

agricultural water management (rural water supply); fish, wildlife, and recreational development; and flood control. The planned works of improvement include: One multiple-purpose reservoir, a water intake structure, a raw water line, and recreational facilities.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under NO. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Dated: April 22, 2003.

**Roger A. Hansen,**

*State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 03-11039 Filed 5-2-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia State Technical Guide

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in practice standards: #316, Animal Mortality Facility; #584, Channel Stabilization; #326, Clearing and Snagging; #317, Composting Facility; #402, Dam; #356, Dike; #554, Drainage Water Management; #552, Irrigation Regulating Reservoir; #436, Irrigation Storage Reservoir; #634, Manure Transfer; #582, Open Channel; #378, Pond; #587, Structure for Water Control; #607, Surface Drainage, Field Ditch; #600, Terrace; and #359, Waste Treatment Lagoon to account for improved technology. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, woodland, and wildlife land.

**DATES:** Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with the date of this publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquire in writing to M. Denise Doetzer,

State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1665; Fax number (804) 287-1736. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS Web site <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/DataTechRefs/Standards&Specs/EDITStds/EditStandards.htm>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY 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 Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: April 25, 2003.

**Dwight A. Towler,**

*Assistant State Conservationist, Field Operations, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.*

[FR Doc. 03-11038 Filed 5-2-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of the Census

[Docket Number 030328074-3074-01]

#### Revised Confidentiality Criteria for Bureau of the Census Public Use Data Products

**AGENCY:** Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) is issuing this Notice to update the criteria used to assess and review public use data products prior to their release. The criteria help ensure that confidential information is not inadvertently disclosed.

**DATES:** This notice is effective May 5, 2003.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information on this Notice should be directed to Laura Zayatz, Chair, Disclosure Review Board, Statistical Research Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 3209, Federal Building 4, Washington, DC 20233,

(301) 763-4955 or by fax at (301) 457-2299.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Title 13, United States Code, Section 9, requires the Census Bureau to protect the confidentiality of individual respondents. Title 13 also requires the Census Bureau to release information from its data collections to the public. In order to comply with the latter requirement, while protecting respondents' confidentiality, the Census Bureau has developed standard procedures for protecting its data products from disclosure of identifying information. A **Federal Register** Notice (46 FR 22017) published on April 15, 1981, described those procedures.

Since that Notice appeared, some methodological improvements have been introduced and additional formal review has been instituted. Specific changes to the earlier criteria are the following items under the "Criteria for Releasing Public Use Microdata" section of this Notice.

- Paragraph (4). To ensure confidentiality protection, the Census Bureau now requires the completion of a Checklist on Disclosure Potential of Data.

- Paragraph (4)(e). To better protect the confidentiality of data, the Census Bureau may require the use of data swapping. This technique is discussed further in that paragraph.

- Paragraph (5). The name of the Microdata Review Panel was changed to the Disclosure Review Board.

- "Criteria for Releasing Public Use Tabular Data" section. This entire section is new. In 1995, the routine review performed by the Disclosure Review Board was extended to include tabular data as well as microdata.

Also, the scope of the Disclosure Review Board was enlarged to include setting disclosure limitation rules, monitoring the Census Bureau's adherence to its confidentiality policy requirements, and resolving any problems, questions, and issues not covered by the general criteria described in the earlier **Federal Register** Notice. This Notice updates the information previously published and includes criteria for releasing tabular data as well as microdata.

#### Confidentiality Criteria for Census Bureau Public Use Data Products

##### Data Subject to Disclosure Protection

All data released to the public are subject to disclosure protection. These public use data products include both microdata and tabular data. Microdata

are records containing information about individuals or households, or about businesses, with all personal identifiers removed. Tabular data may be frequency counts (e.g., number of Hispanic males) or magnitude data presenting sums of a variable of interest (e.g., total value of sales) from individuals, households, firms, or establishments.

Because some business firms and establishments are selected with certainty, the disclosure risk for economic microdata files can be quite high. For this reason, microdata files containing information on establishments are rarely produced. However, any economic microdata file produced for public release would be subject to disclosure constraints comparable to those provided for individual and household microdata files.

Criteria for avoiding disclosure in data released by the Census Bureau for public use have been the subject of internal research, consultations with stakeholders, and input from experts in disclosure limitation techniques over the past few decades. Based on those findings and subsequent assessments of data needs and disclosure risk, the Census Bureau has established a release policy stating criteria for release. The Census Bureau will apply these criteria to all data products released to the public.

#### *Criteria for Releasing Public Use Microdata*

Files of records containing data about households and individuals, or about businesses, can be made available for public use, provided the appropriate disclosure avoidance requirements have been met. For public use microdata about individuals and households, the following conditions must be met:

- (1) The records contain no names, addresses, or other unique identifiers.
- (2) The records include no geographic or related information that would identify an area of fewer than 100,000 population.
- (3) Once a file has been released with one set of geographic identification, the same records cannot be released with different identification if the two geographic schemes in combination identify any area with fewer than 100,000 population.

(4) Specifications for each file (or groups of files) must be reviewed to assure that confidentiality is protected. To do so, the Census Bureau's Checklist on Disclosure Potential of Data must be completed by the data producers and reviewed by disclosure experts at the Census Bureau. (The Checklist is available on the Census Bureau Web site at <http://www.census.gov/srd/sdc/index.html>.) This review may result in:

(a) The removal or reduction in detail of any variable considered likely to identify an especially small and visible population (e.g., persons with high income or rare demographic characteristics).

(b) The use of a minimum area population criterion that is higher than 100,000 for that particular file(s) (e.g., for a file with neighborhood characteristics).

(c) The introduction of "noise" (i.e., small amounts of random variation) into selected data items.

(d) The subsampling of records so that public-use microdata do not include all respondents included in a large survey.

(e) The use of data swapping (i.e., locating pairs of matching households in the database, based on a set of predetermined variables, and swapping those households across geographic areas to add uncertainty for households with unique characteristics).

More information on these methods is provided on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/confidentiality.html#microdata>.

(5) The Disclosure Review Board concurs that the data meet disclosure avoidance criteria for public release.

Comparable criteria will be developed and applied in the event that microdata about businesses are being considered for public release.

#### *Criteria for Releasing Public Use Tabular Data*

Although tabular data products had routinely undergone disclosure protection, it was not centralized. This Notice documents standardized procedures now in use that have been adopted to protect the confidentiality of information in frequency counts and magnitude data. Tabulations containing data about households, individuals, firms, and establishments can be made available for public use provided that:

(1) Specifications for each file (or groups of files) are reviewed to assure that confidentiality is protected for any response provided by an individual, a household, a firm, or an establishment. To do so, the Census Bureau's Checklist on Disclosure Potential of Data is completed by the data producers and reviewed by disclosure experts at the Census Bureau. (The Checklist is available on the Census Bureau Web site at <http://www.census.gov/srd/sdc/index.html>.) This review may result in:

(a) The removal or reduction in detail of any variable in a tabulation considered likely to identify an especially small and visible population or group of establishments.

(b) The introduction of "noise" into selected data items.

(c) The use of data swapping for selected households.

(d) The use of rounding in selected tabulations.

(e) The use of thresholds in selected tabulations.

(f) The use of cell suppression (i.e., not displaying certain cell values that would identify unique cases in a table or disclose an individual response; often complementary cells also are blanked out to prevent disclosures by subtracting the balance from the total for a given row or column).

(2) The Disclosure Review Board concurs that the data meet disclosure avoidance criteria for public release.

Dated: April 29, 2003.

**Charles Louis Kincannon,**  
Director, Bureau of the Census.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Economic Development Administration

#### **Notice of Petitions by Producing Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance**

**AGENCY:** Economic Development Administration (EDA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** To give all interested parties an opportunity to comment.

Petitions have been accepted for filing on the dates indicated from the firms listed below.