

Type of Respondents: Private organizations, agricultural cooperatives, universities, state departments of agriculture, Federal Agencies, local government agencies, non-profit organizations and export trade associations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 per annum.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 5 per annum.

Estimated Total Annual Burden of Respondents: 1,600 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Connie Ehrhart, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 690-1578 or email at Connie.Ehrhart@fas.usda.gov.

Request for Comments: Send comments regarding (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; (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 automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to the Director, Program Operations Division, FAS, USDA, Room 6512, Washington, DC 20250, or to PODAdmin@FAS.usda.gov. Comments may also be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

E-Government Act Compliance

FAS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act of 2002, to promote the use of the Internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.

Persons with disabilities who require an alternative means for communication of information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Dated: February 13, 2017.

Holly Higgins,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-03428 Filed 2-21-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Foreign Agricultural Service to request approval for a new information collection for the USDA's Quality Samples Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 24, 2017.

ADDRESSES: FAS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www/regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at the site for submitting comments.

- *Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.:* Send to Curt Alt, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6512, Washington, DC 20250.

- *Hand or courier delivered submittals:* Deliver to Curt Alt, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6512, Washington, DC 20250.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the agency name. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Curt Alt, Program Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 6512, Washington, DC 20250-1034, telephone: (202) 690-4784, email: PODAdmin@FAS.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: USDA Quality Samples Program.

OMB Number: 0551—New.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from approval date.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: Under the USDA Quality Samples Program, information will be gathered from applicants desiring to receive grants under the program to determine the viability of requests for resources to implement activities in foreign countries. Recipients of grants under the program must submit written evaluation reports as set forth in the annual Notices of Funding Availability for the Quality Samples Program. Submitted information is used to develop effective grant agreements and assure that statutory requirements and program objectives are met.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for each respondent resulting from information collection under the USDA Quality Samples Program varies in direct relation to the number and type of agreements entered into by such respondent. The estimated average reporting burden for the USDA Quality Samples Program is 4.4 hours per response.

Type of Respondents: Government agencies, private organizations, agricultural cooperatives, and export trade associations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10 per annum.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 25 per annum.

Estimated Total Annual Burden of Respondents: 1,100 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Connie Ehrhart, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 690-1578 or email at Connie.Ehrhart@fas.usda.gov.

Request for Comments: Send comments regarding (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; (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 automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to the Director, Program Operations Division, FAS, USDA, Room 6512, Washington, DC 20250, or to PODAdmin@FAS.usda.gov.

Comments may also be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

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Dated: February 13, 2017.

Holly Higgins,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Energy Answers Arecibo, LLC: Notice of availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the Department of Agriculture (USDA), has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), RUS's implementing regulations, 7 CFR part 1970, and other applicable environmental requirements related to providing financial assistance for Energy Answers Arecibo, LLC's (Energy Answers) proposed (Project) in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. RUS will also use the FEIS to meet its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR part 800). The FEIS addresses the construction, operation, and maintenance of Energy Answers'

proposed Project, a waste-to-energy generation and resource recovery facility described previously in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It also addresses the roughly 3,820 comments received during the comment periods for the DEIS. The overall project area encompasses parts of the Cambalache Ward in Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

DATES: Written comments on the FEIS will be accepted 30 days following the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental impact statement receipt notice in the **Federal Register**. Notices of Availability of the FEIS will be published in the local newspapers. After a 30-day public review period on the FEIS, RUS will consider comments and prepare a Record of Decision for its respective action. The environmental review process is expected to conclude in the late winter or spring of 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To receive copies of the FEIS or request information on the proposed Project, the FEIS process, and RUS financing, contact Mr. Steven Polacek, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Water and Environmental Programs, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Mail Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250, telephone: (202) 205-9805, fax: (202) 690-0649, or email: Steve.Polacek@wdc.usda.gov. Copies of the FEIS will be available for review in the Arecibo Public Library (Nicolas Nabal Barreto), located at: 210 Santiago Iglesias Pantin Ave., Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00612.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Energy Answers plans to request financial assistance for the proposed Project from RUS. Completing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a precursor requirement to processing a loan application from Energy Answers. Upon completion of the EIS process, RUS would review Energy Answers' application along with other technical and financial considerations. Energy Answers proposes to construct a waste to energy generation and resource recovery facility in the Cambalache Ward of Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The proposed facility would receive and process approximately 2,300 tons of municipal waste per day and generate a gross capacity of 77 megawatts (MW). The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority will purchase power generated from the facility. The preferred location of the facility is the site of a former paper mill and would cover approximately 79.6 acres of the 90-acre parcel. The proposal would include the following facility

components: A municipal solid waste receiving and processing building; processed refuse fuel storage building; boiler and steam turbine; emission control system; ash processing and storage building; and other associated infrastructure and buildings. Two other connected actions, which would be constructed by other utilities, include installation of an approximately 2.0-mile raw water line and construction of a 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line approximately 0.8 miles in length. The connected actions will be addressed in the proposed Project's EIS.

In accordance with 7 CFR 1970.15(c)(2) and 40 CFR 1502.18, RUS incorporates as an appendix received on the environmental impact analyses and associated documentation prepared by the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) where appropriate. PRIDCO served as a lead agency in preparing an EIS under the Puerto Rico Environmental Public Policy Act, Article 4(B)(3), Law No. 416 (September 22, 2004). The USEPA completed air quality analyses and issued a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit for the proposed Project on June 11, 2013. As applicable, the EIS documents changes in the affected environment and environmental consequences that may have changed since issuance of the PRIDCO-EIS and USEPA PSD permit.

Under NEPA regulations, RUS is required to identify and evaluate reasonable alternatives to the Project, as well as a no-action alternative. Reasonable alternatives are those that are "practical or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint." In determining reasonable alternatives, RUS considered a number of factors including the proposed action's size and scope, state of the technology, economic considerations, legal considerations, socioeconomic concerns, availability of resources, and the timeframe in which the identified need must be fulfilled. Alternative site locations, thermal conversion technologies, cooling process water sources, alternative fuels and renewable energy technologies were also considered.

RUS reviewed multiple needs including (1) providing a dispatchable electrical generation resource that adds to Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority's (PREPA) reserve capacity levels, (2) helping PREPA meet the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard enacted by Puerto Rico and use cleaner and more environmentally friendly energy resources, and (3) decreasing Puerto Rico's dependence on imported