

No Significant Impact. Any final action by USDA Rural Development related to the proposed proposal will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review procedures as prescribed by USDA Rural Development Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794).

Dated: September 6, 2007.

**Mark S. Plank,**

*Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA/Rural Development/Utilities Programs.*

[FR Doc. E7-17916 Filed 9-11-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### East Texas Electric Cooperative: Notice of Intent To Hold a Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Hold A Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency delivering the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities Programs, hereinafter referred to as Rural Development, intends to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financial assistance to East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC) of Nacogdoches, Texas, for the proposed construction of approximately 168 MW simple cycle combustion turbine generation station in Hardin County, Texas. ETEC is requesting USDA Rural Development to provide financial assistance for the proposal.

**DATES:** USDA Rural Development will hold a scoping meeting in an open house format in order to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of an EA. The meeting will be held on September 26, 2007, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hardin County Commissioners' Courtroom, 300 Monroe Street, Kountz, Texas 77625. Submit questions and comments in writing by October 26, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** To send comments or for further information, contact: Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571,

Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-1953, or e-mail:

*dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov*. An Alternative Evaluation/Site Selection Study will be available for public review at USDA Rural Development offices at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571; at the following Web site *http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** ETEC is constructing the Cypress Peaking Power Facility (CPPF), a 168 MW simple cycle combustion turbine generation station, in Hardin County, Texas. The project is located approximately 6 miles southeast of Kountze and one-half mile west of U.S. Highway 69/287, and will be adjacent to an existing Entergy electrical substation. Construction on the project is expected to commence in June 2008, with an expected completion date of May 2009. The generation facility will be constructed, owned, operated, and maintained by ETEC.

The generation units at the CPPF will consist of two (2) natural gas fired combustion turbines that have a net output of 84 MW each. The project will require the construction of a 1,200 foot 230 kV transmission line to interconnect with Entergy's existing Cypress substation. The output of the CPPF will be used to meet ETEC's power and energy requirements in east Texas, along with providing added reliability and stability to the region's power and transmission system.

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposal. Representatives from USDA Rural Development and ETEC will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss USDA Rural Development's environmental review process, describe the project, the purpose and need for the proposal, and discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept oral and written comments.

Comments received by the due date will be incorporated into the environmental analyses ETEC prepares and submits to USDA Rural Development for review. USDA Rural Development will use the environmental analyses to determine the significance of the impacts of the project and may adopt it as its EA of the project. USDA Rural Development's EA of the proposal would be available for review and comment for 30 days.

Should USDA Rural Development determine that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary, it will prepare a Finding of

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Dated: September 6, 2007.

**Mark S. Plank,**

*Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA/Rural Development/Utilities Programs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* International Trade Administration.

*Title:* Request for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments or Apparatus.

*Form Number(s):* ITA-338P.

*OMB Control Number:* 0625-0037.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.

*Burden Hours:* 130.

*Number of Respondents:* 65.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 2.

*Needs and Uses:* The Departments of Commerce and Homeland Security ("DHS") are required to determine whether non-profit institutions established for scientific or educational purposes are entitled to duty-free entry for scientific instruments that the institutions import under the Florence Agreement. Form ITA-338P enables: (1) DHS to determine whether the statutory eligibility requirements for the institution and the instrument are fulfilled, and (2) Commerce to make a comparison and finding as to the scientific equivalency of comparable instruments being manufactured in the United States. Without the collection of the information, DHS and Commerce would be unable to carry out the responsibilities assigned by law.

*Affected Public:* Federal, state or local government; not-for-profit institutions.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit, voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, fax number (202) 395-7285 or via the Internet at [David\\_Rostker@omb.eop.gov](mailto:David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: September 6, 2007.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E7-17920 Filed 9-11-07; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Submission for OMB Review;  
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Statement of Financial Interests, Regional Fishery Management Councils.

*Form Number(s):* NOAA Form 88-195.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0648-0192.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.

*Burden Hours:* 194.

*Number of Respondents:* 332.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 35 minutes.

*Needs and Uses:* Section 302(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that Council members appointed by the Secretary, Scientific and Statistical Committee members appointed by a Council, or individuals nominated by the Governor of a State for possible appointment as a Council member disclose their financial interest in any Council fishery. These interests include harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity that is being, or will be, undertaken within any fishery over which the Council concerned has jurisdiction.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* Annually and on occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.  
*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker,  
(202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395-7285, or [David\\_Rostker@omb.eop.gov](mailto:David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: September 6, 2007.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Census Bureau**

**Proposed Information Collection;  
Comment Request; Government  
Employment Forms**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Census Bureau.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration written comments must be submitted on or before November 13, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ellen Thompson, Chief, Employment Branch, Governments Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-6800 (301-763-1531) (or via the Internet at [ellen.ann.thompson@census.gov](mailto:ellen.ann.thompson@census.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**I. Abstract**

The Census Bureau plans to request clearance for the forms necessary to conduct the public employment program which consists of an annual collection of information and a quinquennial collection in a census environment in years ending in "2" or "7." During the upcoming two years, Census plans to conduct the 2008 and 2009 Annual Survey of Government Employment.

Under Title 13, Section 161, of the United States Code, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to conduct the public employment program, which collects and disseminates data by function for full-time and part-time employees, payroll, and number of part-time hours worked. The number and content of the data items collected are the same in the annual and census cycles.

The burden hours requested are based on the expected 2008 annual survey mail out of 18,160 forms.

The state and local government statistics produced, covered national, state, and local aggregates on various functions with comparative detail for individual governments for the pay period that includes March 12. The public employment program provides the only comprehensive count of employees and payrolls in state and local governments. Government employees constitute approximately one-sixth of the entire U.S. workforce and their salaries are a major source of personal income.

The Census Bureau provides this employment data to the Bureau of Economic Analysis for constructing the functional payrolls in the public sector Gross Domestic Product, payroll being the single largest component of current operations. Other government users include the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as a benchmark for its monthly employment programs, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to establish payroll guidelines for local public housing authorities.

The public employment program has increasingly been used as the base for reimbursable programs of other Federal agencies such as: (1) The government portion of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey commissioned by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to provide timely, comprehensive information about health care use and costs in the United States, and (2) The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) survey Criminal Justice Expenditure and Employment Survey