

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Public Comment

AGENCY: National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a report for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, USDA has issued the task force "Report on the National Agricultural Library 2001" for public comment. Comments received will be reviewed by the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Economics Advisory Board and considered in the development of specific recommendations to the Department for the future management of the National Agricultural Library.

DATES: Submit comments September 16, 2002. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the USDA is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Dr. Susan McCarthy, Technical Information Specialist, USDA, ARS, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Room 203, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351. Submit electronic comments to comments@nal.usda.gov. Copies of the Report can be obtained through the NAL Home Page address: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/brp/> and are also available for on-site review in the Reading Room of the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan McCarthy, Phone: 301-504-5510, or FAX: 301-504-6951, or by E-mail: smccarth@nal.usda.gov, please reference this Notice in the subject line.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The task force "Report on the National Agricultural Library 2001" is being issued for a 30-day public comment period. The report represents the work of a task force to assess the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in pursuit of its legislated mandate to serve as the chief agricultural information resource of the United States ("Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990" codified at 7 USCS 3125a). The task force conducted an extensive study of the mission, management, programs and operations of the NAL. The study included stakeholder surveys, comparisons with other national library operations, and internal reviews. Through this report the task force laid the foundation for substantive recommendations to the Department for the long-term management of NAL, an important information resource for the food, fiber, and agriculture enterprise. Information received through the public comment process will assist the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEE Advisory Board) to develop recommendations for the Department of Agriculture to guide the future management of the NAL. The NAREEE Advisory Board is the official advisory board for USDA's Research, Extension, and Economics Mission Area and is able to provide consensus recommendations to the Department based on public input.

Specifically, USDA is seeking information through comments on the "Report of the National Agricultural Library 2001" regarding the preliminary recommendations issued in the Report. The recommendations relate to issues of: innovation in information services; organizational structure; planning and evaluation processes; and leadership. In addition, comments are sought on behalf of the comprehensive information support system needed for an efficient and robust food, fiber, and agriculture enterprise. Comments are sought on the need to create critical information services and programs not currently provided; or to cease redundant or nonessential services and programs. All responses to this notice will be summarized and provided to the NAREEE Advisory Board for consideration in the development of recommendations to the Department of

Agriculture. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Authority: 41 CFR Parts 101-6 and 102-3 Federal Advisory Committee Management; Final Rule.

Dated: August 8, 2002.

Caird E. Rexroad,

Acting Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-20881 Filed 8-15-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for Public Hearing on 2002—Crop Cane Sugar Marketing Allotments and Allocations

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity to request a public hearing.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is issuing this notice to advise sugarcane processors and growers that they may request a public hearing regarding 2002-crop cane State sugar marketing allotments and the allocation of cane State sugar marketing allotments to sugarcane processors under the Sugar Program. Sections 359c and 359d of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended by section 1403 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171), require that the Secretary shall make cane State sugar marketing allotments and the allocation of cane State sugar marketing allotments to sugarcane processors after a hearing, if requested by the affected sugarcane processors or growers. If such request is made by affected parties by August 20, 2002, CCC will conduct a hearing on August 29, 2002, at 10 a.m., in the Jefferson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of Agriculture South Building, 1400 Independence Ave, Washington, DC. CCC will publicly announce the hearing if one is requested. Sugarcane growers, processors, and refiners, sugar beet growers and processors, sugar users, and all other interested parties would be welcome to attend if such hearing is held. State cane sugar marketing allotments and their allocation to sugarcane processors and sugar beet processor allocations will be announced before October 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Please send hearing requests to Thomas Bickerton, Economic and Policy Analysis Staff, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Stop 0516, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0504. Phone: (202) 720-6733. Fax: (202) 690-1480. E-mail: Thomas.Bickerton@usda.gov.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 13, 2002.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-20928 Filed 8-13-02; 4:48 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss projects to fund this fiscal year. Agenda topics will include Project selection feedback, future project development and a public forum (question and answer session). The meeting is being held pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393). The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 27, 2002, 6:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ravalli County Administration Building, 215 S. 4th Street, Hamilton, Montana. Send written comments to Jeanne Higgins, District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870, by facsimile (406) 777-7423, or electronically to jmhiggins@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeanne Higgins, Stevensville District Ranger and Designated Federal Officer, Phone: (406) 777-5461.

Dated: August 9, 2002.

Lesley Thompson,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-20809 Filed 8-15-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on the following information collections for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 15, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4036, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202)720-9550. Fax: (202) 720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)]. This notice identifies information collections that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this collection of information 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 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 respondents, 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 F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Fax: (202) 720-4120.

- *Title:* 7 CFR Part 1789, Use of Consultants Funded by Borrowers.
- *OMB Control Number:* 0572-0115.
- *Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.
- *Abstract:* Section 18(c) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) authorizes RUS to use consultants voluntarily funded by borrowers for financial, legal, engineering, and other technical services. Consultants may be used to facilitate timely action on loan applications by borrowers for financial assistance and for approvals required by RUS, pursuant to the terms of outstanding loans, or otherwise. RUS may not require borrowers to fund consultants. The provisions of section 18(c) may be utilized only at the borrower's request.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response.

Respondents: Not for profit institutions; business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 12 hours.

- *Title:* Prospective Large Power Service.

- *OMB Control Number:* 0572-0001.

- *Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

- *Abstract:* The RUS makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to electric systems to provide and improve electric service in rural areas pursuant to the RE Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*). RUS electric borrowers often enter into special contracts with commercial and industrial consumers for the retail sale of electricity. These contracts typically require extensions to the borrower's electric system which may be financed with RUS loan funds, debt financing from another source, the borrower's own funds, sometimes called general funds, and/or funds provided by the consumer.

RUS review of these contracts is intended to protect the interests of the government as a secured lender and to foster the purposes of the RE Act. RUS Form 170, Prospective Large Power Service, provides RUS with information needed for this review.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.