

records shall be retained beyond the 3-year period if audit findings have not been resolved or if directed by the United States. The Grantor and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Grantee which are pertinent to the grant for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts.

(5) Procurement

Grantee will comply with the applicable procurement requirements of 7 CFR part 3015 regarding standards of conduct, open and free competition, access to contractor records, and equal employment opportunity requirements.

(6) Monitoring and Reporting

A. After grant approval through project completion, the Grantee shall:

1. Constantly monitor performance to ensure that time schedules are being met and projected goals by time periods are being accomplished.

2. Submit semiannual performance reports to the Grantor. Each report shall describe current progress and identify any problems, delays, or adverse conditions, if any, which have affected or will affect attainment of overall project objectives or prevent meeting time frame for completion of the feasibility study within two years. This disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken or planned to resolve the situation.

B. Following completion of the feasibility study, Grantee shall submit to the Grantor:

1. The project feasibility study and SF-270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement," when the feasibility study has been completed; and

2. A final SF-269, "Financial Status Report" and a final performance report within 90 days of the completion of the feasibility study. When submitting the final SF-269, Grantee must submit sufficient documentation, including invoices, to allow the Grantor to verify that said project was completed within the total sums available to it, including the grant and matching funds, in accordance with the work plan and any necessary modifications thereof prepared by grantee and approved by the Grantor; and

C. Beginning the first full year after the feasibility study has been completed, Grantee shall report to the Grantor annually for 2 years on the following:

(1) Is the renewable energy system project for which the feasibility study was conducted underway as a result of the feasibility findings? If yes, describe how far along the renewable energy system project is (e.g., financing has been secured, site has been secured, construction contracts are in place, project completed).

(2) Is the renewable energy system project complete? If so, what is the actual amount of energy being produced?

D. *Other reports.* Grantor may request any additional project and/or performance data for the project for which grant funds have been received.

E. *Records access.* Grantee shall after project completion allow Grantor access to the records and performance information obtained under the scope of the project.

(7) Fund Disbursement

Grant funds will be expended on a pro rata basis with matching funds.

A. Grantee may submit requests for reimbursement monthly or more frequently if authorized to do so by the Agency. Ordinarily, Grantor will make payment within 30 days after receipt of a proper request for reimbursement.

B. Grantee shall not request reimbursement for the Federal share of amounts withheld from contractors to ensure satisfactory completion of work until after it makes those payments.

C. Payment shall be made by electronic funds transfer.

D. An SF-270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement," must be completed by the Grantee and submitted to the Agency at the completion of the feasibility study.

E. Grantor will disburse grant funds to the Grantee in accordance with the above through 90 percent of grant disbursement. Grantor will hold 10 percent of grant funds until Grantee has submitted a feasibility study acceptable to the Grantor.

(8) Use of Remaining Grant Funds

Grant funds not expended within 24 months from date of this agreement after being used for eligible grant purposes will be cancelled by the Agency. Prior to the actual cancellation, the Agency will notify, in writing, the Grantee of the Agency's intent to cancel the remaining funds.

In witness whereof, Grantee has this day authorized and caused this Agreement to be signed in its name and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed and attested by its duly authorized officers thereunto, and the Grantor has caused this Agreement to be duly executed in its behalf by:

GRANTEE

Name:

Title:

GRANTOR

Date

United States of America Rural Development By:

Name:

Title:

Date

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ouachita-Ozark Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Meeting notice for the Ouachita-Ozark Resource Advisory Committee under Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self

Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393).

SUMMARY: This notice is published in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Meeting notice is hereby given for the Ouachita-Ozark Resource Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000, Public Law 106-393. Topics to be discussed include: general information, proposals, updates on current or completed Title II projects, and next meeting agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 30, 2009, beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at approximately 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center, 8300 Wells Lake Road, Barling, Arkansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caroline Mitchell, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Ouachita National Forest, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902. (501-321-5318).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff, Committee members, and elected officials. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Bill Pell, DFO, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902.

Dated: May 18, 2009.

Bill Pell,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. E9-12003 Filed 5-22-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, Grangeville, Idaho, USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 110-343) the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests' North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet

Thursday, June 25th, 2009 in Orofino, Idaho for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on June 25th will be held at the Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office in Orofino, Idaho, beginning at 10 a.m. (PST). Agenda topic will be discussion and approval of potential projects. A public forum will begin at 3:15 p.m. (PST).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura A. Smith, Public Affairs Officer and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 983-5143.

Dated: May 18, 2008.

Thomas K. Reilly,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No. 090520919-9919-01]

RIN 0648-XP46

National Environmental Policy Act— Proposed Categorical Exclusions

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) publishes this notice to request public comments on proposed categorical exclusions of actions that the agency has determined do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and, thus, should be categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* (NEPA).

DATES: Comments on the proposed list of categorical exclusions must be received by June 15, 2009 to ensure consideration. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: The “Draft Department of Commerce Administrative Record” for the proposed categorical exclusions is available at: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/procedures.html> under “Draft Department of Commerce Administrative Record for the proposed categorical exclusions”. All comments should be addressed to Office of Program Planning and Integration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Attn.: Steve Kokkinakis, SSMC3—Room 15723, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Comments may be sent

by mail or hand-delivered to the above-listed address Monday–Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Comments may also be sent by electronic mail to the following internet address: Strategic.planning@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Written requests for a hard copy of the “Draft Department of Commerce Administrative Record” for the proposed categorical exclusions should be submitted to: Steve Kokkinakis, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Program Planning & Integration, SSMC3, Room 15723, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA requires that Federal agencies prepare environmental impact statements for major Federal actions that may “significantly affect the quality of the human environment.” NEPA requirements apply to any federal project, decision, or action, including grants that might have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. NEPA also established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which issued regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA. Among other considerations, the CEQ regulations require Federal agencies to adopt their own implementing procedures to supplement the Council's regulations, and to establish and use “categorical exclusions” to define categories of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. These particular actions, therefore, do not require preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement as required by NEPA.

DOC consists of thirteen operating units with diverse and often highly technical portfolios that—together—promote job creation and improved living standards for all Americans by creating an infrastructure that promotes economic growth, technological competitiveness, and sustainable development domestically and abroad for all Americans. Among its tasks are: 1. Provide the information and tools to maximize U.S. competitiveness and enable economic growth for American industries, workers, and consumers; 2. Foster science and technological leadership by protecting intellectual property, enhancing technical standards and advancing measurement science; and 3. Observe, protect and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship.

DOC does not currently have any Department-wide categorical exclusions (CEs). Only two operating units within DOC have existing CEs—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA)—but they are not available for use by other DOC operating units. The need for Department-wide CEs was identified during recent efforts to standardize policy and procedures for all operating unit grant and cooperative agreement programs. This notice targets that effort. DOC is requesting public comment on the following proposed CEs (as well as the administrative record supporting each exclusion) before making them available for use by all of its operating units.

II. Development Process for Establishing Department-wide CEs

The list of DOC CEs was compiled through an inter-departmental effort that included participation from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA), EDA, NOAA, the Office of General Counsel and the Department's Energy, Safety and Environment Division. Representatives from these organizations comprised the review panel responsible for determining appropriate CEs for the DOC.

The CEs have been approved by the DOC Office of General Counsel and the designated Senior Agency Official for NEPA.

Each proposed CE was reviewed and deliberated in concept, coverage, applicability, and wording. The review panel carefully examined the portion of the administrative record associated with each CE to ensure that the proposed exclusion fulfilled the goal of balancing increased administrative efficiency with avoidance of misinterpretations and misapplications of exclusionary language that could lead to non-compliance with NEPA requirements. Having determined that each proposed CE met these objectives, the review panel ultimately concluded that the actions contemplated by these exclusions encompassed activities that have no inherent potential for significant environmental impacts.

The panel's conclusions were further supported by the determinations made by other Federal agencies that had established CEs for activities similar in nature, scope and impact to those contemplated by DOC. The review panel determined from their experience in or on behalf of other Federal agencies that the characteristics of the activities in