

made, industry needs for cost savings have diminished. The focus has shifted to the need for stable markets and returns. Customers are willing to pay for quality, and complementary studies show that customers return purchase rate declines considerably if they are disappointed by the quality of the original purchase. The current cost of inspection is \$.14 per 55 pound equivalent. However, a drop in quality could result in a price reduction measured in dollars rather than cents on the same equivalent. Thus, the benefits of a quality standard outweigh the minimal cost savings that may have resulted from the suspension.

The increase in the minimum size for June would also provide a cost benefit. With an increase in the minimum size, limes are more likely to meet the 42 percent minimum juice content requirement. This is expected to reduce the incidence of repacking, resulting in lower costs to handlers and importers. Maintaining and increasing quality to the consumer would result in a strong and stable market, benefiting growers, handlers and importers.

Shipments of Florida limes for the 1994-95 season were 289,213 bushels, for the 1995-96 season they were 371,413 bushels, and for the current 1996-97 season, though not complete, shipments through February 18, 1997, with 41 days remaining in the season, stand at 382,991 bushels. A steady increase in production is indicated. Mexican exports have also increased from 2,626,707 bushels in the 1990-91 season to 5,591,451 bushels in the 1995-96 season.

Committee members have considered alternatives to rescinding the suspension period. The committee considered a continuous period of no regulations for the months of June through December. They reconsidered the merits of such an action, determining that removing regulations to save money may have costs, such as lost market share, which would overshadow any potential savings. The committee determined that in the time that had passed since the original consideration of a suspension period, the need for cost savings measures had passed, and that the benefits of the quality standards outweighed the cost savings that may have been realized. The committee was unanimous in its belief that the need for the suspension has passed.

Under the change in minimum size, the committee considered the alternative of also changing the minimum size for July. While the committee agreed that there are limes with low juice in July, there were

problems with increasing the minimum size requirement for that month. During July, the weather begins to shift to more tropical conditions. Rainfall increases, which adds juice to the limes, but it also causes problems with the larger sized fruit. Because of these problems, this alternative was rejected. Accordingly, the committee unanimously recommended the changes as outlined.

This action would not impose any additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large lime handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

The Department has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap or conflict with this proposed rule. However, limes must meet the requirements as specified in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian Limes (7 CFR 51.1000 through 51.1016) issued under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 through 1627).

The committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the lime industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in committee deliberations on all issues. Like all committee meetings, the February 5, 1997, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on these issues. The committee itself is composed of ten members, of which four are handlers, five are producers and one is a public member. The majority of committee members represent small entities. Finally, interested persons are invited to submit information on the regulatory and informational impacts of this action on small businesses.

In accordance with section 8e of the Act, the United States Trade Representative has concurred with the issuance of this proposed rule, as it pertains to limes imported into the United States.

A 30-day comment period is provided to allow interested persons to respond to this proposal. All written comments timely received will be considered before a final determination is made on this matter.

List of Subjects

7 CFR Part 911

Limes, Marketing agreements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

7 CFR Part 944

Avocados, Food grades and standards, Grapefruit, Grapes, Imports, Kiwifruit, Limes, Olives, Oranges.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR parts 911 and 944 are proposed to be amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR parts 911 and 944 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

PART 911—LIMES GROWN IN FLORIDA

§§ 911.311, 911.329 [Amended]

2. Scheduled suspension of §§ 911.311 and 911.329 effective June 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, is terminated.

§ 911.344 [Amended]

3. Scheduled suspension of § 911.344, effective June 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, is terminated, and paragraph (a)(3) is amended by removing the words "at least 2 inches diameter" and adding, in their place, the words "at least 2 inches in diameter from January 1 through June 30, and at least 1 7/8 inches in diameter from July 1 through December 31".

PART 944—FRUITS, IMPORT REGULATIONS

§ 944.209 [Amended]

4. Scheduled suspension of § 944.209 effective June 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, is revoked.

Dated: April 25, 1997.

Robert C. Keeney,

Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 97-11164 Filed 4-25-97; 1:54 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 960

RIN 1901-1172

General Guidelines for the Recommendation of Sites for Nuclear Waste Repositories

AGENCY: Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Proposed rule; Reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: In response to additional requests from several interested persons, the Department of Energy has granted additional time to comment on proposed amendments to its General Guidelines for the Recommendation of Sites for Nuclear Waste Repositories.

DATES: Comments should be received no later than May 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All written comments are to be submitted to April V. Gil, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office, P.O. Box 98608, or provided by electronic mail to 10CFR960@notes.ymmp.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: April V. Gil, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office P.O. Box 98608, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193, (800) 967-3477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 16, 1996, the Department published its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, proposing amendments to 10 CFR Part 960. 61 FR 66158. The Notice provided a public comment period that was scheduled to close on February 14, 1997. On February 3, 1997, the public comment period was extended to March 17, 1997. 62 FR 4941. On March 20, 1997, the public comment period was reopened and the time for filing public comments was extended to April 16, 1997. 62 FR 13355.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on this 23rd day of April, 1997.

Lake Barrett,

Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy.
[FR Doc. 97-10995 Filed 4-28-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 226

[Reg. Z; Docket No. R-0969]

Truth in Lending

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Public hearings and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Board will hold public hearings on home-equity lending, and invites consumers, consumer advocacy organizations, lenders, and other interested parties to attend and to provide written comments on relevant issues. The hearings are required by the Home Ownership Equity Protection Act of 1994, which amended the Truth in Lending Act to impose additional disclosure requirements and substantive limitations on certain closed-end mortgage loans bearing rates or fees above a certain percentage or amount. The act directs the Board to examine the

home-equity loan market and the adequacy of existing Truth in Lending provisions in protecting the interests of consumers. The Board will also use the hearings to examine broader Truth in Lending issues, primarily on how the finance charge could more accurately reflect the cost of consumer credit. In the Truth in Lending Act Amendments of 1995, the Congress directed the Board to study the finance charge issue. The Board submitted a preliminary analysis last year, and the hearings will assist the Board in its further deliberations.

DATES: *Hearings.* The hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. June 3, 1997, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Los Angeles, California.

2. June 5, 1997, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Atlanta, Georgia.

3. June 17, 1997, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Washington, DC.

Comments. Comments from persons unable to attend the hearings or wishing to submit written views on the issues raised in this notice must be received by Friday, July 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: *Hearings.* Hearings will be held at the following locations:

1. Los Angeles—Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch, 950 South Grand Avenue.

2. Atlanta—Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, 104 Marietta Street.

3. Washington, DC—Terrace Room E of the Federal Reserve Board Martin Building, C Street Northwest, between 20th and 21st Streets.

Comments. Comments on the questions listed in this document should refer to Docket No. R-0969, and may be mailed to William W. Wiles, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20551. Comments also may be delivered to Room B-2222 of the Eccles Building between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. weekdays, or to the guard station in the Eccles Building courtyard on 20th Street, NW. (between Constitution Avenue and C Street) at any time. Comments may be inspected in Room MP-500 of the Martin Building between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, except as provided in 12 CFR 261.8 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane E. Ahrens, Senior Attorney, or Sheilah A. Goodman, Staff Attorney, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, at (202) 452-3667 or 452-2412; for copies of the Board's reports to the Congress on possible changes to the finance charge and on the adequacy of consumer protections for home-equity credit lines, Publications, at (202) 452-3244, Board

of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; users of Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) *only*, contact Diane Jenkins at (202) 452-3544. The reports are also available on the Internet at <http://www.bog.frb.fed.us/boarddocs/RptCongress>.

For directions and other matters relating to the meeting facilities in Los Angeles, Public Information, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch, at (213) 683-2901; in Atlanta, Ms. Jess Palazzolo, Public Affairs Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, at (404) 521-8747.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The purpose of the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) (15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) is to promote the informed use of consumer credit by requiring disclosures about its terms and cost. The act requires creditors to disclose the cost of credit as a dollar amount (the "finance charge") and as an annual percentage rate (the "APR"). Uniformity in creditors' disclosures is intended to assist consumers in comparison shopping. The TILA requires additional disclosures for loans secured by a consumer's home and permits consumers to rescind certain transactions that involve their principal dwelling. The act is implemented by the Board's Regulation Z (12 CFR part 226).

II. Public Hearings

The Home Ownership Equity Protection Act of 1994 (HOEPA), contained in the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-325, 108 Stat. 2160, amends the TILA to impose new disclosure requirements and substantive limitations on certain closed-end home-equity mortgage loans. The act also directs the Board to hold hearings on home-equity lending no later than September 1997.

The Board has scheduled three one-day hearings in Los Angeles (Tuesday, June 3), Atlanta (Thursday, June 5), and Washington, DC (Tuesday, June 17). The hearings will focus for much of the day on statements from the public about home-equity lending, as mandated by the HOEPA. The remaining portion of the hearings will elicit views about broader Truth in Lending issues that are currently under Board consideration, primarily how the TILA's finance charge disclosure could more accurately reflect the cost of consumer credit. The Truth in Lending Act Amendments of 1995, Pub. L. 104-29, 109 Stat. 271, direct the Board to study the finance charge issue, including the feasibility of treating as