

Title: RD Form 410-8, "Applicant Reference Letter".

OMB Number: 0575-0091.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1999.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The rural housing loan program under Section 502 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, provides eligible persons who live in rural areas with an opportunity to own adequate but modest, decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings and related facilities. Also, the Section 504 loan/grant programs assist eligible very low-income owner/occupants to repair or rehabilitate single family homes in rural areas. Applicants are required to furnish information concerning their credit history to RHS when they apply for assistance. In both programs, RD Form 410-8 is used to obtain information about an applicant's credit history that might not appear on a credit report. It is used to document an ability to handle credit effectively for applicants who have not used sources of credit that appear on a credit report. It also provides a mechanism for following up on repayment history for debts reported by the applicant on the application that do not appear on the credit report. This information is used by the Loan Originator serving the area in which the applicant or borrower will live to determine whether the applicant's credit history meets the Agency criteria. In addition to supplementing or verifying other debts when a credit report is limited and unavailable to determine the applicant's eligibility and credit worthiness, the RD Form 410-8 is used because credit reports are not always used when an applicant/borrower lives in a remote area; therefore, the form is widely used by the Agency to obtain credit information.

RHS must, by law, make available to the applicant, upon request, the source of information used to make an adverse decision. Individual references may be solicited with the clear understanding that if the information is used to deny credit, the information will be made available to the applicant upon request. If this information was not collected, RHS would be unable to evaluate an applicant's credit history.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 28,523.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 28,238 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Brenda Frost, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0037.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS's 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Brenda Frost, Regulation and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0742. 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: September 2, 1999.

Alan Stephens,

Acting Administrator Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 99-24320 Filed 9-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Texas A&M University; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 99-012. *Applicant:* Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3122. *Instrument:* Densitometer and Balance. *Manufacturer:* Rubotherm, Germany.

Intended Use: See notice at 64 FR 35126, June 30, 1999.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides: (1) Density measurements for corrosive materials using a magnetic suspension balance for weighing the sample with a mechanism located outside the measuring chamber and (2) a load capacity of 100 gm and resolution of 0.02 mg. A domestic manufacturer of similar equipment advised August 18, 1999 that (1) these capabilities are pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 99-24462 Filed 9-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091499A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (RDSAP).

DATES: This meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 4, 1999, and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October, 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Hood, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RDSAP will convene to review a stock assessment on the status of the red drum stocks in the Gulf of Mexico prepared by NMFS. The RDSAP will consider available information including, but not limited to, commercial and recreational catches, natural and fishing mortality estimates, recruitment, fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data, and data needs. These analyses will be used to determine the condition of the stocks and the levels of acceptable biological catch. The RDSAP may also review estimates of stock size (biomass at maximum sustainable yield) and minimum stock size thresholds. Currently it is illegal to harvest or possess red drum in Federal waters.

The conclusions of the RDSAP will be reviewed by the Council's Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee, and Red Drum Advisory Panel at meetings to be held in late October, 1999.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at 813-228-2815 by September 27, 1999.

Dated: September 14, 1999.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-24316 Filed 9-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Construction of Military Family Housing at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, CA

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental effects of the development of suitable and affordable housing for enlisted military personnel and their families assigned to installations in the San Diego region.

DATES: Two public scoping meetings will be held to receive oral and written comments on the scope of the EIS. The first meeting will be held on October 6, 1999, at the Serra High School located at 5156 Santo Road, San Diego, California. The second meeting will be held on October 13, 1999, at the Scripps Ranch High School located at 10410 Trenea Street, San Diego, California. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Regional Planning Team, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sheila Donovan (Code 04PLR.sd), Regional Planning Team, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, at telephone (619) 523-1253; fax (619) 532-3979; or e-mail at donovansm@efdswn.navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental effects of the development of suitable and affordable housing for enlisted military personnel and their families assigned to installations in the San Diego region. Navy is proposing the construction of up to 1600 MFH units and supporting infrastructure. The EIS will address alternative sites that meet MFH housing suitability factors. Currently, four possible sites on government property, all at MCAS Miramar, have been identified for study: (1) A 211 acre site located off Missile Road in the northwest portion of East MCAS Miramar; (2) a 268 acre site located in the southeast corner of East Miramar; (3) a 283 acre site located in the north central portion of East Miramar; and (4) a Main Station site of approximately 100 acres located in the northern portion of the Station adjacent to Miramar Road. While no suitable private sites have been identified based upon preliminary

real estate reviews, suitable private sites identified during the scoping process will be considered in the EIS. The EIS will also evaluate the No Action Alternative that would provide for no further construction of MFH.

Preliminary MFH justification studies for the San Diego area estimate the current MFH deficit to be about 2,400 units. Current projections show the MFH deficit substantially increasing through Fiscal Year 2004. However, because of constraints such as funding and land availability, it is unlikely that the Navy would be able to eradicate the shortfall through military construction.

The EIS will evaluate the environmental effects associated with each of the alternatives. Issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to: geology and soils; biological resources; water resources and hydrology; traffic; cultural resources; air quality; public services and utilities; land use and aesthetics; noise; socio-economics; public health and safety; hazardous materials and wastes; and environmental justice. The analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts. No decision to implement any alternative, including the No Action Alternative, will be made until the NEPA process is complete.

Two public scoping meetings will be held to receive oral and written comments on the scope of the EIS. A brief presentation describing the proposed action, potential alternatives, and the NEPA process will precede the public's opportunity to comment relating to the scope of the EIS. Navy and Marine Corps representatives will be available at this meeting to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern. Federal, state and local agencies, and any potentially affected Indian tribes as well as interested organizations and individuals, may take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that they believe should be addressed during the preparation of the EIS. Agencies and the public are invited and encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. Written comments regarding the scope of the EIS may also be submitted to Regional Planning Team, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190. To be most helpful, comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics that the commentator believes the EIS should address. Written comments must be postmarked no later than November 13, 1999.