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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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00–100–1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of our seed analysis program with Canada.

DATES: We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all comments that we receive by January 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 00–100–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 00–100–1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the importation and interstate movement of foreign agricultural and vegetable seeds, contact Ms. Polly Lehtonen, Botanist, Permits and Risk Assessments, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–4394. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734–7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Imported Seed and Screenings.
OMB Number: 0579–0124.

Expiration Date of Approval:
November 30, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for preventing foreign plant pests from entering the United States, preventing the spread of pests not widely distributed within the United States, and eradicating those pests when eradication is feasible. The Plant Protection Act (PPA) authorizes the Department to carry out this mission.

The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) division of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for implementing the regulations that carry out the PPA.

Under the authority of the Federal Seed Act of 1939 (FSA), as amended, the USDA regulates the importation and interstate movement of certain agricultural and vegetable seeds.

Specifically, our regulations are designed to implement Title III of the FSA, "Foreign Commerce," which requires shipments of imported agricultural and vegetable seeds to be labeled correctly and to be tested for the presence of noxious weeds as a condition of entry into the United States.

Under the authority of the FSA, we have established a seed analysis program with Canada that allows U.S. companies that import seed for cleaning or processing to enter into compliance agreements with us (APHIS). This program eliminates the need for sampling shipments of Canadian-origin seed at the border and allows certain seed importers to clean seed without the direct supervision of an APHIS

inspector. In this way, the importation of Canadian-origin seeds into the United States is safely expedited without compromising the precautions we take to ensure that imported seeds do not pose a health threat to U.S. agriculture.

Our seed analysis program entails the use of several information collection activities, including requirements for a declaration of importation, container labeling, notification of seed location, a seed return request, seed analysis certificates, seed identity maintenance, and associated recordkeeping.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve, for an additional 3 years, our use of these information collection activities in connection with our seed analysis program.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning this information collection activity. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the information collection is necessary for the proper performance of our Agency's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response.

Respondents: Importers of Canadian seeds, seed cleaning/processing facility personnel, and Agri-Food Canada officials.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,200.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 25.

Estimated annual number of responses: 30,000.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 11,555 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours

may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of October 2000.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00-28006 Filed 10-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

National Drought Council

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of interim meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Drought Policy Commission recommended that a National Drought Council (Council) be established to coordinate activities between and among Federal Agencies, States, local governments, tribes and others. The Council was established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The first meeting of the Council will be held November 9, 2000. All meetings are open to the public; however, seating is limited and available on a first-come basis.

DATES: The Council will meet on November 9, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room 221-A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th and Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, D.C. and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 4960-S of the United States Department of Agriculture South Building at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time. The first part of the meeting will be devoted to the organization of the Council. The remainder of the meeting will be dedicated to establishing a work plan and other Council business.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leona Dittus, Executive Director, Interim National Drought Council, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 6701-S, Stop 0501, Washington, D.C., 20250-0501 or telephone (202) 720-3168; FAX (202) 720-9688; internet leona.dittus@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the MOU is to establish a more comprehensive, integrated, coordinated approach toward reducing

the impacts of drought through better preparedness, monitoring and prediction, risk management, and response to drought emergencies in the United States. The Council will encourage cooperation and coordination between and among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and others, relative to preparation for and response to serious drought emergencies. The Council is not a source of consensus advice and therefore is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Activities of the Council include providing coordination to: (a) resolve drought related issues, (b) exchange information about lessons learned, and (c) improve public awareness of the need for drought planning and mitigation measures. The Council will be co-chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture or his designee, and a non-Federal co-chair shall be selected from among the members who are not Federal officers or employees. Administrative staff support essential to the execution of the Council's responsibilities shall be provided by USDA. The Council will continue in effect for 5 years or until Congress establishes a permanent National Drought Council.

If special accommodations are required, please contact Leona Dittus, at the address specified above, by COB November 7, 2000.

Signed at Washington, DC on October 26, 2000.

George Arredondo,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 00-27988 Filed 10-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Hoosier National Forest; Brown, Crawford, Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, and Perry Counties, Indiana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare environmental impact statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement for revising the Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5) and USDA Forest Service National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning regulations. The revised Forest Plan will supersede the

current Forest Plan, which the regional forester approved September 17, 1985, and has been amended 4 times. This notice describes the focus areas of change, the estimated dates for filing the EIS, the information concerning public participation, and the names and addresses of the responsible agency official and the individual who can provide additional information.

DATES: We need to receive your comments on this Notice of Intent in writing by January 31, 2001. The Draft EIS should be available for public review by December 2003. The Final EIS and revised Forest Plan should be completed by December 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: NOI-FP Revision, Hoosier National Forest, 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421, or direct electronic mail to: "r9 hoosier website"@fs.fed.us. ATTN: Forest Plan Revision

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regis Terney, Forest Planner, at 812-275-5987. TDD 812-275-7817; or direct electronic mail to: "r9 hoosier website"@fs.fed.us, or access the forest web page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier

Responsible Official: Robert T. Jacobs, Regional Forester, Eastern Region, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Regional Forester for the Eastern Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an EIS to revise the Hoosier National Forest Plan. The Regional Forester approved the original Hoosier National Forest Plan in September 1985. In April 1991, the Regional Forester approved a significant amendment that substantially replaced the 1985 Forest Plan. This plan guides the overall management of the Hoosier National Forest. We make six primary decisions in the Forest Plan:

1. Forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives
2. Forest-wide management requirements
3. Management area direction
4. Lands suited and not suited for resource use and production (timber management *etc.*)
5. Monitoring and evaluation requirements
6. Recommendations to Congress (such as wilderness), if any

By the requirements of the National Forest Management Act, national forests must revise the Forest Plan at least every 15 years (U.S.C. 1604[f][5]). At this time, there are two reasons to revise the 1991 Forest Plan: (1) It is nearly 15 years since the Regional Forester approved the original plan, and (2)