

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 236

Thursday, December 9, 1999

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. 99-091-1]

#### Availability of Draft Pest Risk Assessment for the Importation of Honeybees and Honeybee Germ Plasm from New Zealand

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that a draft pest risk assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the importation of honeybees and honeybee germ plasm from New Zealand. We are making this draft pest risk assessment available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We invite you to comment on the draft pest risk assessment. We will consider all comments that we receive by February 7, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99-091-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 99-091-1.

A copy of the draft pest risk assessment, and any comments that we receive on it, may be reviewed 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Robert V. Flanders, Regulatory Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 141, Riverdale, MD 20737-1228; (301) 734-5930.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has received a request from the Government of New Zealand to allow the importation into the United States of adult honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) (specifically queens and package bees) and honeybee germ plasm from New Zealand. The request was made in accordance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

To determine whether the risk associated with such importation is low enough for us to initiate rulemaking to implement this change to our regulations, we have prepared a draft pest risk assessment, entitled "Risk Assessment: Importation of Adult Queens, Package Bees, and Germ Plasm of Honeybees (*Apis mellifera* L.) From New Zealand," in consultation with the Government of New Zealand. The draft pest risk assessment identifies quarantine pests associated with the importation of honeybees and honeybee germ plasm from New Zealand and qualitatively assesses the likelihood of the introduction of these quarantine pests into the United States, as well as the consequences of introduction.

We are making this draft pest risk assessment available to the public for review and comment. In particular, we request feedback on the risk factors, methodology, and documentation used in the draft pest risk assessment. We will consider all comments that we receive by the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The draft pest risk assessment is available in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice), on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pral/honeybees/>, by calling the Plant Protection and Quarantine automated fax retrieval system at (301) 734-3560 and requesting document 0512, or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 281; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of December 1999.

**Bobby R. Acord,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-31955 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Previously Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for an information collection previously approved in support of the Agency's personnel employment system for its county committee employees who are not considered Federal Civil Service employees within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 2105.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 7, 2000 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donald Samuels, Personnel Management Specialist, Human Resources Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0592, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0592; telephone (202) 418-8988; e-mail [Don\\_Samuels@wdc.fsa.usda.gov](mailto:Don_Samuels@wdc.fsa.usda.gov); or facsimile (202) 418-9121.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Selection and Functions of Farm Service Agency State, County, and Community Committees.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0016.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a Previously Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0560-0016, as identified above, is needed to enable the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to effectively administer the regulations at 7 CFR part 7 relating to the selection and function of Farm Service Agency State, County and Community Committees. Information requested on

the FSA-675, Application for FSA County Office Employment, is for the purpose of identifying applicants for vacant positions in FSA county offices. These employees, who are not Federal Civil Service employees within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 2105 staff approximately 2,400 county FSA offices throughout the nation. Total employment figures equal about 12,444. Part 7, Sections 7.1 through 7.40 of the Secretary's Regulations provides for this system and sets some specific requirements for the type of information that must be considered prior to employment.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this information collection is difficult to determine because it is directly related to the number of vacancies that exist and the level of interest candidates may show for any particular vacancy. However, past records indicate approximately 9,000 responses per year. The average time per response would be in the area of 1 hour per applicant.

*Respondents:* Applicants for Employment.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 9,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 9,000 hours.

Topics for comment include, but are not limited to the following: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503, and to Don Samuels, Personnel Management Specialist, Human Resources Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0592, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0592; telephone (202) 418-8988. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Don Samuels at the above address.

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.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on December 2, 1999.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 99-31871 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Agriculture has established an advisory committee, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership for the Lake Tahoe Region. Nominations of persons to serve as the local government representative or as the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency representative of the Committee are invited.

**DATES:** Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received in writing by December 27, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send nominations with telephone numbers for membership on the Committee to: FACA Nominations, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 870 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, (530) 573-2641.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture has established the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee on July 13, 1998 and will be selected nominations for two vacant positions. The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Basin and other matters raised by the Secretary.

The Secretary has determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, conducting public meetings to discuss management strategies, gather information and review federal agency accomplishments, and prepare a progress report every six months for submission to regional federal executives.

The Committee will consist of no more than 20 members representing a broad array of interests in the Lake Tahoe Region. Representatives have been selected from the following sectors: (1) Gaming; (2) environmental; (3) natural resources; (4) ski resorts; (5) North Shore economic and recreation interests; (6) South Shore economic and recreation interests; (7) resort associations; (8) education; (9) property rights advocates; (10) member-at-large; (11) member-at-large; (12) science and research; (13) local government (vacant); (14) Washoe Tribe; (15) State of California; (16) State of Nevada; (17) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (vacant); (18) Union/labor interests; (19) transportation; and (20) member-at-large.

Nominations representing local government or Tahoe Regional Planning Agency should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee.

Vacancies on the Committee will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include to the extent practicable individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: December 2, 1999.

**Edmund Gee,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.*

[FR Doc. 99-31880 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Silvies Canyon Watershed Restoration Project, Malheur National Forest, Grant and Harney Counties, Oregon

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to improve the ecosystem health within a portion of the 81,000 acre Silvies Canyon Watershed. The proposed restoration activities will be in compliance with the