

Proposed Rules

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 159

Tuesday, August 18, 1998

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Telephone Bank

7 CFR Part 1610

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1744

Review and Revision of Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program and the Rural Telephone Bank Loan Documents

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service and Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and Rural Telephone Bank (RTB) are working on a project to update the form and content of the mortgages and loan documents relating to telecommunications borrowers. This project is part of the continuing effort to streamline and simplify regulations and to reduce burdens on borrowers. Suggestions are invited on these documents.

DATES: Comments must be received by RUS or carry a postmark or equivalent by September 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development And Regulatory Analysis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. RUS requires a signed original and 3 copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.4).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Room 4034 South Bldg., 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: 202-720-0736. FAX: 202-720-4120. E-mail: fheppe@rus.usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of their continuing effort to streamline and simplify regulations and to reduce

burdens on borrowers, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and Rural Telephone Bank (RTB) intend to revise and reform their loan contract and mortgage documents. The reform initiative will have the following objectives:

1. Preserve and enhance RUS loan security;
2. Provide borrower flexibility into the 21st Century;
3. Improve RUS response to a rapidly changing competitive and regulatory environment;
4. Streamline RUS controls and approvals;
5. Minimize the differences between RUS loan documents for cooperatives and commercial entities;
6. Improve the ability of borrowers to respond to a changing marketplace;
7. Reduce RUS processing delays and speed the release of funds;
8. Improve the use of the Automated Legal Practice System (ALPS) which prepares most loan documents;
9. Where feasible and prudent, conform lending criteria with that of private financial institutions;
10. Avoid the traditional principle of "one size fits all."

Comments are invited on this project, especially on the above objectives. Target for completion and publication is early November. Consequently, we have selected a relatively short period for receipt of comments.

Dated: August 11, 1998.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service and Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 98-22022 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 93 and 98

[Docket No. 97-014-2]

Canadian Border Ports; Champlain, NY, and Derby Line, VT

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: We are withdrawing a proposed rule that would have amended

the animal and animal product importation regulations by removing Champlain, NY, and Derby Line, VT, as land border ports of entry for animals and animal germ plasm imported from Canada into the United States. We had proposed this action in an effort to increase efficiency in our animal and animal germ plasm inspection program along the U.S.-Canada border. We are withdrawing the proposed rule because of ongoing communications with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding possible sharing of animal inspection resources along the U.S.-Canada border.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Gary Colgrove, Chief Staff Veterinarian, Import/Export Animals, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-3276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 27, 1997, we published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 34677-34679, Docket No. 97-014-1) a proposed rule to amend the regulations at 9 CFR parts 93¹ and 98, which govern the importation of animals and animal products, to remove Champlain, NY, and Derby Line, VT, from the lists of border ports along the U.S.-Canada border having inspection facilities for the importation of animals and animal germ plasm. The ports of Champlain, NY, and Derby Line, VT, are listed in parts 93 and 98 as ports of entry for the importation of many animals, including poultry, horses, swine, cattle, and other ruminants, and certain animal germ plasm. The animal importation facilities at these two ports are open on a part-time basis only. Following a review of the amount of animal and animal germ plasm inspections performed annually at all of the Canadian border ports in the Northeast, we were considering closing the animal importation facilities at Champlain and Derby Line to increase efficiency in our inspection program.

We solicited comments on the proposed rule for 60 days ending

¹ The proposed rule actually discussed amending parts 92 and 98 instead of parts 93 and 98. The provisions of part 92, "Importation of Certain Animals, Birds, and Poultry, and Certain Animal, Bird, and Poultry Products; Requirements for Means of Conveyance and Shipping Containers," were moved to part 93 in a final rule published October 28, 1997 (62 FR 56000-56026, Docket No. 94-106-9), and effective November 28, 1997.