

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marcia Moore, Peer Review Program Coordinator; Office of Scientific Quality Review; Agricultural Research Service, USDA; 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5142; Beltsville, Maryland; 20705. Telephone: (301) 504-4786, E-mail: www.osqr@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Scientific Peer Review of ARS Research Projects.

Type of Request: OMB approval to collect information from peer reviewers of ARS's research projects.

Abstract: The Office of Scientific Quality Review was established in September of 1999 in response to the requirements of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-185, 7 U.S.C. 7601 *et seq.*). The law included mandates to perform scientific peer reviews of all research activities conducted by the USDA (Sec. 103, Pub. L. 105-185, 7 U.S.C. 7613). The Office manages the ARS peer review system by centrally planning peer panel reviews for ARS research projects on a five-year cycle. Each set of reviews is assigned a chairperson to govern the review process.

The majority of the peer reviewers will be non-ARS scientists. Peer review Panels are convened to provide in-depth discussion and review of the research project plans. Each reviewer receives information on all of ARS research projects within the program the reviewer is assigned to. The number of projects to review varies by program.

Information to be obtained from the public includes: Confidentiality Agreement, Panelist Information, Peer Review of an ARS Research Project, Critique of ARS Research Project, Panelist Expense Report, and Panelist Invoice.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this data collection is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: Scientific experts, currently working in the same discipline as the research projects under review, will be selected to review research projects.

These experts are notable peers within and external to the ARS.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 120 peer reviewers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,168 hours.

Copies of Information: Copies of the information to be collected can be obtained from Marcia Moore, Peer Review Program Coordinator; Office of Scientific Quality Review; Agricultural Research Service, USDA; 5601

Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5142; Beltsville, Maryland; 20705.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency'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, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Marcia Moore, Peer Review Program Coordinator; Office of Scientific Quality Review; Agricultural Research Service, USDA; 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5142; Beltsville, Maryland; 20705. 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.

Signed February 14, 2000.

Edward Knipling,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

[FR Doc. 00-3919 Filed 2-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Research Service**

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion Office of Public Health and Science Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee: Notice of Availability of the Final Report, Public Meeting, and Public Comment Period

AGENCIES: Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (a) announce the availability of the final Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (the Committee) (b) solicit written comments on the final Report, and (c) provide notice of a public meeting to solicit oral comments on the Report. The meeting will be held at the Jefferson Auditorium of the South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW,

Washington, DC, near the Smithsonian Metro Station. No registration is required to attend the public meeting, but pre-registration is required to provide oral comments at the meeting.

DATES: (a) Written comments on the Committee Report can be submitted and must be received by the Agencies on or before March 15, 2000. (b) The public meeting to solicit oral comments on the Report will be held on March 10, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. E.S.T.

ADDRESSES: The final Report is available electronically and in hard copy; for availability and contact and meeting addresses, refer to Unit I. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shanthi Bowman, Ph.D., USDA, Agricultural Research Service, 10300 Baltimore Boulevard, Building 005, BARC-West, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350, (301) 504-0619; Carole Davis, M.S., R.D., USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, 1120 20th St., NW, Suite 200 North Lobby, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 418-2312; or Kathryn McMurry, M.S., Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, Room 738-G, 200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 205-4872.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information****A. How Can I Get a Copy of the Report?**

Electronically, the Report can be downloaded from the Internet in .PDF file format at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/dgac>. Hard copies of the Report are available for review at the Reference Section of the National Agricultural Library located at 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, MD, 20705. The telephone number is (301) 504-5755.

B. How and to Whom Do I Submit Written Comments?

You may submit written comments to Shanthi Bowman, Ph.D., USDA, Agricultural Research Service, BHNRC/CNRG, 10300 Baltimore Boulevard, Building 005, Room 125, BARC-West, Beltsville, MD, 20705-2350, (301)-504-0619, and Kathryn McMurry, M.S., DHHS, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, Room 738-G, 200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 205-4872.

C. How Do I Register To Present Oral Comments?

Registration is required to provide oral input at the public meeting on

March 10, 2000. Requests to provide oral input at the meeting should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. E.S.T., March 7, 2000, to Kathryn McMurtry, M.S., DHHS, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, (202) 205-4872 (phone), (202) 205-0463 (fax). Name of the presenter, organization affiliation (if applicable), source of funding, and contact phone number are required for registration. Registration is free. One person per organization will be selected on first come basis. Presentations should be limited to three (3) minutes or less. Registration will also be accepted at the meeting, if time slots are available.

II. Background

Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, published jointly by USDA and HHS, provides recommendations based on current scientific knowledge about how dietary intake may reduce risk for major chronic diseases and how a healthful diet may improve nutrition. The guidelines form the basis of Federal food, nutrition education, and information programs. First published in 1980, *Dietary Guidelines* were revised in 1985, 1990, and 1995. Public Law 101-445, Section 3 requires review and revision as necessary of the *Dietary Guidelines* every five years. This legislation also requires review by the Secretaries of USDA and HHS of all Federal dietary guidance-related publications for the general public. The fifth edition of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* is scheduled for release in 2000.

The 11 member Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee was jointly appointed by the Secretaries of USDA and HHS in 1998, to review the fourth edition of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* to determine if changes are needed, and if so, to recommend suggestions for revision. The Committee, in the first meeting held in September 1998, determined that a revision was warranted. The Committee has submitted its report to the Secretaries of Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services. This report will serve as the basis for the fifth edition of *Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

Dated: February 14, 2000.

Eileen T. Kennedy,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, Department of Agriculture.

Julie Paradis,

Deputy Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture.

Nicole Lurie,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the National Forests in Mississippi

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of extension of public scoping period.

SUMMARY: On December 14, 1999, the Forest Service published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the revision of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the National Forests in Mississippi (64 FR 69686-69691, December 14, 1999). The December 14th notice initiated a 60 day public scoping period inviting written comments from interested and affected citizens to assist in identifying and developing recommendations on the management of the National Forests in Mississippi. The agency now gives notice of an extension of the initial scoping period for Forest Plan revision. Originally, the scoping period was scheduled to close on Monday, February 14, 2000, the agency has extended the initial public scoping period to March 31, 2000.

DATE: Public comment began on December 14, 1999, and will end on March 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Forest Supervisor, National Forests in Mississippi, 100 West Capitol St., Suite 1141, Jackson, MS 39269.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Long, Land Management Planning Revision Team Leader, (601) 965-4391.

Responsible Official:

The Regional Forester for the Southern Region located at 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30367.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public scoping period originally began

on December 14, 1999. The agency hosted twenty-three public meetings around the state of Mississippi during January 2000 and attended numerous other meetings hosted by various interest groups and organizations to solicit public comments. Based upon requests received from the public and the agency's desire to foster and promote a collaborative planning effort the initial public scoping period has been extended to March 31, 2000.

Public participation and involvement will be encouraged throughout the Forest Plan revision process. The intent of the March 31st deadline for initial public scoping comments is to enable the agency to formally shift its efforts from gathering issues and comments and begin the process of addressing the specific issues that have been raised. Immediately upon close of the initial public scoping period the agency will focus efforts on understanding and clarifying the issues received during scoping. The agency will invite and encourage public participation in this next phase of the revision process.

The responsible official is Elizabeth Estill, Regional Forester, Southern Region, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30367.

Dated: February 11, 2000.

David G. Holland,

Deputy Regional Forester, Natural Resources.

[FR Doc. 00-3884 Filed 2-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Change to Title of Position Authorized to Sign Conveyance Documents for the Eastern Region

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The former title of Director of Lands, Watershed, and Minerals Management, Eastern Region, has been changed to Land and Minerals Program Leader, Eastern Region (Region 9). This change conforms the position title with the new organizational structure approved by the Chief of the Forest Service on March 20, 1997. This notice serves to advise the public that under the new title of Land and Minerals Program Leader, the incumbent has authorization to sign legal documents on behalf of the United States. This signing authority applies to all conveyance documents; that is, deeds and other legal instruments as specified in the Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5400.