

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-00-200]

Notice of Program Continuation

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice Inviting Applications for fiscal year (FY) 2000 Grant Funds Under the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) was allocated \$1,200,000 in the Federal budget for FY 2000. Funds remain available for this program. States interested in obtaining funds under the program are invited to submit proposals. While only State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State Agencies are eligible to apply for funds, State Agencies are encouraged to involve industry organizations in the development of proposals and the conduct of projects.

DATES: Applications will be accepted through May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Proposals may be sent to: FSMIP Staff, Transportation and Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4006 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Larry V. Summers, (202) 720-2704.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FSMIP is authorized under Section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*). The program is a matching fund program designed to assist State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State agencies in conducting studies or developing innovative approaches related to the marketing of agricultural products. Other organizations interested in

participating in this program should contact their State Department of Agriculture's Marketing Division to discuss their proposal.

Mutually acceptable proposals are submitted by the State Agency and must be accompanied by a completed Standard Form (SF)-424 with SF-424A and SF-424B attached. FSMIP funds may not be used for advertising or, with limited exceptions, for the purchase of equipment or facilities. Guidelines may be obtained from your State Department of Agriculture or the above AMS contact.

Funds can be requested for a wide range of marketing research and marketing service activities, including projects aimed at:

(1) Developing and testing new or more efficient methods of processing, packaging, handling, storing, transporting, and distributing food and other agricultural products;

(2) Assessing customer response to new or alternative agricultural products or marketing services and evaluating potential opportunities for U.S. producers, processors and other agribusinesses, in both domestic and international markets; and,

(3) Identifying problems and impediments in existing channels of trade between producers and consumers of agricultural products and devising improved marketing practices, facilities, or systems to address such problems.

While all proposals which fall within the FSMIP guidelines will be considered, States are encouraged to submit proposals in the following areas, which correspond with ongoing, National initiatives in support of:

(1) Small farms—to increase the base of marketing research and marketing services of particular importance to small-scale, limited-resource farmers and rural agribusinesses, with emphasis on projects aimed at identifying and improving producers' abilities to participate in alternative domestic and export markets;

(2) Direct marketing—to identify and evaluate opportunities for producers to respond directly to new or expanding consumer demands for products and value-adding services, with emphasis on projects which concurrently address the needs of presently under served consumers; and

(3) Sustainable agriculture—to encourage the development of

marketing channels and methods consistent with maintaining or improving the environment, with emphasis on projects aimed at expanding consumers' choices with regard to the environmental impact of alternative production and marketing technologies.

Copies of the FSMIP guidelines may be obtained by contacting the person listed as the contact for further information. FSMIP is listed in the "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance" under number 10.156 and subject agencies must adhere to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination in all Federally assisted programs.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator,

Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 00-714 Filed 1-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Interim Flat Fee Policy for Outfitting and Guiding Activities; Alaska National Forests

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Regional Forester, Alaska Region, has adopted an interim flat fee policy for all outfitting and guiding activities on National Forest Systems (NFS) lands in the Alaska Region. Developed in response to an order from the Federal District Court in Alaska arising from a lawsuit filed by The Tongass Conservancy, the interim flat fee policy is designed to charge fees that are fair and equitable to the Federal government and the Alaska outfitter and guide industry.

On July 21, 1999, the Forest Service requested comments on a proposed interim flat fee policy for all outfitting and guiding activities on NFS lands in the Alaska Region. Notification of the policy was published in the **Federal Register**, in the local newspapers, distributed to interested parties, and posted on the worldwide web. Consideration was given to all responses in formulation of the final interim policy. The interim policy is issued as

a regional supplement to Section 37.2 of the Forest Service Special Uses Handbook, FSH 2709.11.

Copies of the interim flat fee schedule and policy are being sent to all holders of Forest Service outfitting and guiding permits in Alaska and other potentially interested parties. In addition, notice of the proposal is being published in local newspapers of record, and the policy and fee schedule are being posted on the worldwide web. The purpose of this notice is to advise others who may have an interest in the interim fee policy.

DATES: Effective February 14, 2000. Except for outfitters and guides using the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, who will continue to operate under the mandatory flat fee schedule that was implemented in 1996, and outfitters and guides who are paying fees that have been determined through a competitive process, permit holders will have the choice of using the interim flat fee schedule or one of the current fee calculations methods for the 1999 and 2000 permit periods through December 31, 2000. Permit holders must notify their permit administrators of their choice of fee calculation methods for the 1999 operating season by March 15, 2000. For the year 2000 operating season, eligible permit holders must select the preferred method of fee calculation prior to the year 2000 operating season. Beginning January 1, 2001, permit fees for all outfitting and guiding in Alaska's national forests will be determined using flat fees except for those permits which have had their fees established by a competitive process.

ADDRESSES: For copies of the proposed interim flat fee policy, write to the Regional Forester, Attention: Public Services, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99802-1628 or access the document online at http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/what's_hot/hot.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The local Forest Service Ranger District, Supervisor's Office, or Arn Albrecht, (907) 586-7886, or Don Fisher, (907) 586-7861, in the Alaska Regional Office.

Dated: January 5, 2000.

Rick D. Cables,
Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 00-679 Filed 1-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Freedom Power Station Plant: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) for its Federal action related to a project proposed by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., (SWEC) of Greenville, Illinois. The project consists of constructing a natural gas-fired simple cycle, combustion turbine power generation facility near Wright's Corner in Fayette County, Illinois. RUS may provide financing assistance to SWEC for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nurul Islam, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1414. His e-mail address is nislam@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from Mr. Joe Richardson, Business Development and Marketing Manager, SWEC, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246, telephone (618) 664-1025. Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS should receive comments on the EA in writing within 30 days of the publication of this notice to insure that RUS prior to making its environmental impact determination considers them.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SWEC proposes to construct the Freedom Power Generation Plant near Wright's Corner in Fayette County, Illinois. The primary purpose of the facility is to meet SWEC peak electrical load. The generation unit consists of a turbine similar to those found in commercial airline engines. Natural gas will be used as generating fuel for the plant. The unit will have a peak capacity of 45 MW. The facility will be located on a 1.5-acre tract of land on the east side of County Highway 4 approximately six miles north of the city of St. Elmo, Illinois. The power generated from the facility will be distributed through an existing transmission line owned and operated jointly by SWEC and Ameren. No additional construction of the transmission facility will be required. Kansas-Nebraska Energy will provide natural gas fuel for the facility. The Kansas-Nebraska Energy's gas pipeline

is located about 50 feet from the plant site.

Environmental Audits and Consultants, Inc., of Vandalia, Illinois, prepared an environmental report on behalf of the SWEC and submitted it to RUS for its evaluation. The environmental report describes the project and assesses its potential environmental impacts. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental report and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. This environmental report will serve as RUS' EA of the project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

The EA can be reviewed at the headquarters of SWEC and the RUS, at the addresses provided above in this notice.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided in this notice. RUS will accept questions and comments on the EA for at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Lawrence R. Wolfe,
Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 00-715 Filed 1-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-485-803]

Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From Romania: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

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

ACTION: Notice of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review.

SUMMARY: On September 7, 1999 the Department of Commerce (the Department) published the preliminary results of review of the antidumping duty order on cut-to-length carbon steel plate from Romania. This review covers one manufacture/exporter of the subject