

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the August 1, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 41335), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Lima and Virginia to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by September 2, 1997. Lima and Virginia, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Lima and Virginia were the only applicants, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Lima and Virginia are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective February 1, 1998, and ending January 31, 2001, Virginia is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the August 1, 1997, **Federal Register**. Effective February 1, 1998, and ending January 31, 1999, Lima is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the August 1, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Lima at 419-223-7866 and Virginia at 757-494-2464.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 10, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 97-33829 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Santa Cruz River Watershed, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

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 Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Rules (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 repair of Floodwater Retarding Structure 3 in the Santa Cruz River Watershed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosendo Trevino III; State Conservationist; Natural Resources Conservation Service; 6200 Jefferson, NE; Albuquerque, NM 87109-3734; telephone 505-761-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this 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, Rosendo Trevino III, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is flood prevention. The action includes the repair of one floodwater retarding dam.

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

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

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials)

Rosendo Trevino III,
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 97-34182 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Risk Management Agency

Dairy Options Pilot Program

AGENCY: Risk Management Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Advanced Notice of Availability; Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public comment period on a new Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP) to be administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) in conjunction with the private sector. RMA plans to implement DOPP which would partially subsidize the purchase of put options for dairy producers. The objective of DOPP is to ascertain whether put options can provide producers with reasonable protection from the price risk. RMA is soliciting comments on DOPP, the method used to select program participants, and its information collections. RMA specifically requests comments on the role of brokers as outlined in the Broker Agreement contained in this Advanced Notice of Availability, whether the tasks required of the brokers including responsibilities listed in subsections 3(a) through 3(h), are appropriate and whether there are other cost-effective alternatives that would satisfy the program's need for accurate reporting and oversight while maintaining a significant role for the private sector in the program. The RMA was established by Public Law 104-127, on April 4, 1996.

DATES: Submit data, comments or opinions on or before February 2, 1998. The comment period for information collections under the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 continues through March 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the DOPP to Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Insurance Services, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., STOP 0830, room 6739-S, Washington, D.C., 20250-0830. A copy of each response will be available for public inspection and copying from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday, except holidays, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Connor, Financial Analyst, Reinsurance Services Division, Risk Management Agency, at the Washington, D.C. address listed above, telephone (202) 720-4232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

The Risk Management Agency is seeking comments on the following Information Collection Request (ICR).

Title: Dairy Options Pilot Program.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Parties affected by the information collection requirements included in this advanced notice are producers and brokers.

Abstract: The dairy industry has recently witnessed unprecedented price volatility and, after 1999, will no longer