

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 10, 2008.

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, Pub. L. 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), 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 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.

Risk Management Agency

Title: Multiple Peril Crop Insurance.

OMB Control Number: 0563–0053.

Summary of Collection: Previous amendments to the Federal Crop Insurance Act expanded the role of the crop insurance program to be the principal tool for risk management by producers of farm products and provided that crop insurance program operate on an actuarially sound basis, provided for independent review of crop insurance products by person experienced as actuaries and in underwriting, and required that the crop insurance program operate on an actuarially sound basis. To meet these goals, existing crop programs must be improved and expanded, new crop products developed, and new insurance concepts studied for possible implementation. Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) offers a Standard Reinsurance Agreement to eligible crop insurance companies under which FCIC will use data elements instead of standards forms.

Need and Use of the Information: FCIC requires crop acreage information to be submitted to the insurance agent by each producer on or before a specific date. The basic provision covers information such as the name of the crop, the number of timely planted acres, person sharing in the crop, location of the acreage, etc. This information is used to determine liability, premium and subsidy. Federal agencies, Risk Management Agency, crop insurance companies reinsured by FCIC, and other agencies that require such information in the performance of their duties may use this information. If the information were not collected by specified dates, the producers may not have insurance coverage or the amount of insurance may be reduced and the crop insurance program would not be administered in an actuarially sound manner.

Description of Respondents: Farms; business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,167,516.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: Quarterly; weekly; semi-annually; monthly; annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,788,974.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8–13329 Filed 6–12–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 10, 2008.

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, Pub. L. 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 the 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), 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 this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8681.

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Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Renewal Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0050.

Summary of Collection: This program is authorized under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Act) that established the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program under title IX, Section 9006. The Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to create a program to make direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. The program is designed to help farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses reduce energy cost and consumption, develop new income streams, and help meet the nation's critical energy needs. The Act also mandates the maximum percentage the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) will provide in funding for these types of projects. Applicants wishing to apply for the grant or guaranteed loans will have to submit applications along with specified documents to the State Rural Energy Coordinator.

Need and Use of the Information: RBS will use the collected information to determine applicant eligibility, to determine project eligibility and feasibility, ensure compliance with applicable regulations, and to ensure that grantees/borrowers operate on a sound basis and use funds for authorized purposes. Without this collection of information RBS would be unable to meet the requirements of the Act and effectively administer the program.

This notice reflects an increase in figures to encompass the projected increase in applicants due to additional funding and public interest in the program that was not accounted for in the **Federal Register** notice published on January 9, 2008.

Description of Respondents: Farmers, ranchers, and business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,507.

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 77,412.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-13330 Filed 6-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****U.S. Forest Service**

[WO-300-9131-PP]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Leasing of Geothermal Resources in 11 Western States and Alaska and Notice of Public Hearings

AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management, Interior; and U.S. Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Leasing of Geothermal Resources in 11 Western States and Alaska and Notice of Public Hearings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing the NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and applicable agency guidance, a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) has been prepared on the leasing of geothermal resources in 11 Western States and Alaska. The Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service (FS) are co-lead agencies for the PEIS, and the Department of Energy (DOE) is a cooperating Federal agency.

In accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-58, August 8, 2005), the agencies' goal is to make geothermal leasing decisions on pending lease applications submitted prior to January 1, 2005, and to facilitate geothermal leasing decisions on other existing and future lease applications and nominations for geothermal leasing on Federal lands. The planning area encompasses about 530 million acres of land with the potential for geothermal development in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

DATES: To ensure comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft PEIS within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Public hearings will be held in 13 cities during June and July 2008. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY**

INFORMATION section for meeting dates and locations.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* geothermal_EIS@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 1-866-625-0707.
- *US Mail:* Geothermal Programmatic

EIS, c/o EMPSi, 182 Howard Street, Suite 110, San Francisco, California 94105.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including information on how to comment, contact Jack G. Peterson, Bureau of Land Management at (208) 373-4048, Jack_G_Peterson@blm.gov or Tracy Parker, Forest Service at (703) 605-4796, tparker03@fs.fed.us, or visit the PEIS Web site at http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal_EIS.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A copy of the Draft PEIS is available for review via the Internet from a link at http://www.blm.gov/Geothermal_EIS.

Hardcopies are available for review at the BLM State and Field Offices. Electronic (on CD-ROM) and paper copies may also be obtained by contacting Jack Peterson at the aforementioned address and phone number.

The PEIS consists of three volumes: Volume I contains the PEIS and associated programmatic analyses; Volume II provides the additional site-specific environmental analysis for the pending lease applications; and Volume III contains the appendices.

The public is encouraged to provide comments on the Draft PEIS. In addition to the written comment period, the BLM and the FS will host 13 public meetings to collect additional comments. The public meeting dates and addresses are as follows:

1. June 16, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Denver, Colorado; PPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street.
2. June 17, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Cheyenne, Wyoming; Laramie County Main Library, Willow Room, 200 Pioneer Avenue.
3. June 18, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Helena, Montana; Lewis and Clark Main Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch.
4. June 19, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Boise, Idaho; Boise Public Library, 715 South Capitol Blvd.
5. June 23, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Seattle, Washington; Seattle Public Library, University Branch, 5009 Roosevelt Way, NE.
6. June 24, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Portland, Oregon; Multnomah County Library, Hillsdale Branch, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd.
7. June 25, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Davis, California; University of