

The scoping process will include the following:

- Identification of potential issues;
- Identification of issues to be analyzed in depth;
- Elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process;
- Exploration of alternative ways to implement the proposed actions based on the issues identified during the scoping process; and
- Determination of environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by December 1, 1999, the comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, a reviewer of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objectives are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. (Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions

of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points).

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in November, 2000. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. Rick Scott, District Ranger, is the responsible official and as responsible official, he will document the Chalk Creek Timber Sales project decision and rationale in a record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: July 12, 1999.

**Rick Scott**,  
District Ranger.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Subcommittee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee will meet on August 5, 1999, at the Embassy Suites Portland Downtown, 319 SW Pine Street, Portland, Oregon 97204-2726. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be discussed include, but are not limited to: information sharing on salmon restoration and recovery from the Soil and Water Conservation District perspective; a presentation of the Regional Community Economic Revitalization Team Report; and progress reports on ongoing implementation issues. The IAC meeting will be open to the public and is fully accessible for people with disabilities. Interpreters are available upon request in advance. Written comments may be submitted for the record at the meeting. Time will also be scheduled for oral public comments. Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Don Knowels, Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, 333

SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (Phone: 503-808-2180).

Dated: July 20, 1999.

**Donald R. Knowles**,  
Designated Federal Official.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Request for Comments on Information Collection Package

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; Comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intent to request approval of an Information Collection Package in support of the program for servicing the Agency's Community Programs loans and grants.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by August 27, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For inquiries on the Information Collection Package, contact Tracy Gillin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0039. For program content, contact Beth Jones, Senior Loan Specialist, Community Programs Servicing and Special Authorities Branch, RHS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., Mail Stop 0787, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 720-1498, E-mail epjones@rdmail.rural.usda.gov. Comments should be submitted to Ms. Gillin at USDA—Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Mail Stop 0742, Washington, DC 20250-0742.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** 7 CFR 3570-E, Servicing of Community Programs Loans and Grants.

**Type of Request:** New information collection.

**Abstract:** The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is a credit agency within the Rural Development mission area of the United States Department of Agriculture. Rural Development is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to make loans to public agencies, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes through the Community Facilities program for the development of essential community facilities primarily serving

rural residents. The information will be collected by Rural Development field offices from applicants, borrowers, consultants, lenders, and attorneys. This information is used to determine applicant/borrower eligibility and project feasibility for various servicing actions. This information enables field staff to ensure that borrowers operate on a sound basis and use loan and grant funds for authorized purposes. RHS is combining the applicable portions of seven regulations affecting the servicing of Community Programs (CP) loans and grants into one regulation. The administrative portion has been removed from the published regulation. Agency field personnel will receive an instruction which will include the administrative portion and the published regulation. This action is being taken as part of the National Partnership for Reinventing Government program to eliminate unnecessary regulations and improve those that remain in force. This effort will streamline the published regulations, improve efficiency and effectiveness, and increase the level and quality of customer service. The regulation is being published as a final rule because there are no policy or procedural changes.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 46 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Not-for-profit institutions, State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 266.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 15.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,783.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Tracy Gillin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0039.

#### Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS'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 may be sent to Tracy Gillin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. 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: July 21, 1999.

**Eileen M. Fitzgerald,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-19293 Filed 7-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the 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:** Written comments must be submitted on or before September 27, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instructions should be directed to Ron Taylor, Bureau of the Census, Room 2135 FB-4, Washington, DC 20233, on (301) 457-4683.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Census Bureau, prior to 1995, conducted the Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures, MA-200. Due to budget limitations the survey was suspended. In response to the need for data to assess the cost of environmental regulations on private

business, the Census Bureau, with support from the Environmental Protection Agency, plans to reinstate the survey. The survey form will collect, from plants that produce goods or provide services classified in manufacturing, mining and electric utility industries, data on the operating costs of pollution abatement, including hazardous pollutants, payments to government agencies for pollution removal and new capital expenditures for pollution abatement structures and equipment each by the media: air pollution control, water pollution control and solid waste management. These data are similar to that collected previously in this survey. The survey results will be used to track costs of regulatory programs and rules. Results will also be used for monitoring economic impact and promoting growth of environmental programs.

##### II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau will use mail out/mail back survey forms to collect the data. Companies will be asked to respond to the survey within 60 days of the initial mailing. Letters encouraging participation will be mailed to companies that have not responded by the designated time.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0607-0176.

*Form Number:* MA-200.

*Type of Review:* Regular.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 2.5 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 50,000 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* \$649,000.

*Respondents' Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13 USC, Section 182.

##### 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 collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.