

SUMMARY: EPA will transfer to its contractor, SAIC and its subcontractors: Claremont Technical Group, Inc., DPRA, Inc., ERG, Inc., Hazardous and Medical Services, Inc., Johnston and McLamb CASE Solutions, Inc., Bob Kerr and Associates, Inc., RTI, and Ross Associates Environmental Consulting Ltd. Confidential Business Information (CBI) that has been or will be submitted to EPA under Section 3007 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Under RCRA, EPA is involved in activities to support, expand and implement solid and hazardous waste regulations.

DATES: Transfer of confidential data submitted to EPA will occur no sooner than December 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Regina Magbie, Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Comments should be identified as "Transfer of Confidential Data."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina Magbie, Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, 703-308-7909.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Transfer of Confidential Business Information

Under EPA Contract 68-W-98-025, SAIC and its subcontractors will assist the Office of Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Division, by providing technical support in developing additions and modifications to existing hazardous waste data bases, providing assistance for the LDR program and for hazardous waste treatment capacity determinations, assisting with the development of Information Collection Request, supporting the study of hazardous waste generation and the development of guidance documents, waste minimization assessments, and evaluations of waste minimization options. SAIC also will assist in conducting assessments and studies of management and treatment technologies and of multimedia impacts, provide support with waste and emissions sampling and analysis activities, assist in conducting investigations of waste management practices and in developing a voluntary waste minimization sign-up program. EPA has determined that SAIC and its subcontractors will need access to RCRA CBI submitted to the Office of Solid Waste to complete this work.

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.305(h) (see 42 U.S.C. 6927(b)), EPA has determined that SAIC and its subcontractors require access to CBI submitted to EPA under the authority of RCRA to perform work satisfactorily under the above-noted contract. EPA is submitting this notice to inform all submitters of CBI of EPA's intent to transfer CBI to these firms on a need-to-know basis. Upon completing its review of materials submitted, SAIC and its subcontractors will return all CBI to EPA.

EPA will authorize SAIC and its subcontractors access to RCRA CBI under the conditions and terms in EPA's "Contractor Requirements for the Control and Security of RCRA Confidential Business Information Security Manual". Prior to transferring CBI to SAIC and its subcontractors, EPA will review and approve its security plans and SAIC and its subcontractors will sign non-disclosure agreements.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

Matthew Hale,

Acting Director, Office of Solid Waste.

[FR Doc. 98-33739 Filed 12-18-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6205-7]

Notice of Proposed Prospective Purchaser Agreement Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, As Amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Arkansas River Ranch

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: Notification is hereby given that a Proposed Prospective Purchaser Agreement (PPA) associated with the Arkansas River Ranch property (Property) located in Lake County, Colorado was executed by the United States Department of Justice. This Agreement is subject to final approval after the comment period. The PPA would resolve certain potential EPA claims under sections 106 and 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (CERCLA), and would resolve certain potential U.S. Department of Interior claims under

section 107 of CERCLA and section 311(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act, against the State of Colorado, acting by and through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, the prospective purchaser (purchaser).

The settlement would require the purchaser to provide maintenance and monitoring of areas within the Property where response and/or restoration activities have occurred, cooperate in establishing, if necessary, land use restrictions on portions of the Property, and to maintain the Property as open space, parks, wildlife habitat and recreational space. The purchaser intends to use the purchased property for open space, parks, wildlife habitat and recreational space. The purchaser agreed to provide EPA with an irrevocable right of access to the Property, to conduct all activities in compliance with all applicable local, State, and federal laws and regulations, and to exercise due care at the Property.

The purchaser will record a certified copy of the PPA with the local Clerk and Recorder's Office, and thereafter, each deed, title, or other instrument conveying an interest in the Property shall contain a notice stating that the Property is subject to the Agreement.

For Fourteen (14) days following the date of publication of this document, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the proposed settlement. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the Superfund Records Center at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Availability

The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202. A copy of the proposed Agreement may be obtained from Richard Sisk (8ENF-L), Attorney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202. Comments should reference the "Arkansas River Ranch Prospective Purchaser Agreement" and should be forwarded to Richard Sisk at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Sisk (8ENF-L), Attorney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202. (303) 312-6638.

It is so agreed:

Dated: December 11, 1998.

Sharon Kercher,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement, Compliance, and Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII.

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FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

[BM-10-DEC-98-03]

Farm Credit System Service to Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers and Ranchers

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

ACTION: Policy statement.

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) Board recently adopted a policy statement encouraging the Board of Directors of each Farm Credit System (FCS or System) institution to renew its commitment to providing credit and related services to young, beginning, and small farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products (YBS borrowers). The policy addresses the FCA Board's position on the System's YBS service and coordination while maintaining safe and sound lending programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 10, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John J. Hays, Policy Analyst or John C. Moore, Chief Economist, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4498, TDD (703) 883-4444,

or

Joy Strickland, Senior Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4020, TDD (703) 883-4444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FCA Board adopted a policy statement concerning YBS borrowers on December 10, 1998. The policy addresses the FCA Board's position on the System's YBS service, coordination, and safety and soundness.

The System was founded in order to be a reliable and affordable source of credit for farmers and ranchers. As agriculture evolved, the System has been granted additional authorities to ensure that it remained a competitive and reliable source of credit. One such Congressional action was the Farm Credit Act Amendments of 1980 (1980 Amendments), which required System institutions operating under titles I and II of the Act of 1971, as amended, to have programs serving the credit and

other special needs of YBS farmers. Congress placed special emphasis on System institutions coordinating their programs with other System institutions, with non-System lenders, governmental entities, and other organizations. The amendments also required that the results of such programs be reported to us, and that we summarize the System's activities in an annual report to Congress.

We are renewing our focus on the System's YBS programs for several reasons: (1) The Congress, YBS borrowers, and the general public expect the FCS to have active and effective programs to address this sector of rural America; (2) the System's improved financial health places it in a much better position to serve these agricultural borrowers; and (3) our reporting requirements need to be updated to reflect the current circumstances in agriculture. The definitions used by System institutions for reporting on the results of their YBS programs have not been significantly updated since they were first adopted subsequent to the 1980 Amendments.

Young and beginning farmers are the future for American agriculture. Small farmers play an important role too. Each have unique needs for credit and other services. We are refocusing our efforts to ensure that the System is responsive to YBS borrowers' needs and is a reliable lender for future generations. We believe the FCS institutions should meet those needs constructively and on a safe and sound basis.

The policy statement, in its entirety, follows

Policy Statement on Farm Credit System Service to Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers and Ranchers

[BM-10-DEC-98-03; FCA-PS-75]

Effective Date: December 10, 1998.

Effect on Previous Action: None.

Source of Authority: Sections 4.19 and 5.17(11) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended.

The Farm Credit Administration Board Hereby Adopts The Following Policy Statement:

The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) Board issues this policy statement concerning Farm Credit System (FCS or System) institutions providing sound and constructive credit and related services to young, beginning, and small farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products (YBS borrowers).

I. Public Purpose

The System was created to fulfill a public purpose to finance agriculture. In 1980, Congress obligated System

institutions operating under titles I and II of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, to establish programs that respond to the credit and related needs of YBS borrowers that result in sound, adequate, and constructive credit and closely related services.¹ Each Board of Directors within the System should renew its commitment to be a reliable, consistent, and constructive lender for YBS borrowers.

II. Guiding Principles

YBS Service: We believe that the System currently serves the needs of a significant number of YBS borrowers but more can be done. We also believe Congress intended special efforts by the System to serve YBS borrowers. We expect the Board of Directors of each System institution to be actively involved in the oversight of YBS programs. This includes establishing goals and objectives and periodically evaluating the results of its YBS program.

We encourage the System to better serve YBS borrowers by looking at the existing statutory and regulatory authorities and developing innovative and sound programs. Some areas to consider include loan participations, capital pooling, and alliances and joint ventures to share program successes and risks. We believe these additional efforts will benefit the FCS by ensuring a strong customer base in the future and believe YBS borrowers will benefit from a reliable FCS.

YBS Coordination: We believe that System institutions could take better advantage of coordinating their YBS activities with other parties. Active participation with guarantors such as the United States Department of Agriculture and the Small Business Administration can help manage an institution's credit risk. Organizations exist in many States that bring together lenders and applicants with specific needs that are not being addressed through conventional lending. We encourage System institutions to explore opportunities to participate with such organizations. We believe that well-coordinated programs provide additional opportunities to YBS borrowers.

YBS Safety and Soundness: We believe that lending to YBS borrowers can be done on a safe and sound basis. Offering YBS borrowers reliable and continual access to credit and services is a critical element of the mission of each title I and title II direct lender of the FCS. The System is currently in a

¹ Sections 1.1 and 4.19 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended.