

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 76, No. 101

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 20, 2010.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) Whether the 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 the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC; OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of publication of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to

the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Generic Clearance of Survey Improvement Projects.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0248.

Summary of Collection: The primary objectives of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, economic and environmental statistics related to agriculture and to conduct the Census of Agriculture under the general authority of Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2204. The purpose of this generic clearance is to allow NASS to continue to develop, test, evaluate, adopt, and use state-of-the-art techniques to cover a broad range of topics designed to improve NASS' data collection on agriculture.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will use a number of survey improvement techniques, as appropriate to the individual project under investigation. These include focus groups, cognitive and usability laboratory and field techniques, exploratory interviews, behavior coding, respondent debriefing, pilot surveys and split-panel tests. The information gathered will be used mainly for questionnaire development and other research and evaluation. Additionally, NASS anticipates the benefit of increased response rates through improved survey design; a goal tied directly to addressing OMB requirements for higher response rates and measurement of non-response bias.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 3,300.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 4,950.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Organic Production Survey (OPS)

OMB Control Number: 0535-0249.

Summary of Collection: National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) is authorized under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a) to collect these data. The 2008 Farm Bill appropriated \$1 million to NASS for assimilating and disseminating information. The 2011 Organic Production Survey (OPS) will be a follow-up survey to the 2008 OPS

which was done as a follow-on survey to the 2007 Census of Agriculture Survey. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has made a formal agreement to conduct this as an annual survey. The pilot survey year would be 2012 for the reference period 2011.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is vital to RMA in determining insurance payments to certified organic farmers. More commodity specific questions will be incorporated that would be directed at different commodities each year. This survey will provide organic information on acreage in production, commodity, expenses, marketing practices (handling, distribution, retail, and consumer purchasing patterns), and prices received by organic producers. The survey will be conducted in all States. As part of the Organic Farming Initiatives, the data will be used to provide solid production and market data about the supply of key organic commodities.

Description of Respondents: Farmers, ranchers and farm managers self identified as organic producers.

Number of Respondents: 15,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: One time.

Total Burden Hours: 5,719.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-12945 Filed 5-24-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tongass National Forest; Alaska; Bell Island Geothermal Leases Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to a 2008 programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) titled *Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States*. This analysis is needed for consent determination to

allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to issue three pending leases to a private geothermal developer. These leases encompass much of Bell Island and a portion of the Cleveland Peninsula on the adjacent mainland in the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska.

The agency invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis to be included in the draft SEIS. In addition, the agency gives notice of this environmental analysis and decision making process so that interested and affected people know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by June 24, 2011. The draft SEIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the fall 2011 and will begin a 45 day comment period. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision are expected to be published in the spring of 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may comment on the project in the following ways: Send written comments to Ketchikan-Misty Fiord Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Bell Island Geothermal Lease, 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan AK 99901. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-alaska-tongass-ketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us, with Bell Island on the subject line; or via facsimile to 907-225-8738. Include your name, address and organization name if you are commenting as a representative of an organization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Samuelson, Tongass Minerals Group, 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801. 1-907-789-6274. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this initiative is to update the PEIS that was prepared by the BLM to address compliance actions and key resource concerns not previously analyzed in Volume II, Chapter 11 of the PEIS. Chapter 11 examines whether or not three pending lease applications on Bell Island and Cleveland Peninsula are available for geothermal leasing by the BLM. The PEIS did not recognize that the lease applications are in the North Cleveland Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) 529, nor was adequate public scoping or

tribal consultation performed. Thus, the analysis provided in the PEIS does not address actual current conditions. The Tongass National Forest must update the PEIS to analyze effects to the roadless area before making a decision whether or not to consent to leasing the land.

The action is needed to fulfill the Forest Service obligations under Section 225 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of the Interior (USDOI) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding geothermal leasing and permitting. Section 225 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires that the USDOI and the U.S. Forest Service reduce the backlog of geothermal lease applications by 90 percent by August 8, 2010. Section 222(d) dictates that it is a priority for the BLM and the Forest Service to ensure timely completion of actions such as amendments to land use plans, as necessary to process the pending lease applications. This action responds to the goals and objectives outlined in the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and helps move the Tongass National Forest towards desired conditions described in this plan.

Proposed Action

The action proposed to meet the purpose and need is for the Forest Service to provide a consent determination to the BLM to issue the three leases in the Tongass National Forest to the geothermal lease applicant, based upon the Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFD) provided by the PEIS Volume II, Chapter 11. The RFD describes in general terms the best professional estimate of the potential development that may occur. The decision on this SEIS would only be for an approving or disapproving consent determination for the BLM to issue the leases. Any future site-specific development of the leases would require further analysis under NEPA.

The project area is 7,680 acres encompassing most of Bell Island as well as a portion of the Cleveland Peninsula, on the adjacent mainland. Bell Island is located near the southeastern end of the Alaskan Panhandle; approximately 43 miles north of Ketchikan. Lease boundaries could be adjusted in the decision to avoid unacceptable impacts on sensitive resources. The three leases are described as follows:

—Lease AK 084543 includes approximately 2,560 acres, comprised of four contiguous sections, as

follows: T68S R89E S36; T68S R90E S29, S30, S31

—Lease AK 084544 includes approximately 2,560 acres, comprised of the following four contiguous sections: T68S R90E S15, S21, S22, and S28

—Lease AK 084545 includes approximately 2,560 acres, comprised of the following four contiguous sections: T68S R90E S12, S13, S14; T68S R91E S7

Two alternatives were considered in Volume II, Chapter 11 of the PEIS analysis. In Alternative A, the No-Action Alternative, the Forest Service would not issue a consent determination for any of the lease applications. For Alternative B, Leasing with Stipulations, the Forest Service would issue a consent determination for the lease applications, and the BLM would issue the leases with the stipulations identified in Volume I, Chapter 2 of the PEIS and any additional stipulations that the Forest Service attaches to the record of decision (ROD).

Responsible Official

The Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901 is the Responsible Official for making the decision.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

Given the purpose and need, the deciding official reviews the proposed action, the other alternatives, and the environmental consequences in order to make the following decisions:

- Will the Tongass National Forest consent to three pending lease applications on National Forest Systems lands?
- If so, what mitigation measures in the form of lease stipulations will the Forest Service apply to the lease application?
- Does the project require a Forest Plan amendment?

If authorized, the decision would give consent to BLM to issue three pending leases with the stipulations identified in Chapter 2 of the PEIS and any additional stipulations that the Forest Service attaches to the ROD.

Preliminary Issues

The Tongass National Forest portions of the lease sites are within the North Cleveland IRA 529, comprised of 109,639 acres. A non-discretionary restriction (roadless area stipulation) was developed in the PEIS for roadless areas on any leases with National Forest Service (NFS) inventoried roadless

areas. Due to a Tongass 2004 exemption to the roadless rule, the roadless designation was not acknowledged in Volume II, Chapter 11 of the PEIS for Bell Island; therefore, this restriction was not identified. Before consent to the lease application can be determined, stipulations associated with this activity will need to be identified.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. In addition to this notice, a scoping document will be posted on the Tongass National Forest public website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/projects.shtml>. Scoping letters inviting comments will be sent to interested parties on the Tongass National Forest. Any person who would like to receive a scoping letter should contact Linda Pulliam at the Ketchikan Misty Fiord Ranger District or by e-mail: comments-alaska-tongass-ketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us, please put "Bell Island" in the subject line of the e-mail. A public meeting will be held at Ketchikan-Misty Fiord Ranger District 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901 on Thursday, June 2, 2011 from 3–7 p.m.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

Dated: May 16, 2011.

Forrest Cole,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2011–12915 Filed 5–24–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this constitutes notice of the upcoming meeting of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee meets twice annually to advise the GIPSA Administrator on the programs and services that GIPSA delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Recommendations by the Advisory Committee help GIPSA better meet the needs of its customers who operate in a dynamic and changing marketplace.

DATES: June 21, 2011, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and June 22, 2010, 8 a.m. to Noon.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Committee meeting will take place at GIPSA's Technical Service Division, 10383 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64153.

Requests to orally address the Advisory Committee during the meeting or written comments may be *sent to:* Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 3601, Washington, DC 20250–3601. Requests and comments may also be faxed to (202) 690–2173.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terri L. Henry by phone at (202) 205–8281 or by e-mail at Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the GIPSA Administrator with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71–87k). Information about the Advisory Committee is available on the GIPSA Web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. Under the section, "I Want To * * *," select "Learn about the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee."

The agenda will include an overview of Federal Grain Inspection Service 2011 operations, international programs, contract review program findings, exceptions program, sorghum odor, new rice sheller implementation, moisture measurement—rice and soybean study results, wheat gluten tests, rapid test kit evaluation program status, and the quality management program.

For a copy of the agenda please contact Terri L. Henry by phone at (202) 205–8281 or by e-mail at Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov.

Public participation will be limited to written statements unless permission is received from the Committee Chairperson to orally address the Advisory Committee. The meeting will be open to the public.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations should contact Terri L. Henry at the telephone number listed above.

Alan Christian,

Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 2011–12824 Filed 5–24–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–KD–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the North Dakota State Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a planning and orientation meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene via teleconference at 3 p.m. (MDT) and adjourn at approximately 5 p.m. (MDT) on Monday, June 27, 2011. The purpose of the planning meeting is to provide ethics training and orientation to the new committee. The Committee will also be briefed on activities by the Commission, as well as other SACs in the region.

This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: (800) 516–9896, followed by Conference ID #: 8334. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. For persons with hearing impairments, dial 711 for relay services and enter 1–800–516–9896 followed by the Conference ID #: 8334.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office by July 27, 2011. Comments may be mailed to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, U.S.