

2003. This funding will support competitive research, education, and extension grants as well as activities carried out under the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Act of 1990.

The Secretary of Agriculture is soliciting public comment regarding establishing priorities for the research, education, and extension grant purposes of the Initiative. Statutory purposes of the grant program are defined as "critical emerging agricultural issues related to:

- (i) Future food production;
- (ii) Environmental quality and natural resource management; or
- (iii) Farm income" which also address "priority mission areas related to:
 - (A) Agricultural genome;
 - (B) Food safety, food technology, and human nutrition;
 - (C) New and alternative uses and production of agricultural commodities and products;
 - (D) Agricultural biotechnology;
 - (E) Natural resource management, including precision agriculture; and
 - (F) Farm efficiency and profitability, including the viability and competitiveness of small- and medium-sized dairy, livestock, crop, and other commodity operations."

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments and suggestions on issues that may be considered in the meeting may be submitted to the CSREES Docket Clerk at the address below.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Jefferson Auditorium, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons wishing to orally present comments at this meeting are requested to pre-register by contacting Ms. Sarah Poythress at (202) 720-4423, by fax at (202) 720-8987 or by e-mail to spoythress@reeusda.gov. Participants may reserve a 5-minute comment period when they register. More time may be available, depending on the number of people wishing to make a presentation and the time needed for questions, following the presentations. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. All other attendees may register at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted for the record at the meeting or mailed to Ms. Sarah Poythress,

USDA/CSREES, Room 305A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2201. Please provide three copies of the comments. Written comments must be received by Friday, July 24, 1998, to be considered. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be available for review for six months at the address listed above from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Poythress as directed above.

Done in Washington, DC, on this 23rd day of June, 1998.

Colien Hefferan,

Acting Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.
[FR Doc. 98-17109 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Official Moisture Meter for Corn, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seeds

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing that as of August 1, 1998, and thereafter, all official moisture content measurements of corn, soybeans, and sunflower seed inspected under the United States Grain Standards Act will be made with the Grain Analysis Computer Model 2100 (GAC 2100). Official moisture content measurements of other grains and agricultural commodities will continue to be made with the Motomco Model 919 Moisture Meter until the changeover date for those grains is announced.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven N. Tanner, Director, Technical Services Division, GIPSA, USDA, 10383 N. Executive Hills Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64153; telephone (816) 891-0401; fax (816) 891-0478.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the selection of the Grain Analysis Computer Model 2100 (GAC 2100), manufactured by Dickey-john

Corporation, Auburn, Illinois, to replace the Motomco Model 919 Moisture Meter for official moisture content measurements in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 17356) on April 9, 1998. Implementation of the new instruments for official measurements of grains, oilseeds, and processed commodities will be phased in, product by product, over a period of at least 2 years. For any given product, all official moisture measurements will be performed using the Motomco Model 919 until the transition date for that product; the GAC 2100 will be used exclusively thereafter. Transition dates for each product will be selected to minimize the impact of the changes on the value of carry-over stocks and will be announced by GIPSA through a Notice in the **Federal Register** prior to the transition.

The transition date for corn, soybeans, and oil-type sunflower seeds is hereby designated as August 1, 1998. The GAC 2100 will be used for all official moisture determinations on these grains after July 31, 1998. Official calibrations for the GAC 2100 to be used with corn (8% to 20% moisture), high moisture corn (19% to 40% moisture), soybeans (6% to 24% moisture), and oil-type sunflower seeds (4% to 20% moisture) are provided in GIPSA Directive 9180.61, dated May 5, 1998.

The tentative transition date for barley, oats, rough rice, sorghum, and all wheats is May 1, 1999. Transition dates for peas, beans, lentils, and other commodities may lie beyond 1999.

GIPSA's decision to use the GAC 2100 for official moisture measurements does not mean that the Agency endorses or recommends this instrument for unofficial purposes over other similar instruments that are not approved for the official system. The Agency's selection of this instrument was based on GIPSA's unique operational needs. Other instrument models may be as suitable or more suitable for a commercial entity's needs.

In addition, this document corrects the authority citation as published in the April 9, 1998, **Federal Register**, 63 FR 17356, in the first column of page 17357, in a notice concerning implementation of a new official moisture meter. That notice inadvertently omitted reference to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 in the authority citation. The April 9, 1998, citation should read the same as the authority citation for this document.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*); and Secs. 202-208, 60 Stat. 1087, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 19, 1998.

David R. Shipman,

*Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards Administration.*

[FR Doc. 98-16963 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.; Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794), has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a project proposed by two electric utilities: Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., (MPC) of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Otter Tail Power Company (OTPC) of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. These two utilities are collectively referred to as the Partners for the purpose of this project. MPC is a RUS borrower and anticipates to requesting financing assistance for its portion of the proposed transmission line. MPC and OTPC have proposed to construct and operate a transmission line and associated facilities between Oslo in Walsh County, North Dakota and Thief River Falls in Pennington County, Minnesota. The line will originate at an existing substation located approximately two miles west of Oslo in Walsh County, North Dakota. The line will terminate at an existing substation located in Pennington County, Minnesota.

RUS has concluded that the impacts from the proposed project would not be significant and that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202)-720-1784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RUS, in accordance with its environmental policies and procedures, required that

the MPC prepares a Borrower's Environmental Report (BER) reflecting the potential impacts of the proposed facilities. The BER which includes input from the Federal, state, and local agencies, has been adopted as RUS's Environmental Assessment for the project in accordance with § 1794.61.

The RUS has concluded that the BER represents an accurate assessment of the environmental impacts of the project. The proposed project will not affect any known properties listed or eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The project will be constructed on an existing right-of-way for about 24.5 miles. Of the 56 mile total length of the proposed route, 54 miles share rights-of-way with existing highways or roadways. Two miles will be along entirely new rights-of-way. However, if previously unknown resources are discovered during construction, the Partners will halt construction while the significance of the finding and proper mitigation is determined. Construction of the line should have no impact on floodplains, air quality, and formally classified areas. The project should also have no significant impact on farmlands, water quality, wetlands, aesthetics, federally listed or proposed for listing threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

Alternatives considered to the project included no action, power purchase from other sources, localized generating facilities, load management and energy conservation, alternative routes, construction method alternatives, design alternatives, and voltage alternatives. RUS has considered these alternatives and concluded that the project as proposed will meet the needs of the MPC to provide adequate service in the project area with a minimum of adverse impact.

Copies of the BER and FONSI are available for review at, or may be obtained from RUS at the address provided above or from the office of MPC, P.O. Box 13200, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58208-3200, telephone (701) 795-4000 during normal business hours.

Dated: June 19, 1998.

Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.

Assistant Administrator—Electric Program.

[FR Doc. 98-16946 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted 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: Northeast Region Logbook Family of Forms.

Agency Form Number: NOAA 88-30 and 88-140.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0212.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 6,348 hours.

Number of Respondents: 5,875 with multiple responses.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 5 minutes for vessel logbooks and 12.5 minutes for shellfish logbooks. These estimates do not include the time for entries that respondents would make to their own logbooks as normal business practice.

Needs and Uses: Under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Regional Fishery Management Councils have developed fishery management plans to conserve and manage marine resources in the exclusive economic zone. Participants in the summer flounder, scup, black seas, bass, Northeast multispecies, Atlantic sea scallop, Atlantic mackerel, squid, butterfish or surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries in the Northeast must submit logbooks containing catch and effort data about their fishing trips. The information is used in the development of management measures to control fishing effort, as well as to enforce the measures once they are in effect.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Weekly, monthly.

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 Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.