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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Food Stamp Program; Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Model Food Stamp Forms, etc. (Monthly Reporting on Reservations)

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Food and Consumer Service to request that the Office of Management and Budget extend extension of the current information collection burden associated with the application, eligibility certification, and ongoing household eligibility determination for the Food Stamp households residing on reservations.

DATES: Comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection must be received by October 21, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to Margaret Werts Batko, Assistant Branch Chief, Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 of the proposed collection of information, 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.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the extension request. All comments will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Werts Batko, (703) 305-2520.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Model Food Stamp Forms, Periodic Reporting, Notice of Late/Incomplete Reports, etc.

OMB Number: 0584-0064.

Expiration Date: April 30, 1997.

Form Number: FCS-385.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection without change.

Abstract: On March 25, 1994, the Food Stamp Program Improvements Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-225, was enacted. Section 101(a) of that law modified the prohibition against monthly reporting for households residing on reservations that had been added to section 6(c)(1)(A) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (Act), by section 1723 of the Mickey Leland Memorial Domestic Hunger Relief Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-624. Section 6(c)(1)(C)(iii) of the Act, as amended by Pub. L. 103-225, prohibits State agencies which, as of March 25, 1994, were not requiring households residing on reservations to submit monthly reports, from establishing monthly reporting requirements for such households. State agencies that were using monthly reporting on March 25, 1994, for households residing on reservations, may continue to do so if the following conditions are met. The State agency must: (1) reinstate benefits without requiring a new application for any household that submits a report not later than one month after the end of the issuance month; (2) not delay, reduce, suspend, or terminate the allotment of a household that submits a report not later than one month after the end of the month in which the report is due; and (3) certify monthly reporting households on reservations for two years, unless the State agency has been granted a waiver for shorter certification periods.

The information collection and recordkeeping burden associated with initial applicants and households subject to recertification and change reporting procedures are currently approved by OMB under OMB Number 0584-0064. The currently approved estimates are described below. The new monthly reporting requirements for households residing on reservations will not have a significant effect on the currently approved burden estimates for the reasons noted.

1. Notice of Late or Incomplete Reports:

Estimate of Burden: Currently, local agencies are required to provide a monthly reporting household with adequate notice that its monthly report was late or incomplete and what action the household must take. In order to implement Pub. L. 103-225 the State agency must modify this notice for households residing on reservations. The burden associated with developing the special language for a notice for those residing on reservations is expected to be a one-time minimal burden. We expect that State agencies will automate the notice and eligibility workers will only have to send the notice with the special language to households residing on reservations which failed to submit a timely or complete report. The current reporting burden estimate includes the local agency requirement to provide monthly reporting households with a notice that its monthly report was late or incomplete and what action the household must take.

Respondents: Local agency food stamp eligibility workers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,776,000 which is equal to the total monthly reporting caseload (16% of the total caseload), assuming there is one eligibility worker per monthly reporting household.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One notice for each late or incomplete monthly report each month.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 118,814 hours, based on 1,065,600 responses (5% of the 21,312,000 reports expected annually) at a rate of .1115 hours per response.

2. Adequate Notice:

Local agencies are required to provide monthly reporting households with an Adequate Notice that its benefits will be increased, reduced or terminated due to

information contained in the households monthly report and the notice includes an explanation of the reason for such action and how the household can request a fair hearing to contest the action.

In order to implement Public Law 103-225, the State agency must modify the notice for households residing on reservations. Eligibility workers will only have to send the notice with the special language to households residing on reservations which fail to submit a timely or complete report. The current reporting burden estimate includes a local agency requirement to provide monthly reporting households with a notice. The burden associated with developing the special language for the notice for those residing on reservations is expected to be a one-time minimal burden. We expect that State agencies will automate generation and distribution of the notice when required.

Respondents: Local agency food stamp eligibility workers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,776,000, based on an estimated 16% of the total caseload of 11,100,000 and assuming one eligibility worker per monthly reporting household.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One notice for each monthly reporting household that has a change in benefits.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 712,886 hours, based on 21,312,000 monthly reports expected annually. The estimate assumes that 30% of the households (6,393,600) will have a change in benefits. We assume that local agencies will generate this notice for these households at a rate of .1115 hours per response.

3. Model food stamp application (FCS-385):

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden includes household burden time to complete the application at initial application and recertification; to provide verification (usually from existing household documents); and to be interviewed by a caseworker, who may require the household to provide additional information. Pub. L. 103-225 requires that households residing on reservations be certified for two years. Therefore, these households will have to apply less often. However, we do not expect this to effect the current burden estimates for FCS-385 because the methodology used in developing the estimates takes into consideration increased or reduced application activity.

Respondents: Applicants for the Food Stamp Program.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 18,700,000 applicants for initial certification or recertification annually, as reported by State agencies on form FNS-366B, Program Activity Statement.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One annually, assuming one initial or one recertification application annually.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,282,300 hours, based on 18,700,000 responses at a rate of .2290 hours per response.

Combined Total Annual Burden: 5,114,000 hours for the notice of late and incomplete reports, adequate notice and application form.

Dated: August 8, 1996.
William E. Ludwig,
Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.
[FR Doc. 96-21212 Filed 8-19-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

Natural Resources Conservation Service

PCS-25 Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration Project; Cameron Parish, Louisiana

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an Environmental Impact Statement is not being prepared for the Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration Project, Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302; telephone number (318) 473-7751.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of the federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed for this project.

This project proposes to restore a hydrologic regime similar to historic

conditions and in turn reduce wetland deterioration on approximately 1,125 acres of intermediate to brackish marsh in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Project measures include the construction of flapped culverts with variable-crested weirs, channel liner, armored plugs, flow-thru culverts, perimeter levee maintenance and shoreline vegetative plantings.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Donald W. Gohmert.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the Federal Register.

Donald W. Gohmert,
State Conservationist.
[FR Doc. 96-21101 Filed 8-19-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Addition

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Addition to the procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 19, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 24, 1996, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (61 FR 26167) of proposed addition to the Procurement List.

Comments were received from the current contractor for these flags and from two Members of Congress. The contractor claimed that addition to the Procurement List of another 20 percent