

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 Secretary

Members of Performance Review Boards

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the appointment of members of the Performance Review Boards (PRBs) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA PRBs provide fair and impartial review of Senior Executive Service (SES) performance appraisals and make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture, regarding final performance ratings, performance awards, pay adjustments, recertification and Presidential Rank Awards for SES members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: On publication in the *Federal Register*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Holland, Office of Human Resources Management, Executive Resources and Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 720-6047.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The publication of PRB membership is required by Section 4314(c)(4) of Title 5, U.S.C. The following membership list represents the USDA PRB's.

Food Safety/Marketing & Regulatory Programs

Elsa Murano, Chairperson
Bill Hawks, MRP
Margaret Glavin, FSIS
Bobby Acord, APHIS
Kenneth Clayton, AMS
David Shipman, GIPSA
Ruthie Jackson, FNS
Alberta Frost, FNS
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Research, Education & Economics

Joseph Jen, Chairperson

R. Ron Bosecker, NASS
Floyd Horn, ARS
Susan Offutt, ERS
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Office of the Secretary

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Dale Moore, OSEC
Larry Wachs, OBPA
David Winningham, Civil Rights
J. Michael Kelly, OGC
Patricia Healy, OCFO
Alternate: Priscilla Carey, OO

Natural Resources & Environment

Patricia Healy, OCFO
Mark Rey, Chairperson
Ira Hobbs, OCIO
Besty Kuhn, ERS
Roger Conway, OCE
Alternates: Hubert Hamer, NASS,
Priscilla Carey, OO

Food Nutrition & Consumer Services; Rural Development; and, Farm & Foreign Agricultural Services

Eric Bost, Chairperson
Michael Neruda, RD
Hunt Shipman, F&FAS
Christine Pytel, NRCS
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Judith Riggins, FSIS
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Elsa Murano, FSIS
J. Michael Kelly, OGC
Keith Collins, OCE
Ira Hobbs, OCIO
Stephen Dewhurst, OBPA
Clyde Thompson, FS

Dated: November 26, 2001.

Ann M. Veneman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 01-29998 Filed 12-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-96-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-106-1]

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 that is used to evaluate the plant pest risk posed by the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products.

DATES: We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered, or e-mailed by February 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 01-106-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 01-106-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 01-106-1" on the subject line.

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>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations for the introduction of genetically engineered organisms and products which are plant pests or which there is reason to believe are plant pests, contact Ms. Shirley Ingebritsen, Regulatory Analyst,

Regulatory Coordination Staff, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 141, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5874. 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: Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason To Believe Are Plant Pests.

OMB Number: 0579-0085.

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

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, preventing the introduction or spread of plant pests into or through the United States.

As part of that responsibility, APHIS regulates the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests.

In administering the regulations, the Biotechnology Permits Branch of Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, collects certain information through its permitting and notification processes. The information enables us to evaluate the plant pest risk posed by the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products.

The information we seek with our notification and permit processes includes, among other things, a complete description of the organism or product, the safeguards that will be used in preventing escape, the destination or field test locations, and field test results that describe any unusual or harmful occurrences.

Without the information we obtain through our notification and permit application processes, we would be unable to evaluate the plant pest risk posed by the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products. Therefore, collecting the information is vital to preventing the introduction or spread of harmful plant pests into or through the United States.

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 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 information collection 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 3.18565 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. importers and shippers of genetically engineered organisms and products and agricultural companies that produce or test genetically engineered organisms or products or that engage in product research and development.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 239.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 13.1841.

Estimated annual number of responses: 3,151.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 10,038 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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 28th day of November, 2001.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-30002 Filed 12-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[01-04-A]

Opportunity for Designation in the Des Moines (IA), Georgia, Cedar Rapids (IA), Montana, Oregon, and Lake Village (IN) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in June 2002. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the areas served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. GIPSA is also asking for comments on the services provided by these currently designated agencies:

Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Central Iowa); Georgia Department of Agriculture (Georgia); Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc. (Mid-Iowa); Montana Department of Agriculture (Montana); Oregon Department of Agriculture (Oregon); and Schneider Inspection Service, Inc. (Schneider).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before January 2, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit applications and comments to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604; FAX 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications and comments will be made available for public inspection at Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail janhart@gipsadc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this Action.

Section 7(f)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act),