

EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

At this early stage, the Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft EISs 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 have been raised at the draft EIS stage, but that are not raised until the completion of the final EIS, may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2nd 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 on the Draft EIS, so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when they can be meaningfully considered and respond to them in the Final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of 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 statement. Comments may 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 in 40 CFR 1503.3, in addressing these points.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies: The Shawnee National Forest manages approximately 277,000 acres within its proclamation boundaries. It is the lead agency for preparation of this document.

Responsible Official: Forrest L. Starkey, Forest Supervisor, Shawnee National Forest, is the responsible official. In making the decision, the responsible official will consider the comments; responses; disclosure of environmental consequences; and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The responsible official will state the rationale for the chosen alternative in the Record of Decision.

Dated: April 21, 2000.

Forrest L. Starkey,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice and Comment Period for the Natural Resources Conservation Service Revised Pest Management Policy

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the decision of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to adopt a revised policy for providing pest management technical assistance. This revised policy will be disseminated within the agency through updates of the agency's General Manual. It includes revision of existing policy in Title 450, Part 401, Subpart A, Technical Guides, Policy and Responsibilities and new policy in Title 190, Part 404, Ecological Sciences, Pest Management Policy. This policy will be implemented through the revision of the agency's conservation practice standards for Pest Management (595). This national conservation practice was developed to reflect the new policy.

DATES: This Federal Register notice will commence a 30-day comment period which will end May 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The revised policy can be viewed on the internet at: <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/BCS/pest/pest.html>. Address requests and comments to: Lara Philbert, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Room 6158-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Benjamin F. Smallwood, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (202) 720-7838; fax (202) 720-1814.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pest Management Policy is a document intended for NRCS employees as they provide technical assistance to landowners and land managers. Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. This policy supports the

conservation practice standard for Pest Management (Code 595), which is being prepared for publication in the Federal Register.

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Signed in Washington, DC, on April 21, 2000.

Danny D. Sells,

Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket Number 000410099-0099-01]

RIN 0607-ZA03

Expansion of Census Information Center Program

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Program solicitation.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce the expansion of the Census Information Center (CIC) Program, the community-based component of the Bureau of the Census' (Census Bureau's) Data Dissemination Network and to invite eligible organizations to submit a proposal to be considered for inclusion in the Program. The Census Bureau's Data Dissemination Network currently consists of 12 permanent Regional Offices, 1,800 state and local governmental organizations participating in the State Data Center Program, 1,400 public and university libraries designated as federal depository libraries, and 36 national, regional, and local nonprofit