regulatory agencies, RUS continues to support the preferred alternative as outlined in the DEIS with slight modifications. The preferred alternative is as follows:

1. Finance the Northeast Phase Expansion.

2. Continue to maintain the Burr Well Field as a primary water source. To minimize reductions in the potentiometric surface, RUS supports limiting pumping rates from wells developed in the Burr Unit of the Prairie Coteau aquifer to 400–525 gpm with a corresponding annual appropriation rate.

3. At some future date, supplement existing wells at the Burr Well Field with a new well field in an area south-southeast or north-northeast of the current Burr Well Field or where sufficient aquifer materials can be found. This new well field could utilize both the Burr Unit and Altamont aquifers in a configuration similar to that at the Burr Well Field or any other configuration determined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) as appropriate. Raw water from this well field could be transported to the Burr Water Treatment Plant for treatment and distribution to LPRW customers.

4. RUS recommends that the MDNR consider integrating the proposed Water Resource Management Plan into the Burr Well Field's Water Appropriation Permit.

Mitigation Measures

In order to avoid or minimize any significant adverse environmental impacts to the surface water resources that are hydraulically connected to the Burr Unit, RUS believes that it is necessary to formalize and establish a comprehensive methodology to monitor on-going groundwater appropriations and effects to surface water resources. In addition, it would be appropriate to enable all concerned parties to provide input into evaluating these activities. Therefore, to accomplish these goals RUS will establish as a mitigation measure and as a condition of financing the Northeast Phase Expansion a requirement that LPRW prepare a Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP).

The WRMP should formalize all procedures, protocols, and methodologies to monitor in a comprehensive fashion groundwater appropriations at the Burr Well Field and effects to the surface water resources hydraulically connected to the Burr Unit. The following components should be included in the WRMP:

1. Contingency Plan—the plan should document impact thresholds established by MDNR and outline what procedures LPRW will take in the event water appropriations from the Burr Unit are restricted.

2. Well Field Operation and Management Plan—this plan should be designed to minimize reductions in the potentiometric surface in the Burr Unit.

3. Supplemental Well Field Exploration Plan.

4. Monitoring Plan—formalize monitoring well locations; establish standard methodologies or procedures for data collection, documentation, and information sharing.

While RUS recommends that the MDNR consider integrating the WRMP into the Burr Well Field's Water Appropriation Permit, it cannot require that it do so. RUS will evaluate the technical sufficiency of the WRMP through consultations with hydrogeologists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 8. The mechanism for this consultation will be provided for through RUS' cooperating agency agreement with USEPA, Region 8. RUS will condition its concurrence with the WRMP and the release of funds for the Northeast Phase Expansion area subject to consultations with the MDNR and the USEPA and LPRW being able to obtain the appropriate Water Appropriation Permit(s) from the MDNR.

In the DEIS, RUS proposed that LPRW formalize an agreement with South Dakota to establish monitoring procedures and protocols to evaluate the effects of groundwater appropriations from the Burr Unit on surface water resources in South Dakota. The purpose of this agreement was to formalize monitoring input to the WRMP from South Dakota officials. RUS has decided to remove this requirement for the following reasons:

1. Governors from both South Dakota and Minnesota have already formally pledged in writing to cooperate on evaluating the effects of groundwater appropriations to the surface water resources hydraulically connected to the Burr Unit.

2. RUS believes that the MDNR has the appropriate statutory and regulatory procedures in place to allow for South Dakota's input into their Water Appropriation Permitting process.

3. All regulatory issues, concerns, or conditions related to MDNR's Water Appropriation Permit at the Burr Well Field from South Dakota should be directed at MDNR not LPRW.

Provided all of the above conditions are met, RUS is prepared to approve LPRW's application for the Northeast Phase Expansion proposal. In addition, RUS is willing to consider in accordance with RUS regulations and subject to the availability of funding development costs for a supplemental well field.

While RUS supports the development of a supplemental well field, based on monitoring compiled to date it does not appear that surface water resources around the Burr Well Field are being significantly impacted at this time. However, until more definitive conclusions can be drawn from longer term monitoring data, exploration and possible development of the supplemental well field should continue. It does not appear however, that an immediate sense of urgency is justified, rather supplemental well field development should be a long-term goal with exploration being the short-term goal.

Dated: May 20, 1999.

John P. Romano,

Deputy Administrator, Water and Environmental Program.

[FR Doc. 99–13354 Filed 5–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904 NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of first request for panel review.

SUMMARY: On May 7, 1999, Greening Donald Co. Ltd. filed a First Request for Panel Review with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Panel review was requested of the final antidumping duty investigation made by the International Trade Administration, in the antidumping investigation respecting Stainless Steel Round Wire from Canada. This determination was published in the **Federal Register**, 64 FR 17324 on April 9, 1999. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number USA–CDA–99–1904–04 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caratina L. Alston, Acting United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482–5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade

Agreement (''Agreement'') establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established *Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews* (''Rules''). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on May 7, 1999, requesting panel review of the final antidumping duty investigation described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is June 7, 1999);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may participate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is June 21, 1999); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: May 11, 1999.

Caratina L. Alston,

Acting United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 99–13444 Filed 5–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–GT–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052099C]

Designation of Fishery Management Council Members and Application for Reinstatement of State Authority

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Richard Surdi, 1315 East West Highway, Room 13142, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, 301–713–2337.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (the Act), as amended in 1996, provides for the nomination for members of Fishery Management Councils by state governors and Indian treaty tribes, for the designation of a principal state fishery official for the purposes of the Act, and for a request by a state for reinstatement of state authority over a managed fishery. The information submitted with these actions will be used to ensure that the requirements of The Act are being met.

II. Method of Collection

State governors and Indian treaty tribes submit written nominations to the Secretary of Commerce, together with recommendations and statements of candidate qualifications. Designations of state officials and requests for reinstatement of state authority are also made in writing in response to regulations. No forms are used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648–0314
Form Number: None
Type of Review: Regular submission
Affected public: State, Local, or Tribal government
Estimated Number of Respondents: 54
Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour to designate a principal state fishery officials, 120 hours for a nomination for a Council appointment, and 2 hours for a request to reinstate state authority.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,695
Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $200

IV. Request for Comments

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and /or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 19, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 99–13431 Filed 5–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Modernization Transition Committee (MTC) Meeting

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

TIME AND DATE: June 15, 1999, beginning at 2:30 p.m. and June 16, 1999, beginning at 8 a.m.

PLACE: Evansville Airport Marriott, 7101 U.S. Highway 41 North, Evansville, IN 47711.