

Notices

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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

Office of the Chief Economist; Global Climate Change, Food Security, and the U.S. Food System

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Request for nominations of expert peer reviewers.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites the public to nominate scientific experts to be considered as peer reviewers for the external peer review of the draft document entitled, "Global Climate Change, Food Security, and the U.S. Food System." The draft document was prepared by USDA and a team of multi-institutional experts to support the National Climate Assessment. The draft document is a technical analysis of the issues, and policy considerations are outside its scope.

DATES: Responses to this notice should be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 7, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Any interested person or organization may nominate scientific experts to be considered as a peer reviewer. Self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations may be submitted electronically or by overnight/priority mail service. Nominations may not be submitted via the U.S. Postal Service. Nominations must include all nominee information outlined in Section II of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

- Email: ccpo@oce.usda.gov, Subject Line: Peer-Review Nomination.

- Overnight/Priority/Courier: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Climate Change Program Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room #4407, Washington, DC 20250.

- Mail: Nominations cannot be accepted via the U.S. Postal Service.

Instructions: Please see

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION II below for

more information and necessary materials.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning nomination receipt should be directed to Margaret Walsh of the Climate Change Program Office via Email: ccpo@oce.usda.gov or by telephone 202-720-9978.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Information on the Draft Documents for Global Climate Change, Food Security, and the U.S. Food System

This report will be published as a USDA technical document. Publication is anticipated in the Fall of 2015. Connections between weather, climate, and food security have long been recognized. This report evaluates the possible changes to each element of the food system and food security as a result of changes in climate based on information in the peer-reviewed scientific and economic literature. Temperature and precipitation patterns, as well as changes in weed, pest, and disease prevalence are already occurring under a changing climate. These effects are expected to result in transformations in ecosystem functioning and in the economic viability of agriculture in many regions of the world, as well as in the refrigeration requirements of food products, transportation patterns, and other effects. The U.S. is currently a major food importer and exporter, and provides a safety net for many food insecure nations. Global changes both in climate and in food security are therefore likely to influence the U.S. food system through altered production decisions, the goods available to consumers, and their prices.

The *Global Climate Change, Food Security, and the U.S. Food System* report will examine how a changing climate may affect global food security today, in 25 years, and in 100 years. The report, to be published by USDA as a technical input to the National Climate Assessment, will provide a review of current literature and will report on analyses that illuminate the interactions between climate and food security. Food security is a social and economic concept, and its relationship with agriculturally relevant weather dynamics, and ultimately climate change, is complex. The report will explore these connections, discuss the implications of a changing climate for food security and food systems globally,

and present implications for U.S. producers and consumers.

II. How To Submit Nominations for Peer Reviewers

Expertise Sought: USDA is seeking candidates who are nationally and/or internationally recognized scientific experts to serve as external peer reviewers. Nominees should possess and demonstrate background knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas: Food security; food systems; agricultural production; economic access to food; food utilization; stability of food availability, access, or utilization; climate change; food production; agricultural employment; food storage; food transportation; food processing, food packaging, food retailing, food consumption and food disposal. Reviewers may not be authors or technical contributors to the draft report. Qualified experts representing a range of educational institutions, international institutions, non-governmental/non-profit organizations, private industry, independent scientific institutions, and the Federal service are desired for the final review panel. No travel will be required, but nominees must be available between September 18, 2014 and November 7, 2014 to comprehensively review the 250 (estimated)-page draft report. A form will be provided to reviewers for comments and proposed edits.

Selection Criteria: Selection criteria for individuals nominated to serve as external peer reviewers of the draft documents include the following: (1) Demonstrated expertise through relevant peer reviewed publications, (2) professional accomplishments and recognition by professional societies, (3) demonstrated ability to work constructively and effectively toward scientific consensus, and (4) willingness to commit adequate time for a thorough review of the draft document commencing in September, 2014.

Required Nominee Information: To receive full consideration, the following information should be provided in the nomination materials: (1) Contact information for the person making the nomination (self-nominations are acceptable); (2) contact information for the nominee; (3) the disciplinary and specific areas of expertise of the nominee; (4) the nominee's curriculum

vita; and (5) a biographical sketch of the nominee indicating current position, educational background, past and current research activities, recent relevant service, and other comments on the relevance of the nominee's expertise to this peer review topic. Compensation is not available, in order to ensure an unbiased review process.

Selection Process: An interagency panel will select from the available nominees according to the selection criteria presented above. An independent search for candidates to assemble a balanced group representing the expertise needed to fully evaluate the draft document may also occur. Up to eight reviewers will be selected who best provide expertise spanning the multiple areas listed above and, to the extent feasible, best provide a balance of perspectives.

Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Joseph W. Glauber,
Chief Economist.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2014-0053]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Pork and Poultry Products From Mexico Transiting the United States

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 associated with the regulations for pork and poultry products from Mexico transiting the United States.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 8, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/> #!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2014-0053.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2014-0053, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/> #!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2014-0053 or in our reading room, which 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) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on pork and poultry products from Mexico transiting the United States, contact Dr. Lynette Williams, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Import Export Services, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-3300. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Pork and Poultry Products From Mexico Transiting the United States.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0145.

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

Abstract: Under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorized, among other things, to prohibit or restrict the importation and interstate movement of animals, animal products, and other articles to prevent the introduction into and dissemination within the United States of animal diseases and pests. To fulfill this mission, APHIS regulates the importation of animals and animal products into the United States. The regulations are contained in title 9, chapter 1, subchapter D, parts 91 through 99, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The regulations in 9 CFR 94.15 allow pork and pork products and poultry carcasses, parts, and products (except eggs and egg products) that are not eligible for entry into the United States to transit the United States from specified States in Mexico, via land border ports, for export to another country.

The regulations set out conditions for the transit movements that protect

against the introduction of classical swine fever or Newcastle disease into the United States. These conditions involve the use of information collection activities, including the completion of a USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services Application for Permit to Import or Transport Controlled Material or Organisms or Vectors (Veterinary Services Form 16-3), the placement of serially numbered seals on product containers, and the forwarding of a pre-arrival notification to U.S. port personnel.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

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

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

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, 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 0.84 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. importers of pork and poultry products from Mexico to the United States and the Federal animal health authorities in Mexico.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 34.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.471.

Estimated annual number of responses: 50.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 42 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the 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.