

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 Marketing Service

[Docket No. STD-96-005]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1955 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection in support of the Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements Under Regulations Governing the Plant Variety Protection Act, 1970 (PVPA) (7 CFR Part 97).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 22, 1996.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Marsha A. Stanton, Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, Science & Technology Division, AMS, USDA, NAL Building, Room 500, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351, (301) 504-5518, or Fax: (301) 504-5291.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations Governing the Application for Plant Variety Protection Certificate and Reporting Requirements under the Plant Variety Protection Act, 1970.

OMB Number: 0581-0055.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1996.

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

Abstract: The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA, approved December 24,

1970; 84 Stat. 1542, 7 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.) was established "To encourage the development of novel varieties of sexually reproduced plants and make them available to the public, providing protection available to those who breed, develop, or discover them, and thereby promote progress in agriculture in the public interest."

The PVPA is a voluntary user funded program which grants "patent-like" ownership rights to breeders of new, distinct, uniform, and stable seed reproduced and tuber propagated plant varieties. To obtain these rights the applicant must provide information which shows the variety is eligible for protection and that it is indeed new, distinct, uniform, and stable as the law requires. Application forms, descriptive forms, and ownership forms are furnished to applicants to identify the information which is required to be furnished by the applicant in order to legally issue a certificate of protection (ownership). The certificate is based on claims of the breeder and cannot be issued on the basis of reports in publications not submitted by the applicant.

Form STD-470, Application for Plant Variety Protection Certificate, Form STD-470 series, Objective Description of Variety (Exhibit C to Form STD-470P), and Form STD-470-E, Statement of the Basis of Applicant's Ownership, are the basis by which the determination, by experts in the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO), is made as to whether a new, distinct, uniform, and stable seed reproduced or tuber propagated variety in fact exists and is entitled to protection.

The information received on applications, with limited exceptions, is required by law to remain confidential until the certificate is issued (Section 56 of the Plant Variety Protection Act).

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the PVPA, to provide applicants with certificates of protection, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program.

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

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, and Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 118.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.05.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1509 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Marian Minnifield, Plant Variety Protection Office, at (301) 504-5518.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of the 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 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 should reference OMB No. 0581-0055 and be sent to: Marsha A. Stanton, Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, Science & Technology Division, AMS, USDA, NAL Building, Room 500, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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 17, 1996

William J. Franks, Jr.,

Director, Science and Technology Division.

[FR Doc. 96-24242 Filed 9-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[TM-96-00-3]

Extension of Time for Submitting Nominations for Members of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice—Extension of time for filing nominations for membership on the NOSB.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the time for submission of nominations to fill positions on the NOSB. The time has been extended to October 15, 1996. The terms of five members will expire in January 1997. The Secretary seeks nominations of individuals to be considered for selection as NOSB members.

DATES: Written nominations, with resumes, now must be postmarked on or before October 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Dr. Harold S. Ricker, Program Manager, National Organic Program, Transportation and Marketing Division, Room 2945 South Building, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), P. O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harold S. Ricker, (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the time for making nominations for NOSB membership is extended from August 31, 1996, as stated in the notice published at 61 FR 33897, to October 15, 1996. This will allow additional time for submission of nominations.

Nominations are sought for the positions of farmer/grower (1), handler/processor (1), consumer/public interest (1), environmentalist (1), and scientist (1). Individuals desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at this time must be either an owner or operator of an organic farming operation, an owner or operator of an organic handling operation, an individual who represents public interest or consumer interest groups, an expert in the area of environmental or resource conservation, or an individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry.

Selection criteria will include such factors as: demonstrated experience and interest in organics; commodity and geographic representation; endorsed support of consumer and public interest organizations; demonstrated experience with environmental concerns; and other factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

After applications have been reviewed, individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and supplied with biographical forms. The biographical information must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of its receipt, to expedite the security clearance process that is required by the Secretary.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6501-6522.

Dated: September 16, 1996.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Director, Transportation and Marketing Division.

[FR Doc. 96-24243 Filed 9-20-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis; Helena & Deerlodge National Forest, in Lewis and Clark, Powell, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher Counties, MT

AGENCIES: Forest Service, USDA & Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

ACTION: Intent to prepare a supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Helena National Forest and Elkhorn Portion of the Deerlodge National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis.

SUMMARY: USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management will prepare a supplement to the FEIS to disclose the potential cumulative impacts of oil and gas leasing and other reasonably foreseeable projects that have arisen since the FEIS was completed in April, 1995. A year elapsed between completion of the FEIS and publication of the Record of Decision (ROD), and new project proposals had arisen in the interim. The cumulative effects of these reasonably foreseeable projects have not been fully disclosed. This information will be added to previous information for the decision makers as they reconsider their decisions. The area covered by this supplement includes National Forest and split estate lands with Federal mineral ownership within the Helena National Forest and the Elkhorn Mountains portion of the Deerlodge National Forest.

The original Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Statement was published in the Federal Register, December 1, 1992, Volume 57, No. 231 page 55900. An amendment to this Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register, August 19, 1993, volume 58, No. 159 page 44159. The Record of Decision was signed on February 12, 1996 by Forest Supervisor Thomas J. Clifford; and February 14, 1996 by BLM State Director Larry E. Hamilton. The Notice of availability of the Oil & Gas leasing decisions for the Helena Forest and Elkhorn Mountain portions of the Deerlodge National

Forest was filed March 5, 1996. This decision was appealed through both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management administrative appeals processes. The BLM filed a motion for remand on June 27, 1996 and the BLM decisions were set aside by Administrative Judge John H. Kelly on July 9, 1996. Acting Helena Forest Supervisor Jim Guest withdrew the Forest Service decisions on July 30, 1996. This will allow the potential cumulative impacts of oil and gas leasing and other reasonably foreseeable projects that have arisen since the EIS was published to be analyzed and considered.

The purpose of the project remains the same as stated in the 1995 FEIS. The Forest Service will decide which lands are available for lease and what mitigating stipulations apply for oil and gas exploration and development. The Forest Service proposes to make minor modifications from the preferred alternative displayed in the February 14, 1996 decision. The modifications include increasing the administratively unavailable acres in the Tenmile area (Helena municipal water supply) and increasing the No. Surface Occupancy acres within the Black Mountain area. These changes are proposed following discussions with appellants as part of the administrative appeals process. Other than the above, issues and alternatives remain the same as disclosed in the 1995 FEIS.

No additional scoping to identify issues and concerns is planned prior to the release of the supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement. However, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management would like to receive information relating to possible changed conditions that may affect leasing decisions and were not considered during the analysis disclosed in the original document.

The agencies are aware of the following reasonably foreseeable proposals and projects which may affect the area under consideration for leasing.

Mining/mine Reclamation

—Diamond Hill T7N, R1W
—Santa Fe Gold T6N, R2-3N
—Charter Oak Rehabilitation, T9N, R7W
—Vosberg Reclamation T7N, R1W

Vegetation Manipulation

—Poorman T13N, R7-8N
—North Elkhorns T8-9N, R2W
—Bull Sweats T11-12N, R1-2W
—Jericho Salvage T8N, R6W
—Elkhorn Travel Plan T6-9N, R1E, R1-3W
—Tizer/Park Lake Exchange T8N, R5W; T7N, R2W

DATES: Written comments and suggestions on new circumstances, or new information relevant to environmental concerns with a bearing