

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 360

[Docket No. 98-064-2]

RIN 0579-AB07

Noxious Weed Regulations; Update of Current Provisions

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are extending the comment period for an advance notice of proposed rulemaking that considers revising the noxious weed regulations issued under the Federal Noxious Weed Act. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

DATES: We invite you to comment on Docket No. 98-064-1. We will consider all comments that we receive by June 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 98-064-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 98-064-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Polly Lehtonen, Botanist, Permits and Risk Assessment, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8896.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 20, 2000, we published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 14927-14931, Docket No. 98-064-1) an advance notice of proposed rulemaking that considers revising the noxious weed regulations issued under the Federal Noxious Weed Act.

Comments on the advance notice were required to be received on or before May 19, 2000. We are extending the comment period on Docket No. 98-064-1 for an additional 30 days. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2803 and 2809; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of May 2000.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00-12436 Filed 5-16-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1710

RIN 0572-AB52

General and Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Loans

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is proposing to amend its regulations to modify the requirement that borrowers must seek bids from all sources if funding is requested for generation projects equal to or greater than 10 megawatt or for modifications to existing plants if it results in an increase in capacity of 10 percent or more. This proposed rule will allow RUS to determine when borrowers must seek bids from all sources on a case-by-case

basis at the discretion of the Administrator.

In the final rule section of this **Federal Register**, RUS is publishing this action as a direct final rule without prior proposal because RUS views this as a non-controversial action and anticipates no adverse comments. If no adverse comments are received in response to the direct final rule, no further action will be taken on this proposed rule and the action will become effective at the time specified in the direct final rule. If RUS receives adverse comments, a timely document will be published withdrawing the direct final rule based on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this proposed action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this proposed action must be received on or before June 16, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit adverse comments or notice of intent to submit adverse comments to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone (202) 720-9550. RUS requires a signed original and three copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.4). Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wei M. Moy, Chief, Power Resources & Planning Branch, Power Supply Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1568, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1568. Telephone: (202) 720-1438. FAX (202) 720-1401. E-mail: wmoy@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the Supplementary Information provided in the direct final rule located in the final rule section of this **Federal Register** for the applicable supplementary information on this section.

Dated: May 5, 2000.

Jill Long Thompson,

Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 00-11985 Filed 5-16-00; 8:45 am]

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