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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2015–0058]

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; Availability of Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a final environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact relative to a national approach for the control of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks within the United States. Based on the environmental assessment and our review of all public comments received, we have concluded that such an approach will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Lori Miller, PE, Senior Staff Officer and Environmental Engineer, APHIS Veterinary Services, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–3512. Copies of the final EA and FONSI may be obtained by contacting Ms. Michelle Gray, Environmental Protection Specialist, ERAS/PPD/APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–3146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a significant and often fatal zoonotic disease of poultry. In December 2014, two H5 viruses of HPAI were discovered in the United States. These viruses were subsequently detected in both migratory waterfowl and domestic poultry and significantly affected domestic poultry production within the United States. Two poultry production sectors, commercial meat turkeys and laying chickens, were heavily impacted by the disease, resulting in the loss or destruction of over 48 million birds between December 2014 and June 2015.

Disease eradication efforts, northern migration of wild waterfowl, and the natural disinfecting effect of summer heat have largely halted the spread of the disease within the United States. However, subsequent migrations of potentially infected wild waterfowl could precipitate a new round of outbreaks requiring additional actions by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to control them.

On September 4, 2015, we published in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 53485, Docket No. APHIS–2015–0058) a notice [1] in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA), titled ''High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Control in Commercial Poultry Operations—A National Approach,'' and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) relative to a national approach for the control of HPAI outbreaks within the United States.

The EA recommends an approach in which APHIS uses its centralized management of carcass disposal activities to ensure consistency in responses to HPAI outbreaks throughout the United States. Under this approach, APHIS provides information and other support to State and local authorities to help them determine which depopulation, disposal, and cleaning and disinfection methods are most appropriate for the situation.

We solicited comments for 30 days ending October 5, 2015. We received 3 comments by that date, from national animal welfare organizations and a member of the public. We carefully considered the comments we received on the EA and determined that none raise issues that APHIS had not already considered. Accordingly, APHIS has decided to implement this approach and concluded that it will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The comments we received are addressed in an appendix to the final EA.

[1] To view the notice, final EA, FONSI, and comments, go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0058.*

The final EA and FONSI may be viewed on the Regulations.gov Web site (see footnote 1). Copies are also available for public inspection at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead to (202) 799–7039 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by calling or writing to the appropriate person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The EA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b); and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of February 2016.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2016–02526 Filed 2–8–16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 11, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP

1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 690–1078. FAX: (202) 720–8435. Email: *Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency'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: Thomas P. Dickson, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–1522, FAX: (202) 720–8435.

Title: Request for Release of Lien and/or Approval of Sale, RUS Form 793.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0041.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to electric and telecommunications systems to provide and improve electric and telecommunications service in rural areas pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). All current and future capital assets of RUS borrowers are ordinarily mortgaged or pledged to the Federal Government as security for RUS loans. Assets include tangible and intangible utility plant, non-utility property, construction in progress, and materials, supplies, and equipment normally used in a telecommunications system. The RE Act and the various security instruments, *e.g.,* the RUS mortgage, limit the rights of a RUS borrower to dispose of capital assets.

The RUS Form 793, Request for Release of Lien and/or Approval of Sale, allows telecommunications program borrowers to seek agency permission to sell some of its assets. The form collects detailed information regarding the proposed sale of a portion of the borrower's system. RUS telecommunications borrowers fill out the form to request RUS approval in order to sell capital assets.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.75 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 40.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 110.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Rebecca Hunt, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 205–3660, FAX (202) 720–8435 or email: *rebecca.hunt@wdc.usda.gov.*

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: February 3, 2016.

Brandon McBride,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2016–02523 Filed 2–8–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the South Dakota Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a planning meeting of the South Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 12:00 p.m. (MST) on Friday, February 26, 2016, via teleconference. The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss current civil rights issues in the state, and potential next topics of study by the committee.

Members of the public may listen to the discussion by dialing the following Conference Call Toll-Free Number: 1–888–417–8465; Conference ID: 6984210. Please be advised that before being placed into the conference call, the operator will ask callers to provide their names, their organizational affiliations (if any), and an email address (if available) prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free phone number.

Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the discussion by first calling the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–977–8339 and provide the FRS operator with the Conference Call Toll-Free Number: 1–888–417–8465, Conference ID: 6984210. Members of the public are invited to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office by Monday, March 28, 2016. Written comments may be mailed to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1961 Stout Street, Suite 13–201, Denver, CO 80294, faxed to (303) 866–1050, or emailed to Evelyn Bohor at *ebohor@usccr.gov.* Persons who desire additional information may contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office at (303) 866–1040.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing as they become available at *http://www.facadatabase.gov/committee/meetings.aspx?cid=274* and clicking on the ''Meeting Details'' and ''Documents'' links. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's Web site, *www.usccr.gov,* or to contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office at the above phone number, email or street address.

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions

Richard Braunstein, Chair, South Dakota Advisory Committee

Malee V. Craft, Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Regional Office (RMRO)

- Discussion of civil rights issues in the state to select topic for future study
- Next Steps

DATES: Friday, February 26, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. (MST)