

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-072-2]

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Importation of Logs, Lumber, and Other Unmanufactured Wood Articles

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of reopening and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening and extending the comment period for our notice announcing that we intend to prepare a supplement to the environmental impact statement, issued in July 1994, for the rulemaking proceeding entitled "Importation of Logs, Lumber, and Other Unmanufactured Wood Articles." This reopening and extension will provide interested groups and individuals with additional time to prepare comments on the request for information.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments on Docket No. 97-072-1 that are received on or before October 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 97-072-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 97-072-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Orr, Entomologist, Risk Analysis Systems, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 117, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238, (301) 734-8939, or Jack Edmundson, Project Leader, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238, (301) 734-8565.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 26, 1997, we published in the *Federal Register* (62 FR 45217, Docket No. 97-072-1) a notice advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service would prepare a supplement to the environmental impact statement, issued in July 1994, for the rulemaking proceeding entitled "Importation of Logs, Lumber, and Other Unmanufactured Wood Articles." Comments on that notice were invited and a comment due date of September 25, 1997, was established. We are now advising the public that an extension of the comment due date, to October 24, 1997, has been granted in response to several requests for such an extension. This action will allow interested groups and individuals additional time to prepare and submit comments.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of October 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-26511 Filed 10-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved 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 Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in

support of the USDA's Export Sales Reporting Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 8, 1997 assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Thomas B McDonald, Jr., Chief, Export Sales Reporting, International Trade Policy, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1025, (202) 720-3273, FAX (202) 690-3275.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Export Sales of U.S. Agricultural Commodities.

OMB Number: 0551-0007.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1998.

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

Abstract: The Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 requires mandatory reporting by all export sellers of selected U.S. produced agricultural commodities. The published data is an "early warning" of sales activity and provides basis for more informed decisions by producers, exporters, futures markets participants, consumers, and government. The respondents include any person or company who sells a reportable commodity to a foreign buyer.

USDA's export sales reporting system has its roots in the unexpected purchase of large amounts of U.S. wheat and corn by the Soviet Union in 1972. To make sure that all parties involved in the production and export of U.S. grain have access to up-to-date export information, the U.S. Congress mandated an export sales reporting requirement in 1973. Prior to the establishment of the export reporting system, it was impossible for the public to obtain information on export sales activity until the actual shipments had taken place. This frequently resulted in considerable delay in the availability of information.

Under the export sales reporting system, U.S. exporters are required to report all large sales of certain designated commodities by 3 p.m. (Eastern time) on the next business day after the sale is made. The designated commodities for these daily reports are wheat (by class), barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, soybeans, soybean cake and meal, and soybean oil. Large sales