

quality, road construction, road closures, and timber commodities.

A range of alternatives will be considered, including a no-action alternative. Based on issues identified to date, alternatives to date, alternatives to be considered include: (1) The number, sizes, and locations of areas considered for treatment; (2) the amount of road constructed for access; (3) the type of harvest and post-harvest treatments prescribed; and (4) the number, types, and locations of other integrated resource projects.

Initial scoping began in May, 1999. The scoping process will include the following: identify and clarify issues; identify key issues to be analyzed in depth; explore alternatives based on themes which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities; and identify potential environmental effects of the proposed Action and alternatives.

A public meeting is planned to be held at the Chewelah Municipal Building on July 28th 1999, at 5:00 pm. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from other agencies, organizations, Indian Tribes, and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. Your comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The draft EIS is to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

and to be available for public review by March, 2000. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, Indian Tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. It is important that those interested in the management of the Colville National Forest participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage, of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this Proposed Action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The final EIS is scheduled to be available by August, 2000. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. The responsible official is Colville National Forest Supervisor, Robert L. Vaught. The responsible official will decide which, if any, of the

alternatives will be implemented. His decision and rationale for the decision will be documented in the Record of Decision, which will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: July 26, 1999.

**Robert L. Vaught**,

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99-20115 Filed 8-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by October 4, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Program Development & Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4034, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-0736. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Mergers and Consolidations of Electric Borrowers.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0114.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a previously approved collection.

*Abstract:* The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended, authorizes the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to make and guarantee loans for rural electrification. Due to deregulation and restructuring activities in the electric industry, RUS borrowers find it advantageous to merge or consolidate to meet the challenges of industry change. This information collection addresses the requirements of RUS policies and procedures for mergers and consolidations of electric program borrowers and affects three aspects of merger activities.

The first is documentation required to do business with a successor. Most mergers do not require RUS approval. However, RUS as a secured lender

needs documentation to legally advance loan funds and conduct other business activities with the new or surviving entity. The specific documents required vary according to state law and the particular circumstances of the merger. Most of the information required by RUS consists of copies of documents that the borrower must file with state and local authorities.

The second concerns transitional assistance. Short-term financial stress can follow mergers and consolidations that will in the long term benefit rural America and enhance government loan security. Title 7 CFR part 1717, subpart D, offers transitional assistance to mitigate these stresses. This information collection includes documentation from borrowers requesting such assistance.

Third are the unusual situations where RUS approval of a merger is required. This collection includes the list of documents that RUS needs to approve a merger. Except for a formal transmittal letter and board resolution from each of the companies involved, RUS believes that the information required is prepared by any prudent business attempting to enter into a merger.

RUS may not require borrower to either merge or to study the possibility of merger. The provisions of the rule may be utilized only at the borrower's request. This collection of information encompasses the procedures for borrowers who wish to enter into mergers or who request transitional assistance.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hour per response.

*Respondents:* Small cooperatives or similar organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 25.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 249 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Dawn Wolfgang, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-0812.

Comments are invited on (a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumption used; (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 those who

are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques on other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 30, 1999.

**Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-20173 Filed 8-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* Office of the Secretary.

*Title:* Survey of Business Leaders Accompanying the Secretary on Trade Missions.

*Agency Form Number:* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0690-0017.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement of a collection previously approved.

*Burden:* 5 hours.

*Number of Respondents:* 100 (approximately 20 per trade mission).

*Average Hours Per Response:* 3 minutes.

*Needs and Uses:* Trade missions are one of the most visible means for the Secretary to provide support to the business community in expanding exports. When he leads a mission, a quick survey of business leaders who accompany him on the trip is made. Its purpose is to assess their opinions on the market area they are visiting. The information is used to stimulate discussions during the trip.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for profit organizations.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection program can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: July 30, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-20138 Filed 8-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-FP-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of Export Administration

[Docket No.: 97-BXA-20]

#### Re: Aluminum Company of America

On Friday, February 26, 1999, the **Federal Register** published the Decision and Order issued by the Under Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Export Administration, United States Department of Commerce (BXA) on February 19, 1999 (64 FR 9471). However, the Recommended Decision and Order of the Administration Law Judge (ALJ) was inadvertently not included with the Order of the Under Secretary. This notice is to hereby publish the December 21, 1998, Recommended and Decision Order of the ALJ.

Dated: July 21, 1999.

**William A. Reinsch,**

*Under Secretary for Export Administration.*

#### Recommended Decision and Order

Appearance for Respondents: Edward L. Rubinoff, Esq., Samuel C. Straight, Esq., of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., Michael D. Scott, Aluminum Company of America.

Appearance for Agency: Jeffrey E.M. Joyner, Esq., Office of the Chief Counsel for Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Before: Hon. Parlen L. McKenna, United States Administrative Law Judge.

#### Preliminary Statement

This is a civil penalty proceeding initiated pursuant to the legal authority contained under the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C.A. §§ 2401-2420 (1991 & Supp. 1997) (hereinafter known as the "ACT"). It was conducted in accordance with the procedural requirements as found in 15 CFR Parts 768-799 (1991-1995). Those