discussion leading to the identification of a strategic focus for the Committee.

In addition to the Advisory Committee meeting, a field trip for Advisory Committee members will take place the previous day, Thursday, September 23, 1999. Members will tour portions of the Baker Lake basin on the Mt. Baker Ranger District, commencing at 9 a.m. at the Mt. Baker District Office, 2105 State Route 20, in Sedro Woolley, Washington, and ending back at the same Office about 4:30 p.m. The purpose of the trip is to: (1) Explore the complexity of National Forest natural resource management; (2) emphasize the integration of forest management activities among federal and non-federal entities; (3) introduce the nature of an ''Urban Forest'' and its ties to Puget Sound growth; and (4) introduce the idea of a more strategic view of resource management and advice to the Forest. All Western Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Interested citizens are also welcome to join the September 23 field trip; however, they must provide their own transportation.

The Provincial Advisory Committee provides advice regarding ecosystem management for federal lands within the Western Washington Cascades Province, as well as advice and recommendations to promote better integration of forest management activities among federal and non-federal entities. The Advisory Committee is a key element of implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Penny Sundblad, Province Liaison, USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District, 2105 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284 (360–856–5700, Extension 321).

Dated: August 30, 1999.

John Phipps,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99–23150 Filed 9–3–99; 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 (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 November 8, 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: Seismic Safety of New Building Construction.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0099.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with change of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) was enacted to reduce risks to life and property through the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is designated as the agency with the primary responsibility to plan and coordinate the NEHRP. This program includes the development and implementation of feasible design and construction methods to make structures earthquake resistant. Executive Order 12699 of January 5, 1990, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction, requires that measures to assure seismic safety be imposed on federally assisted new building construction.

Title 7 Part 1792, Subpart C, Seismic Safety of Federally assisted New Building Construction, identifies acceptable seismic standards which must be employed in new building construction funded by loans, grants, or guarantees made by RUS or the Rural Telephone Bank (RTB) or through lien accommodations or subordinations approved by RUS or RTB. This subpart implements and explains the provisions of the loan contract utilized by the RUS for both electric and telecommunications borrowers and by the RTB for its telecommunications borrowers requiring construction certifications affirming compliance with the standards.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response.

Respondents: Small business or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 800.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Bob Turner, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720–0696.

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, D.C. 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: August 31, 1999.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 99–23186 Filed 9–3–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. and Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is issuing an Environmental Assessment (EA) with respect to the potential environmental impacts related to the

construction and operation of a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities proposed by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State), of Westminster, Colorado. The project will extend from Walsenburg, Colorado, to an area near Gladstone, New Mexico. RUS may provide financing assistance for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis E. Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–1571, telephone: (202) 720–1953 or e-mail: drankin@rus.usda.gov.; Karl Myers, Tri-State, P.O. Box 33695, Denver, Colorado 80233, telephone: (303) 452–6111 or e-mail: kmyers@tristategt.org; or Richard Precek, Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 6551, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197, telephone: (505) 889–7207 or e-mail: rwprecek@plainsgt.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project will extend from Tri-State's existing Walsenburg Substation located at Walsenburg, Colorado, to a proposed substation to be located near Gladstone, New Mexico. The proposed project will be located in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, Colorado, and Colfax and Union Counties, New Mexico. The project will interconnect with an existing transmission line which is presently owned by Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc. (Plains). Tri-State and Plains are pursuing a merger. Alternatives to the proposed project include local generation, transmission system alternatives, alternative routes and no action.

Greystone, an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment (EA) which describes the project further and discusses the environmental impacts of the proposed project for RUS. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the EA and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No adverse impacts are expected with the construction of the project. RUS has accepted the document as its Environmental Assessment and is making it available for public review.

Copies of the EA have been sent to Federal, State and local agencies and the public who have previously requested a copy. The EA also can be reviewed at libraries located in communities within the project area and at offices of electric cooperatives that provide service to the project area.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS should receive comments on the Environmental Assessment in writing by October 6, 1999, to ensure that the comments are taken into consideration prior to RUS making its environmental determination.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations and RUS environmental policies and procedures.

Dated: August 31, 1999.

Glendon D. Deal,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 99–23161 Filed 9–3–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1051]

Approval for Expanded Manufacturing Authority (Pharmaceutical Products) Within Foreign-Trade Subzone 22F, Abbott Laboratories, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, Area

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Illinois International Port District, grantee of FTZ 22, has requested authority on behalf of Abbott Laboratories, Inc., operator of FTZ Subzone 22F, located in the Chicago, Illinois, area, to expand the scope of manufacturing activity conducted under FTZ procedures at the Abbott plant (FTZ Doc. 58–98, filed 12–17–98); and,

Whereas, notice inviting public comment was given in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 71617, 12/28/98); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and Board's regulations are satisfied, and that approval of the application is in the public interest;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby approves the request subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including § 400.28.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 30th day of August, 1999.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Alternate Chairman, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–23211 Filed 9–3–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 42–99]

Foreign-Trade Zone 49—Newark/Elizabeth, New Jersey; Application for Subzone, Clariant Corp., Somerville, New Jersey

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, grantee of FTZ 49, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the manufacturing and warehousing facilities of Clariant Corporation (Clariant), located in Somerville, New Jersey. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on August 25, 1999.

The Clariant Corporation has two sites with 150 employees in Somerset County, New Jersey. Site 1 (64.06 acres) is located at 70 Meister Avenue in Somerville, New Jersey. Site 2 (2 acres) is located at 55 Veronica Avenue in Somerset, New Jersey. The Clariant facilities are used for the manufacturing, testing, packaging and warehousing of specialized electronic chemicals used in the production of microelectronic devices. Initially, zone savings are expected to come from the manufacture of photoresists, strippers, anti-reflective coatings, and edge bead removers/thinners (HTS 3707 and 3814, duty rate ranges from 6.0% to 6.5%). Components and materials sourced from abroad (representing about 70% of all parts consumed in manufacturing) include: sulfonic esters, resins, dyes, organic surface active agents, and chemical preparations for photographic uses (HTS 2927, 3402, 3707, and 3909, duty rate ranges from 4.0% to 9.5%). The application also indicates that the company may in the future import under FTZ procedures a wide variety of other chemical materials, as well as other products used in the production of electronic chemicals.