

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, that it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statement must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. [*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)] Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the name and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 21)

Dated: December 2, 2003.

Huston A. Nicholas,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-30439 Filed 12-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE CMTL-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 15, 2004, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lake County Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie McIntosh, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Upper Lake Ranger District, 10025 Elk Mountain Road, Upper Lake, CA 95485. (707) 275-2361; E-mail dmcintosh@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Roll Call/Establish Quorum; (2) Overview of November Sacramento RAC Meeting; (3) Finalize business for 2003; (4) Title II funds available for Projects for 2004; (5) Discuss Project Cost Accounting USFS/County of Lake; (6) Set Next Meeting Date; (7) Public Comment Period; Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: December 2, 2003.

Blaine P. Baker,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-30410 Filed 12-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing

Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) grant program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 9, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beth Jones, Senior Loan Specialist, Community Programs Direct Loan and Grant Processing and Servicing Branch, RHS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Mail Stop 0787, Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 720-1498, E-mail beth.jones@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Rural Community Development Initiative.

OMB Number: 0575-0180.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: RHS, an Agency within the USDA Rural Development mission area, will administer the RCDI grant program through their Community Facilities Division. The intent of the RCDI grant program is to develop the capacity and ability of rural area recipients to undertake projects through a program of financial and technical assistance provided by qualified intermediary organizations. The eligible recipients are nonprofit organizations, low-income rural communities, or Federally recognized tribes. The intermediary may be a qualified private, nonprofit, or public (including tribal) organization. The intermediary is the applicant. The intermediary must have been organized a minimum of 3 years at the time of application. The intermediary will be required to provide matching funds, in the form of cash or committed funding, in an amount at least equal to the RCDI grant.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.72 hours per response.

Respondents: Intermediaries and recipients.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 146.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.48.

Estimated Number of Responses: 8.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,026.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0042.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (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 Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250. 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.

Dated: November 24, 2003.

Arthur A. Garcia,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-30437 Filed 12-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Maine Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a conference call of the Maine Advisory Committee will convene at 11 a.m. and adjourn at 12 p.m., Friday, December 12, 2003. The purpose of the conference call is to discuss forum panel format/topics and potential panelists to invite for a community forum on post-9/11 civil rights issues in Maine.

This conference call is available to the public through the following call-in number: 1-888-659-1081, access code: 20610279. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls not initiated using the supplied call-in number or over wireless lines and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls using the call-in number over land-line connections. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the

proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-977-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and access code number.

To ensure that the Commission secures an appropriate number of lines for the public, persons are asked to register by contacting Aonghas St-Hilaire of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116), by 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2003.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, November 23, 2003.

Ivy L. Davis,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 03-30433 Filed 12-4-03; 11:19 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 29-2003]

Wacker Chemical Corporation— Application for Subzone Status; Extension of Comment Period

The comment period for the application for subzone status at the Wacker Chemical Corporation in Adrian, Michigan, submitted by the Greater Detroit Foreign-Trade Zone, Inc. (68 FR 38009, 6/26/03), is being extended again, to December 22, 2003 to allow interested parties additional time in which to comment. Rebuttal comments may be submitted during the subsequent 15 day period, until January 6, 2004. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at one of the following addresses:

1. Submissions Via Express/Package Delivery Services: Foreign-Trade-Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Franklin Court Building—Suite 4100W, 1099 14th St. NW., Washington, DC 20005; or

2. Submissions Via the U.S. Postal Service: Foreign-Trade-Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, FCB—Suite 4100W, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: December 3, 2003.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-30491 Filed 12-8-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1306]

Grant of Authority; Establishment of a Foreign-Trade Zone; Koochiching County, MN

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Foreign-Trade Zones Act provides for “* * * the establishment * * * of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes,” and authorizes the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs ports of entry;

Whereas, the Koochiching Economic Development Authority (the Grantee), a Minnesota public corporation, has made application to the Board (FTZ Docket 22-2003, filed 4/30/03), requesting the establishment of a foreign-trade zone at sites in Koochiching County, Minnesota, within the International Falls-Ranier Customs port of entry;

Whereas, notice inviting public comment has been given in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 23952, 5/6/03); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations are satisfied, and that approval of the application is in the public interest;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby grants to the Grantee the privilege of establishing a foreign-trade zone, designated on the records of the Board as Foreign-Trade Zone No. 259, at the sites described in the application, and subject to the Act and the Board's regulations, including § 400.28.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 28th day of November, 2003.

Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

Donald I. Evans,

Secretary of Commerce, Chairman and Executive Officer.

Attest:

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-30492 Filed 12-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P