6) That no put options will be sold or exercised before four weeks prior to the expiration date. (The producer may sell or exercise options purchased under this program at any time over the four weeks leading up to the expiration date.) If the producer exercises the put option and holds the futures contract, the producer assumes the risk of any losses; and

(7) The producer shall keep detailed records of each transaction including the purchase date and cost of each put option, the expiration date and month of the put options, the producer's cash market price for milk over the period of participation in the program, the difference between the cash market price and the BFP over the six-month duration of the program, whether the options were sold or exercised and, if sole or exercised, the date, and price of the futures contract on the date of sale or exercise.

(c) A producer must establish an account with a broker to participate in the program.

4. Costs

(a) The producer will pay 20 percent of the premium of each put option.

(b) RMA shall pay transactions costs equal to $30 per round turn and 80 percent of the premium.

(c) The broker will charge the producer's account for 20 percent of the premium per put option, and the transaction costs and the balance of the premium will be billed to RMA.

5. Restrictions and limitations

(a) Except as stated herein, total program participation will be limited to 150 producers per county. If more participants are enrolled than the county limit, a lottery will be held by RMA to determine participants within a county. If fewer than 150 participants are enrolled in a county, the number of unfilled participation slots will be pooled and redistributed over counties where enrollment exceeds 150.

(b) The producer will be able to order put options from a broker after:

(1) Providing the broker with a completed copy of the application;

(2) Providing marketing receipts of the producer's monthly production for the most recent six month period; and

(3) The broker has received verification from RMA of the producer's selection as a program participant.

(c) If a producer who has participated in the program is not in compliance with the provisions of this contract, the producer will be required to repay any premiums paid by RMA on behalf of the producer, in addition to any damages determined by RMA.

(d) No put options purchased through this program shall be purchased at a premium that is more than 160 percent of the previous day's settlement premium.

6. Other

(a) The National Futures Association, on behalf of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, maintains a current listing of brokers and brokerage firms who are licensed to conduct futures-related business. However, only those brokers who have entered into an agreement with RMA will be eligible to trade put options under this program. To obtain a list of brokers approved by RMA, contact RMA at (202) 720–0191.

(b) To assist in the evaluation of the program, producers participating in the program may be asked to complete entry and exit surveys by RMA. While completion of these surveys is voluntary, producers are encouraged to do so in order that an accurate assessment may be made of this program's overall effectiveness.

(c) There may be tax consequences with respect to participation in this program. Producers interested in participating in the program who have questions regarding the tax issues associated with this program should seek the advice of a competent tax advisor who is familiar with put options.

(d) RMA is required to report all program payments issued on behalf of producers to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). All premiums that are paid by RMA on behalf of producers participating in this program shall be reported to the IRS for the year of participation.

Notice: The terms and conditions for the DOPP broker agreement are as follows: United States Department of Agriculture, Risk Management Agency, Broker Agreement for the Dairy Options Pilot Program.

1. Definitions.

Application. Form CCC–320 that is required to be completed and signed by the producer before the producer is eligible to participate in this program.

Basic formula price. The price established by the Department of Agriculture, and provided to the marketing order administrators to be used to set regional minimum prices, used in calculating the gains or losses under a put option.

Broker. A broker or brokerage firm registered under the Commodities Exchange Act that has entered into an agreement with RMA to participate in the program.

CME. Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

CSCE. Coffee, Sugar, and Cocoa Exchange.

Eligible markets. Commodity futures and options markets designated as contract markets under the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*).

Exercise. The action taken by the holders of a put option on a futures contract if they wish to sell the underlying futures contract.

Expiration Date. The last date on which the put option may be exercised.

Futures contract. A contract to buy or sell a commodity on an eligible market at some point in the future.

Open outcry. Method of public auction required to make bids and offers in the trading pits, or rings, of commodity exchanges.

Out-of-the-money. Put option whose strike price is less than the underlying futures contract price.

Premium. The price of a put option determined by open outcry. The premium does not include related brokerage commission fees. The premium is the maximum amount of potential loss to which the put option buyer may be subject.

Producer. An individual, entity, or joint operation, which as owner, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, is entitled to share in the production available for marketing from the farm, or share in the proceeds thereof.

Program. The Dairy Options Pilot Program.

Put Option. A contract traded on eligible markets that gives the buyer the right to sell the underlying futures contract at the strike price on or before the expiration date.

RMA. Risk Management Agency, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Round turn. The broker's service in transacting a single put option consisting of consultation services and the purchase and liquidation (sale or exercise) of a put option, including the subsequent sale of the underlying futures position if the put option is exercised.

Sale. Transfer of title through the selling of the value of the put option.

Settlement price. The price of a specific put option as published by the exchange on which that contract trades at the end of each day's trading.

Strike Price. The price at which the holders of a put option may choose to sell the underlying futures contract.

2. Eligibility

(a) To be eligible for trade options under this agreement, a broker must:

(1) Be properly licensed and in good standing with the National Futures Association;

(2) Volunteer to participate in this program; and

(3) Execute this agreement and comply with all its terms and conditions.

3. Responsibilities

(a) Brokers who elect to participate in the program agree to enforce the following program requirements with respect to any producer participating in the program who might use the broker's services:

(1) To buy put options on a minimum of 200,000 pounds of milk on an eligible market at some time over the first two months of the program's six-month duration beginning on the date the producer attends a training session conducted by RMA;

(2) That put options on no more than 200,000 pounds of milk shall be purchased for any one month under this program;

(3) That put options will be purchased at least two months before the put options expire;

(4) That the put options will be purchased at a strike price that is at least 25 cents out of the money; and

(5) No put options will be sold or exercised before four weeks prior to the expiration date. The producer may sell or exercise options purchased under this program at any time over the four weeks leading up to the expiration date.

(b) Brokers who participate in the program must collect from the producer:

(1) A signed copy of the application (Form CCC–320);

(2) Marketing receipts of the production history of the producer for at least the most recent 6 month period; and

(3) The cash market price for the producer's production at the time of each order and liquidation.

(c) Broker's should not accept applications from any producer whose marketing receipts do not evidence production of at least 200,000 pounds over the most recent six months.

(d) The broker must keep detailed records of each transaction including:

(1) The purchase date and premium for each put option;

(2) The expiration date and month for each put option;

(3) The producer's cash market price for the production at the time of each order and liquidation;

(4) The difference between the cash market price and the BFP over the six month duration of the program; and

(5) Whether the options are sold or exercised and, if sold or exercised, the date and price of the futures contract on the date of sale or exercise.

(f) The broker must transmit to RMA, through electronic data transmission, the information contained on the application and information specified in subsection (f). Brokers certify that systems used to transmit data will be Year 2000 compliant, i.e., be able to accurately process date/time data (including, but not limited to, calculating, comparing, and sequencing) from, into, and between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and the years 1999 and 2000 and leap year calculations, and to properly exchange date/time data with other information technology. Data transmission requirements and Year 2000 compliancy guidelines are available upon request.

(g) The broker can not conduct any trades under this program on behalf of any producer until notified by RMA that the producer has been accepted into the program.

4. Costs

(a) The broker will receive a transaction fee of $30 per round turn from RMA. Any transactions costs agreed upon between the broker and a producer in excess of $30 will be the sole responsibility of the producer and not of RMA.

(b) The broker will charge the producer's account for 20 percent of the premium per put option. The 20 percent of the transaction for which the producer is responsible is the sole responsibility of the producer and not of RMA.

(c) The broker will bill the transaction costs and the balance of the premium to RMA.

5. Restrictions and Limitations

(a) If a broker participating in the program through this agreement is not in compliance with the provisions of this agreement, the broker will be required to repay any transactions costs on the put options subsidized by RMA and traded by the broker under the program, in addition to any damages suffered by RMA.

(c) No put options purchased through this program shall be purchased at a premium that is more than 160 percent of the previous day's settlement premium.

6. Other

(a) To assist in the evaluation of the program, brokers participating in the program may be asked to complete entry and exit surveys by RMA. While completion of these surveys is voluntary, brokers are encouraged to do so in order that an accurate assessment may be made of this program's overall effectiveness.

(b) RMA is required to report all program payments issued on behalf of producers to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). All premiums that are earned by producers participating in this program shall be reported to the IRS for the year of participation.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on December 29, 1997.

Garland Westmoreland,

Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency.

[FR Doc. 97–34189 Filed 12–31–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120497B]

Marine Mammals; Environmental Assessment on Preventing California Sea Lion Foraging and Predation on Salmonids at the Willamette Falls, Oregon

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability and finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) that examines the