

upon request for verification of the HACCP system. However, it is the Agency's intent to generate its own records of its verification tasks and results rather than duplicate the records of the establishment.

The paperwork requirements of these regulations, records and plans, represent an alternative to the previous process of inspection. The industry's documentation of its processes, first in a plan and thereafter in a continuous record of process performance, is a more effective food safety approach than the less systematic generation of information by plant employees and inspectors. It gives inspectors a much broader picture of production than they can generate on their own and gives them time to perform higher priority tasks. At the same time, it gives the managers a better view of their own process and more opportunity to adjust it to prevent safety defects. As a result, managers and inspectors will use their time more effectively. Moreover, any increased paperwork burden will be offset by a reduction in the number of face-to-face contacts between management and the inspectors.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .1126685 hours per response.

Respondents: Meat and poultry establishments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,374.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 9513.7803.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 7,904,222 hours.

(Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

Copies of this information collection assessment and comments can be obtained from Lee Puricelli, Paperwork Specialist, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 300 12th Street SW, Room 109, Washington, DC 20250-3700, (202) 720-0346.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 those who are to respond, including through use of appropriate automated,

electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 12, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of FY 1998 Emerging Markets Program and Solicitation of Private Sector Proposals

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of FY 1998 emerging markets program and solicitation of private sector proposals.

SUMMARY: The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) invites proposals for using technical assistance to promote the export of, and improve the market access for, U.S. agricultural products to emerging markets in fiscal year (FY) 1998 under the Emerging Markets Program (the Program). The Program is authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended (the Act). Proposals will be considered under this announcement from any private agricultural or agribusiness organization, with certain restrictions as indicated below. Program funds available for FY 1998 under this notice are approximately \$5 million. All agricultural products except tobacco are eligible for consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: It is strongly recommended that any organization considering applying to the Program for FY 1998 funding assistance obtain a copy of the 1998 Program Guidelines. The Guidelines contain additional information, including details of project budgets and certain funding limitations that must be taken into account in the preparation of proposals. Requests for Program Guidelines and additional information may be obtained from and applications submitted to: Emerging Markets Office, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 6506 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1032, Fax: (202) 690-4369. The Guidelines are also available on the FAS Home Page on the Internet: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/em-markets/em-markets.html>.

Program Definitions

The purpose of Program is to assist U.S. organizations, public and private, to improve market access, development and promotion of U.S. agricultural products in low to middle income countries that offer promise of emerging market opportunities in the near- to medium-term. This is to be accomplished by providing U.S. technical assistance through projects and activities in those emerging markets.

The Act defines an emerging market as any country that the Secretary of Agriculture determines:

- (1) Is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of the economy of the country; and
- (2) has the potential to provide a significant market for United States agricultural commodities or products of United States agricultural commodities.

Because funds are limited and the range of potential emerging market countries is world wide, priority is given to proposals which focus on those countries with (1) per capita income less than \$8,355 (the food aid per capital income cut-off figure of OECD's Development Assistance Committee); and (2) population greater than 1 million.

Priorities and Determining Factors

The underlying premise of the Emerging Markets Program is that there are distinctive characteristics of emerging agricultural markets that necessitate or benefit significantly from U.S. governmental assistance before the private sector moves to develop these markets through normal corporate or trade promotional activities. The emphasis is on market access opportunities, with funding provided for successful activities on a project-by-project basis. The Program complements the efforts of other FAS marketing programs. Once a market access issue has been addressed by this Program, further market development activities may be considered under other programs such as GSM-102 or GSM-103 credit guarantee programs, the Market Access Program (MAP), or the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD). Ineligible activities include in-store promotions, restaurant promotions, advertising, and branded promotions.

For countries deemed "emerging markets," the following criteria will be used to determine the suitability of projects for funding by the Emerging Markets Program:

1. Low U.S. market share and significant market potential.

- Is there a significant lag in U.S. market share of a specific commodity in a given country or countries?

- Is there an identifiable obstacle or competitive disadvantage facing U.S. exporters (e.g., competitor financing, subsidy, competitor market development activity) or systemic obstacle to imports of U.S. products (e.g., inadequate distribution, infrastructure impediments, insufficient information, lack of financing options or resources)?

- What is the potential of a project to generate a significant increase in U.S. agricultural exports in the near- to medium-term? (Estimates or projections of trade benefits to commodity exports, and the basis for evaluating such, must be included in proposals submitted to the Program.)

2. Recent change in a market.

- Is there, for example, a change in a sanitary or phytosanitary trade barrier; a change in an import regime or the lifting of a trade embargo; a shift in the political or financial situation in a country?

In order to qualify for Emerging Markets Program funding, proposals must also include *cost-sharing*: the willingness of private agribusiness to commit its own funds along with those of the Program to seek export business in an emerging market. No proposal will be considered without the element of cost-sharing. The Emerging Markets Program is intended to complement, not supplant, the efforts of the U.S. private sector. The percentage of private funding proposed for a project will therefore be a critical factor in determining which proposals are funded under the Program. While no minimum or maximum is specified, the absolute amount of private sector funding proposed may also affect the decision to fund a proposal. The type of cost-sharing provided by private industry is also not specified; it may be professional time of staff assigned to the project or actual cash invested in the proposed project. However, proposals in which private industry is willing to commit actual funds, rather than contributing such in-kind items as staff resources, will be given priority consideration.

Additional criteria to be considered in approving projects are outlined under "Applications" below.

Funding of Proposals

Funding for technical assistance projects is made on the basis of proposals to the Emerging Markets Office. In general, each proposal submitted in response to this announcement will compete against all

such proposals received under the same announcement. Proposals will be judged not only on their ability to provide benefits to the organization receiving Emerging Markets Program funds, but which also represent the broader interests of the industry which that organization represents.

The limited funds of the Emerging Markets Program and the range of emerging markets world wide in which the funds may be used preclude EMO from approving large budgets for single projects. The Program is intended to provide appropriate USDA assistance to projects which also have a significant amount of financial contributions from other sources, especially U.S. private industry. There is no minimum or maximum amount set for EMO-funded projects; however, most are funded at the level of less than \$500,000 and for a duration on one year or less. Funding is normally made available on a cost-reimbursable basis.

Multi-year Proposals. These may be considered in the context of a strategic plan and detailed plan of implementation. Funding in such cases is normally provided one year at a time, with commitments beyond the first year subject to interim evaluation.

Projects Already in Progress. Funding may be considered for technical assistance projects that have already begun with the support and financial assistance of a private entity, and for which government funding for continuation of the project is requested. Such proposals must meet the criteria of the Emerging Markets Program, including cost-sharing for the portion of the project for which government funding is requested.

(Exception. In addition to the approximately \$5 million made available through this announcement for competitive proposals, some project activities may qualify for funding under one of two separate funds administered by the Emerging Markets Office: the Technical Issues Resolution Fund, and the Quick Response Market Fund. Because of the time-sensitive nature of these funds, proposals funded from these sources may be approved and funded at any time, provided the basic requirements of the Emerging Markets program and the specific prerequisites of the funds are met in each case. For details concerning these funds, see the Program Guidelines.)

Project Reports

Results of all projects supported financially by the Program must be reported in a performance report to the Emerging Markets Office. Because public funds are used to support the

project, these reports will be made available to the public by the Emerging Markets Office.

Eligible Organizations, Activities

Any United States agricultural and/or agribusiness organization, university, or state department of agriculture, is eligible to participate in the Program, with certain limitations. Priority will be given to those proposals that include significant support and involvement by private industry.

Proposals from research and consulting organizations will be considered if they provide evidence of substantial participation by U.S. industry.

Under the Program, U.S. organizations may seek funding to address market-specific issues and undertake activities not suitable for funding under FAS market promotion programs, e.g., the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program and the Market Access Program (MAP), including the following:

- Responding to new or changed market opportunities requiring a rapid response (through the Quick Response Marketing Fund);
- Addressing food safety and regulation issues (through the Technical Issues Resolution Fund);
- Conducting sectorial assessments for trade and investment, orientation visits, feasibility studies, or market research for markets not already serviced by other FAS marketing programs, or for products for niche markets even though serviced by other FAS marketing programs;
- Undertaking cross-commodity activities focusing on problems, e.g., distribution, which affect more than one industry.

DATES: Proposals for FY 1998 funding must be received in the Emerging Markets Office not later than Monday, April 20, 1998. Funding decisions are anticipated within approximately 90 days of this deadline. No proposal received after the April 20 deadline will be considered, regardless of the circumstances.

Applications

To assist FAS in making determinations under the Program, FAS recommends that all applications contain complete information about the proposed project and that the applications not be longer than ten (10) pages. The recommended information includes: name of person/organization submitting proposal; date of proposal; organization affiliation and address; telephone and fax numbers; full title of proposal; precis of the proposal,

including objectives, proposed activities, benefits to U.S. agricultural exports, target country/countries for proposed activities, projected starting date for project, and funding amount requested; summary and detailed description of proposed project; statement of problem (specific trade constraint) to be addressed through the proposed project; benefits to U.S. agricultural exports; agricultural trade data for target country/countries, including existing percentage of U.S. export market share; information on whether similar activities are or have previously been funded in target country/countries (e.g., under MAP and/or FMD programs); a clearly stated explanation as to why participating organization(s) are unlikely to carry out activities without Federal financial assistance; time line(s) for project implementation; detailed project budget, including other sources of funding for the project and contributions from participating organizations (additional requirements are contained in the Program Guidelines); Federal tax ID number of the responsible organization. Qualifications of applicant(s) should be included, as an attachment.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on February 11, 1998.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. 98-4169 Filed 2-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Cottonwood Coal Lease Tract, UTU-68012; Manti-La Sal National Forest, Emery County, Utah

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a third-party Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will direct preparation of a Third-Party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental and human effects of proposed actions to offer the Cottonwood Coal Lease Tract for competitive bidding in accordance with 43 CFR part 3425. As the surface management agency, the Forest Service will be the lead agency for preparation of the EIS and the Bureau of Land Management will be a joint lead agency. The Office of Surface Mining and Bureau of Reclamation will also participate as cooperating agencies.

The coal lease tract, as delineated by the Tract Delineation Team, encompasses 9,243.87 acres of Federal coal lands on the Manti-La Sal National Forest as follows:

T. 17 S., R. 6 E., SLM,
Section 2, SW4;
Section 3, lots 1-12, SE4;
Section 4, lots 1-2, S2NE4, SE4;
Section 9, E2, E2W2;
Section 10, lots 1-8, E2;
Section 11, All;
Section 12, W2W2;
Section 13, W2W2;
Section 14, lots 1-4, E2, NW4;
Section 15, lots 1-12, NE4;
Section 16, NE4NW4;
Section 20, E2E2;
Section 21, All;
Section 22, All;
Section 23; lots 1-12, NE4;
Section 24, W2W2;
Section 25, N2NW4;
Section 26, N2NE4, W2SW4NE4, NW4, N2SW4, W2NW4SE4;
Section 27, N2, N2S2;
Section 28, All;
Section 29, E2;
Section 32, E2;
Section 33; All.

(Additions and/or deletions to the delineated tract may be considered as alternatives to the proposed action, to be developed and analyzed based on issues and management needs.)

PacifiCorp applied to the Bureau of Land Management for the lease to obtain additional coal reserves to increase the production life of their Cottonwood/Wilberg/Trail Mountain mine complex. The tract lies west and north of the boundary of the existing approved permit area for the Trail Mountain Mine. If PacifiCorp obtains the tract, it would be mined by longwall and room-and-pillar methods through underground workings in the existing permit area. Existing portal facilities in Cottonwood/Wilberg/Trail Mountain mine complex would be used. If another company obtains the tract, it is most likely that new portal facilities would be required in Cottonwood Canyon, north of the existing Trail Mountain Mine facility. The underground mining methods and layout would be similar. The EIS would consider the effects of both scenarios, the No Action Alternative, and other alternatives to be developed after completion of project scoping.

AGENCY DECISIONS: In accordance with the Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1975, which amended the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, must decide whether or not to consent to leasing by the Bureau of Land Management and identify special coal

lease stipulations needed to protect non-mineral resources.

In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Utah State Director of the Bureau of Land Management must decide whether or not to offer the tract for competitive leasing and under what terms, conditions, and stipulations.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this notice should be received on or before March 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be addressed to Dale Harber or Aaron Howe, Manti-La Sal National Forest, phone (435) 637-2817.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This EIS will tier to the Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Manti-La Sal Forest Plan provides the overall guidance (Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Management Area Direction) to achieve the Desired Future Condition for the area being analyzed, and contains specific management area prescriptions for the entire Forest. The proposed lease tract is available for further consideration for coal leasing. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have determined that data are available to meet the Data Adequacy Standards for Federal Coal Leasing, Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region.

Issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the analysis will be determined through public scoping. The major issues are expected to include the socioeconomic benefits of mining; the potential impacts of underground mining and mining-induced subsidence to surface and ground water, vegetation, wildlife, cultural/paleontological resources, range improvements, and other land uses; the potential for impacts on the Joes Valley Dam; and the potential impacts of any new surface facilities to the Forest and human environments.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final