

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) have commented on the project. No public comments were received on the EA.

A Habitat Permit from the OHMP will be required for equipment crossings and snow ramp/ice road construction over the anadromous streams. GVEA will obtain all necessary permits including the Habitat Permit from OHMP. The BLM would be responsible for issuing an authorization for third party use of military reservation lands that would be withdrawn for use other than military purposes under Pub. L. 105-65. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of Alaska recommended an archaeological survey of the final route for the transmission line. GVEA will conduct an archaeological survey and the survey report will be made available to SHPO for review and comment. No construction related activities will be undertaken prior to final approval from SHPO and RUS. GVEA has agreed to consult with APSC on final routing of the transmission line when it would be necessary either to cross or be near the pipeline.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by the 7 CFR part 1794, RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures.

Dated: March 4, 2004.

**Blaine D. Stockton,**

*Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is announcing the process by which Fiscal Year 2004 funding of its pilot grant program to finance the conversion of television services from analog to digital broadcasting for public television stations serving rural areas will be made available. For Fiscal Year 2004, \$14 million in grants will be made available for the continued funding of the national competition announced on July 18, 2003, to enable public television stations that serve substantial

rural populations to continue serving their coverage areas.

**DATES:** Successful grant applicants will be notified no later than March 31, 2004.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1590, Room 5151, Washington, DC 20250-1590. Telephone number (202) 720-9554, Facsimile (202) 720-0810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On July 18, 2003, RUS published a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) in the **Federal Register** at 68 FR 42680 announcing its "public television station digital transition" grant program to finance the conversion of television services from analog to digital broadcasting for public television stations serving rural areas. Fifteen million dollars in grant authority was made available to finance digital conversions.

As part of the nation's evolution to digital television, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ordered all television broadcasters to initiate the broadcast of a digital television signal by May 1, 2003, and to cease analog television broadcasts on December 31, 2006. About half of the nation's 357 public television stations did not meet the deadline to initiate digital broadcasting, and have received extensions to as late as May 1, 2004, to do so.

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2003, authorized \$51,941,000 for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program. The Committee Recommendations specify that of the funds provided for Distance Learning and Telemedicine, \$15,000,000 should be made available in grants for public broadcasting systems to meet the FCC's mandate.

Public television stations rely largely on community financial support to operate. In many rural areas the cost of the transition to digital broadcasting may exceed community resources. Since rural communities depend on public television stations for services ranging from educational course content in their schools to local news, weather, and agricultural reports, any disruption of public television broadcasting would be detrimental.

In response to its NOFA, RUS received 46 applications totaling more than \$45 million in funding requests. As part of a national competition, RUS

reviewed the applications for applicant and project eligibility and scored the applications according to the rurality of the applicant's digital television coverage area, the average per capita income of the applicant's digital television cover area, and critical need. On February 20, 2004, Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, announced the 16 highest scoring grants totaling \$15,000,000. This announcement fully utilized RUS' 2003 appropriation.

On January 23, 2004, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 was enacted which provided \$39 million for grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas provided that \$14 million is made available to convert analog to digital operation those noncommercial educational television broadcast stations that serve rural areas and are qualified for Community Service Grants by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting under section 396(k) of the Communications Act of 1934, including associated translators, repeaters, and studio-to-transmitter links. Due to the overwhelming response to the July 18, 2003, NOFA, RUS has eligible applications on hand totaling more than the \$14 million appropriation received for Fiscal Year 2004. To eliminate the need for fully eligible applicants to resubmit applications for Fiscal Year 2004, RUS will utilize its 2004 appropriation by funding eligible projects submitted in accordance with the July 18, 2003, NOFA. Announcement of the 2004 appropriation grant awards will be made no later than March 31, 2004.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

**Hilda Gay Legg,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-485-803]

#### Notice of Extension of Time Limit for the Preliminary Results of the Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From Romania

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (the Department) is extending the time limits for the preliminary results of the 2002-2003 administrative review of the antidumping duty order on cut-to-length carbon steel plate from Romania. This