

Room 3501 South Agriculture Building, Washington, DC 20250.

Purpose: To review various regulations issued pursuant to the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 *et seq.*), and discuss the level of service (number of sets of graders) AMS will provide for the 2000–2001 tobacco marketing season. The Committee will recommend the desired level of service to be provided to producers by AMS and an appropriate fee structure to fund the recommended services for the 2000–2001 selling season.

The meeting is open to the public. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee at the meeting should contact John P. Duncan III, Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs, AMS, USDA, Room 502 Annex Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090–6456; (202) 205–0567, prior to the meeting. Written statements may be submitted to the Committee before, at, or after the meeting. If you need any accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact the Tobacco Programs at (202) 205–0567 by April 14, 2000, and inform us of your needs.

Dated: March 14, 2000.

John P. Duncan III,

Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs.

[FR Doc. 00–6676 Filed 3–16–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection: comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service (RHS), the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of compliance with applicable acts for planning and performing construction and other development work.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 16, 2000, to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samuel J. Hodges III, Architect, Program Support Staff, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0761, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–0761, Telephone (202) 720–9653.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: RD 1924–A, “Planning and Performing Construction and Other Development.”

OMB Number: 0575–0042

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2000

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The information collection under OMB Number 0575–0042 enables the Agencies to effectively administer the policies, methods, and responsibilities in the planning and performing of construction and other development work for the related construction programs.

Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, repair, replace, or rehabilitate dwellings; farm buildings; and/or related facilities to provide decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions and adequate farm buildings and other structures in rural areas.

Section 506 of the act requires that all new buildings and repairs shall be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications as required by the Secretary and that such construction be supervised and inspected.

Section 509 of the act grants the Secretary the power to determine and prescribe the standards of adequate farm housing and other buildings. The Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 amended section 509 (a) and section 515 to require residential buildings and related facilities comply with the standards prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, or in any of the nationally recognized model building codes.

Similar authorizations are contained in sections 303, 304, 306, and 339 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended.

In several sections of both acts, loan limitations are established as percentages of development cost, requiring careful monitoring of those costs. Also, the Secretary is authorized to prescribe regulations to ensure that Federal funds are not wasted or dissipated and that construction will be undertaken economically and will not be of elaborate or extravagant design or materials.

Other information collection is required to conform to numerous Public Laws applying to all Federal agencies, such as: Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968, Davis-Bacon Act, Historic Preservation Act, Environmental Policy Act; and to conform to Executive Orders governing use of Federal funds. This information is cleared through the appropriate enforcing Agency or other executive Department.

The Agencies provide forms and/or guidelines to assist in the collection and submission of information; however, most of the information may be collected and submitted in the form and content which is accepted and typically used in normal conduct of planning and performing development work in private industry when a private lender is financing the activity. The information is usually submitted via hand delivery or U.S. Postal Service to the appropriate Agency office.

The information is used by the Agencies to determine whether a loan/grant can be approved, to ensure that the Agency has adequate security for the loans financed, to provide for sound construction and development work, and to determine that the requirements of the applicable acts have been met. The information is also used to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of the Agencies' loan/grant programs and to monitor the prudent use of Federal funds.

If the information were not collected and submitted, the Agencies would not have control over the type and quality of construction and development work planned and performed with Federal funds. The Agencies would not be assured that the security provided for loans is adequate, nor would the Agencies be certain that decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling or other adequate structures were being provided to rural residents as required by the different acts.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .33 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, farms, business or other for-profit, non-profit institutions, and small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25,340.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 12.00.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 94,924 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Diana Wareham, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 692–0044.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the Agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agencies' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of methodology and assumptions 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 or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Diana Wareham, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0742, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. 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: March 1, 2000.

James C. Kearney,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

Dated: March 8, 2000.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Dated: March 2, 2000.

Christopher A. McLean,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

Dated: March 8, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Manti-La Sal National Forest and Utah State Office/Price Field Office; Flat Canyon Coal Lease Tract, UTU-77114 Sanpete County, UT; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA and Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental and human effects of proposed actions to offer the Flat Canyon Coal Lease Tract (UTU-77114) for competitive leasing in accordance with 43 CFR 3425. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will participate as a cooperating agency.

The coal lease tract to be considered for leasing, as delineated by the Interagency Tract Delineation Team, encompasses 2,692.16 areas of Federal coal lands on the Manti-La Sal National Forest as follows:

- T. 13 S., R. 6 E., SLM
Section 21, lots 1-4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$,
Section 28, lots 1-8, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Section 33, E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 14 S., R. 6 E., SLM
Section 4, lots 1-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$,S $\frac{1}{2}$;
Section 5, lots 1-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$,S $\frac{1}{2}$.

Additions and/or deletions to the delineated tract may be considered as alternatives to the proposed action, to be developed and analyzed based on issues and management needs.

Canyon Fuel Company, LLC (Canyon Fuel) submitted an application for leasing of the Tract to the Bureau of Land Management on March 18, 1998. The purpose of the application is to obtain the right to mine the remaining Federal coal reserves to the west of the permit area for Canyon Fuel's Skyline Mine. If Canyon Fuel is successful in obtaining the tract, they intend to extend the existing underground workings of the Skyline Mine to the west into the Flat Canyon Tract to extend the mine life an estimated 7-9 years at the current production rate.

Pursuant to Canyon Fuel's application, the Bureau of Land Management, with participation from the Forest Service and State of Utah, completed a tract delineation report that set the boundaries of the tract to be evaluated for leasing (Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region, Bureau of Land Management, Tract Delineation Report, Lease by Application UTU-77114, Canyon Fuel, 1999).

The Forest Service determined that the proposed lands are available for further consideration for coal leasing under the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), Final EIS, and Record of Decision (ROD) for the MManti-La National Forest, 1986. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) have determined that coal and environmental data are available to meet Uinta-Southwestern

Utah Coal region Data Adequate Standards.

Agency Decisions

In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the BLM Utah State Director must decide whether or not to offer the tract for competitive leasing and under what terms, conditions, and stipulations.

In accordance with the Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1975 that amended the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest must decide whether or not to consent to leasing by BLM and under what conditions for the protection of non-mineral resources. Forest Service conditions would be included into the lease document as stipulations.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this notice should be received on or before April 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be addressed to carter Reed or Aaron Howe, Manti-LA Sal National Forest, phone (435) 637-2817.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) will tier to the final EIS and ROD for the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan provides the overall guidance (Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Management Area Direction) to achieve the Desired Future Condition for the area being analyzed, and contains specific management area prescriptions for the entire Forest.

Issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the analysis will be determined through scoping. The primary issues are expected to include the socioeconomic benefits of leasing and mining, the potential impacts of underground mining and mining-induced subsidence to surface and ground water, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, range improvements, recreation, and other land uses.

The Forest Service and BLM are seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. The agencies invite written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposed action and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used to