

Therefore, APHIS has concluded that the subject Russet Burbank potato lines and any progeny derived from crosses with other potato varieties will be as safe to grow as potatoes that are not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340.

The effect of this determination is that Monsanto's Russet Burbank potato lines RBMT21-129 and RBMT21-350 are no longer considered regulated articles under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of the subject potato lines or their progeny. However, importation of the subject potato lines or seeds capable of propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that Monsanto's Russet Burbank potato lines RBMT21-129 and RBMT21-350 and lines developed from them are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of December 1998.

Joan M. Arnoldi,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-33435 Filed 12-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mining Specifications for Prime Farmland

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed notice; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document extends the comment period of a proposed notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 28, 1998. This notice sets forth specifications for soil handling in relation to mining activities on Prime Farmland as provided for in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). This proposed notice is located on pages 57651-57656, (Volume 63, Number 208).

DATES: Comments must be received by January 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning this proposed notice should be addressed to: Gary Nordstrom, Director, Conservation Operations Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PO Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890; Submit electronic comments to gary.nordstrom@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Nordstrom, Director, Conservation Operations Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (202) 720-1845.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 10, 1998.

Danny D. Sells,

Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 98-33458 Filed 12-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Municipal Interest Rates for the First Quarter of 1999

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the first quarter of 1999.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the first calendar quarter of 1999.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning January 1, 1999, and ending March 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Room 0227-S, Stop 1524, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1500. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-690-2268. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the first calendar quarter of 1999 for municipal rate electric loans. RUS regulations at § 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to § 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the third Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in § 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 1999 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under § 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.000 percent.

In accordance with § 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the first calendar quarter of 1999.

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2019 or later	5.000
2018	5.000
2017	4.875
2016	4.875
2015	4.875
2014	4.750
2013	4.750
2012	4.625
2011	4.500
2010	4.500
2009	4.375
2008	4.250
2007	4.250
2006	4.125
2005	4.000
2004	4.000
2003	3.875
2002	3.750
2001	3.500