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charles.kraenzle@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Annual Survey of Farmer Cooperatives.

OMB Number: 0570-0007.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) is to promote understanding, use and development of the cooperative form of business as a viable option for enhancing the income of agricultural producers and other rural residents. RBS' direct role is providing knowledge to improve the effectiveness and performance of farmer cooperative businesses through technical assistance, research, information, and education. The annual survey of farmer cooperatives collects basic statistics on cooperative business volume, net income, members, financial status, employees, and other selected information to support RBS' objective and role. Cooperative statistics are published in various reports and used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperative leaders, educators and others in planning and promoting the cooperative form of business.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: Farmer cooperatives.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,649.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,404 Hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RBS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the 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 forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 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: April 21, 2000.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 00-10648 Filed 4-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Southern Intertie Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Extension for the Southern Intertie Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), as lead Federal agency, is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Southern Intertie Project, a proposal by six electric utilities that are collectively known as the Intertie Participants Group (IPG). The project consists of the construction and operation of a 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be located between Anchorage and a location on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District (ACE) are both cooperating agencies. A notice of intent to prepare an EIS was announced in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, October 9, 1996, at 61 FR 52908.

The route proposed by the IPG would cross portions of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. On August 5, 1999, the IPG submitted an application for a right-of-way pursuant to Title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-487, U.S.C. 668dd) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 36). The application was accepted by the RUS, FWS, and ACE.

Regulations at 43 CFR 36.6(a)(2) require the lead agency to publish notification of an extension with reasons for the extension of a nine-month period to complete the draft EIS. Due to the magnitude and complexity of the proposed project and the number of resources that will potentially be impacted, the evaluation of the data compiled by the applicant's consultants is taking longer than expected. Because of the additional time needed to evaluate the data, RUS is providing notice that an additional four months is required to complete the draft EIS.

DATES: The draft EIS is expected to be available for public review in September of 2000. Public hearings on the draft EIS will be scheduled in Soldotna and Anchorage, Alaska, and Washington, DC in September/October of 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lawrence R. Wolfe, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-5093 or e-mail: lwolfe@rus.usda.gov.

Dated: April 25, 2000.

Mark S. Plank,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Addition and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Addition to and Deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes from the Procurement List commodities previously furnished by such agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Louis R. Bartalot (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 17, 2000, the Committee for Purchase