

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NTCS in Kentucky for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of the NRCS in Kentucky to issue revised conservation practice standards: Composting Facility (Code 317), Grassed Waterway (Code 412), Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561), Obstruction Removal (Code 500), and Waste Management System (Code 312).

DATES: Comments will be received until June 15, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to David G. Sawyer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 110, Lexington, KY 40503-5479. Copies of the practice standards are made available upon written request.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State Technical Guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS in Kentucky will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS in Kentucky regarding deposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: April 13, 1998.

William N. Craddock,

Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lexington, KY.

[FR Doc. 98-10827 Filed 5-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposal(s) to add to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: June 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodity and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodity and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following commodity and services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Commodity

Mop Sponge Scrub Brush

M.R. 1012

NPA: Signature Works, Inc., Hazlehurst, Mississippi.

Services

Base Supply Center

Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida,
NPA: Industries for the Blind, Inc.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Car Wash Service
U.S. Border Patrol, 1111 N. Imperial
Avenue, El Centro, California
U.S. Border Patrol, 1150 Birch Street,
Calexico, California
NPA: Association for Retarded
Citizens—Imperial Valley El Centro,
California
Furnishings Management Services
Dover Air Force Base, Delaware,
NPA: The Chimes, Inc., Baltimore,
Maryland.
Janitorial/Custodial
PFC Harold P. Lynch USAR Center,
Plattsburgh, New York, Canton
USAR Center, Canton, New York
NPA: Citizen Advocates, Inc., Malone,
New York.
Refuse Collection and Disposal
Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey,
NPA: The First Occupational Center
of New Jersey, Orange, New Jersey.

Beverly L. Milkman,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 98-13035 Filed 5-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Hearing on Schools and Religions

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994, Section 3, Pub. L. 103-419, 108 Stat. 4338, as amended, and 45 CFR Section 702.3, that a public hearing before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commence on Friday, June 12, 1998, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the United States Court of International Trade Center, located at 1 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10007.

The purpose of the hearing is to collect information within the jurisdiction of the Commission, under 45 CFR Section 702.2, to examine the operation of the Equal Access Act and similar laws and the adherence by the public schools to these laws and the Constitution in regard to religious freedom. The Commission is authorized to hold hearings and to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and the attendance of witnesses pursuant to 45 CFR Section 701.2(c). The Commission is an independent bipartisan, factfinding agency authorized to study, collect, and disseminate information, and to appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government, and to study and collect information with respect to

discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

Hearing impaired persons who will attend the hearing and require the services of a sign language interpreter, should contact Betty Edmiston, Administrative Services and Clearinghouse Division at (202) 376-8105 (TDD (202) 376-8116), at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications, (202) 367-8312.

Dated: May 11, 1998.

Stephanie Y. Moore,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-12939 Filed 5-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Permits for Incidental Taking of Endangered or Threatened Species; Proposed Collection

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Karen Salvini—F/PR3, Office of Protected Resources, Room 13623, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401 ext.130).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.) imposed prohibitions against the taking of endangered species. In 1982, Congress revised the ESA to allow permits authorizing the taking of endangered species incidental to otherwise lawful activities. The corresponding regulations established procedures for persons to apply for such a permit. In addition, the regulations set forth specific reporting requirements for such permit holders.

The regulations contain three sets of information collections: (1) Applications for incidental take permits, (2) applications for certificates of inclusion, and (3) reporting requirements for permits issued. Certificates of inclusion are only required if a general permit is issued to a representative of a group of potential permit applicants, rather than requiring each entity to apply for and receive a permit. There are currently no general incidental take permits, and no certificates of inclusion, and none are expected in the next three years.

The required information is used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity on endangered species, to make the determinations required by the ESA prior to issuing a permit, and to establish appropriate permit conditions. In order to issue a permit as required by ESA section 10(a)(2)(B), NMFS must determine that (i) the taking will be incidental; (ii) the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of such taking; (iii) the applicant will ensure that adequate funding for the plan will be provided; (iv) the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and (v) any additional measures required by NMFS as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the conservation plan will be met.

When a species is listed as threatened, section 4(d) of the ESA requires the Secretary to issue whatever regulations are deemed necessary or advisable to provide for conservation of the species. In many cases those regulations reflect blanket application of the section 9 take prohibition. However, in an interim rule for protection of listed coho salmon NMFS recognized certain exceptions to that prohibition, including one for restoration actions taken in accord with approved watershed action plans in Oregon or California. While watershed plans are prepared for other purposes in coordination with or fulfillment of various state programs, a watershed

group wishing to take advantage of the exception for restoration activities (rather than obtaining a section 10 permit) would have to submit the plan for NMFS review.

II. Method of Collection

Permit applicants must submit an application to NMFS, including all appropriate information listed on the instructions. These instructions are a user-friendly version of the requirements at 50 CFR 222.22(b) for applications for incidental take permits.

Once issued, the permit requires that permit holders submit an annual report on activities. These reports must include information on: The activity causing incidental take, any endangered species taken (species, dates, location, and condition of animal), and the status of implementing a conservation plan to offset the impact to the species.

For watershed plans, a watershed council or other local group would submit its watershed plan to NMFS (and the state) for review against state guidance which meets the standards of 50 CFR 222.22(c). If the plan is found consistent with the state guidance, the group would not need to apply for a section 10 permit for any incidental take that might be associated with a restoration action called for in the plan. No annual or other reporting is associated with the restoration activity exception.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0230.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: State, local, or tribal government; business or other for-profit; individuals; not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 21 (11 permit-related, 10 for watershed plans).

Estimated Time Per Response: 80 hours for a permit application, 10 hours for a watershed plan, 8 hours for a permit report, and 30 minutes for a Certificate of Inclusion application.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,068.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 (no capital expenditures).

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be