

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

Agriculture Research Service

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: October 24–25, 2005, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 24 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 25. Written requests to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Room 107A, USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 2025. Members of the public should enter the building through the Jefferson Drive entrance. Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to the contact person at USDA, Office of the Deputy Secretary, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, Telephone (202) 720–3817; Fax (202) 690–4265; E-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The tenth meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for October 24–25, 2005. The AC21 consists of 19 members representing the biotechnology industry, the seed

industry, international plant genetics research, farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, and academic researchers. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative serve as “ex officio” members.

At this meeting, one new AC21 member will be introduced and the Committee will continue ongoing work towards completion of a paper examining the impacts of agricultural biotechnology on American agriculture and USDA over the next 5 to 10 years, specifically to review and revise a new draft Chair’s text for the paper.

Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/agencies/biotech/ac21.html>. On October 24, 2005, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Harmon at (202) 720–4074, by fax at (202) 720–3191 or by E-mail at dharmon@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Dated: October 5, 2005.

Bernice Slutsky,

Special Assistant for Biotechnology.

[FR Doc. 05–20334 Filed 10–7–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–03–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Clovis, California. The purpose of the meeting is to review funded projects, discuss 2006 project submittal process and new committee appointments regarding the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393) for expenditures of Payments to States Fresno County Title II funds.

DATES: The meeting will be held November 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, California, 93612. Send written comments to Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, c/o Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651 or electronically to rekman@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, (559) 855–5355 ext. 3341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Payments to States Fresno County Title II project matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements and the Committee staff before or after the meeting.

Public sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by August 10, 2004 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Call for new projects process; (2) Recruitment for new members; (3) Review of funded projects and (4) Public comments.

Dated: October 4, 2005.

Ray Porter,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 05–20319 Filed 10–7–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee; Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho Falls, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393), the Caribou-Targhee National Forests' Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, November 30, 2005 in Idaho Falls for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The business meeting will be held on November 30, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Headquarters Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Timchak, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 524-7500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on November 30, 2005, begins at 10 a.m., at the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Headquarters Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Agenda topics will include looking at funding for this upcoming year, briefed on project status from last year's approved projects, and welcoming the new Forest Supervisor/ Designated Federal Officer.

Dated: October 3, 2005.

Lawrence A. Timchak,

Caribou-Targhee Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 05-20320 Filed 10-7-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.; **Notice of Intent To Hold Public** **Scoping Meeting and Prepare a** **Supplemental Environmental Impact** **Statement**

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SECI), with headquarters in Tampa, Florida. The proposal consists of the construction of a nominal 750 megawatt coal-based electrical generating unit at

the Seminole Generating Station (SGS). The Station is located in Putnam County, Florida, about six miles north of Palatka. SGS Unit 3 will be constructed near the existing SGS Units 1 and 2. The new unit can be readily accommodated on the existing site. The financing and construction of the SGS Unit 1 and 2 was evaluated in a previous EIS. SECI is requesting RUS provide financing for the proposed project.

DATES: RUS will conduct a public scoping meeting in an open-house format, seeking the input of the public and other interested parties, on October 20, 2005, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Campbell Center at Ravine Gardens State Park, 1600 Twigg Street, Palatka, Florida 32177, 386-329-3721.

A scoping document for the preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement will be available for review at the public scoping meeting. The document also is available for public review at RUS at the address provided in this notice, at Seminole Electric Cooperative, 16313 North Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, Florida 33618, at Seminole Generating Station, 890 North Highway 17, Palatka, Florida 32177, and at,

Putnam County Library System:

Headquarters Palatka Library, 601 College Road, Palatka, Florida 32177-3873.

Crescent City Public Library Branch, 610 N. Summit, Crescent City, Florida 32212-2148.

Bostwick Community Library Branch, 125 Tillman Street, P.O. Box 489, Bostwick, Florida 32007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-0468 or e-mail: stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov, or James Frauen, Manager of Environmental Affairs, Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 272000, Tampa, Florida 33688-2000 or e-mail: jfrauen@seminole-electric.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SECI proposes to construct and operate a nominal 750-megawatt coal-based electric generating facility (Unit 3) at its existing Seminole Generating Station, located in Putnam County, Florida, about six miles north of Palatka on U.S. Highway 17. SECI intends to license the construction and operation of SGS Unit 3 in conjunction with the continued operation of the existing Units 1 and 2. Unit 1 began commercial operation in January 1984 and Unit 2 began

commercial operation in January 1985. Unit 3, a high efficiency, advanced technology coal unit with state of the art emission controls, will be constructed near Units 1 and 2. Unit 3 proposes to start commercial operation by May 1, 2012. It has been determined that a third unit can be readily accommodated on the existing plant site. Fuel (coal and petroleum coke) for all three units will continue to be delivered to the site by rail.

The Unit 3 project is estimated to cost \$1.2 billion, which includes approximately \$440 million for environmental controls. In addition, Seminole will also invest more than \$200 million for advanced air emissions controls on Units 1 and 2 to remove additional amounts of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury. A new zero discharge system will be installed to reuse and evaporate process wastewater from all three units resulting in further improvement of the quality of the Station's water discharge to the St. Johns River.

Alternatives considered include no action, purchased power, renewable energy sources, distributed generation, and alternative site locations. Comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted (orally or in writing) at the public scoping meetings or in writing for receipt no later than November 21, 2005, to RUS at the address provided in this notice.

As mentioned previously, the financing and construction of the existing SGS Units 1 and 2 were evaluated in a previous EIS prepared by the Rural Electrification Administration. The final EIS and Record of Decision for the Seminole Plant Unit 1 and 2 and Associated Transmission Facilities were published in 1979. This EIS evaluated the environmental effects of the construction of two 600 MW coal-fired electric generating units and associated 230 kV transmission facilities. This EIS will be supplemented to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed action.

RUS will use input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of a Draft Supplemental EIS. The Draft Supplemental EIS will be available for review and comment for 45 days. A Final Supplemental EIS will then be prepared that considers all comments received. The Final Supplemental EIS will be available for review and comment for 30 days. Following the 30-day comment period, RUS will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD). Public notices announcing the availability of the Draft and Final Supplemental EIS and the ROD will be