

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed; Comments Requested

SUMMARY: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is making efforts to reduce the paperwork burden. USAID invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act for 1995.

Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed or continuing collections of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 19, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Johnson, Bureau for Management, Office of Administrative Services, Information and Records Division, U.S. Agency for International Development, Room 2.07-106, RRB, Washington, DC 20523, (202) 712-1365 or via e-mail bjohnson@usaid.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB NO: OMB 0412-0012.

Form No.: AID 282.

Title: Supplier's Certificate Agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development Invoice-and-Contract Abstract.

Type of Review: Renewal of Information Collection.

Purpose: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

finances goods and related services under its Commodity Import Program which are contracted for by public and private entities in the countries receiving the USAID Assistance. Since USAID is not a party to these contracts, USAID needs some means to collect information directly from the suppliers of the goods and related services and to enable USAID to take an appropriate action against them in the event they do not comply with the applicable regulations. USAID does this by security from the suppliers, as a condition for the disbursement of funds a certificate and agreement with USAID which contains appropriate representations by the suppliers.

Annual Reporting Burden:

Respondents: 400.

Total annual responses: 2,400.

Total annual hours requested: 1,200 hours.

Dated: October 4, 2000.

Joanne Paskar,

Chief, Information and Records Division,
Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for Management.

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BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Opportunity To Submit Application To Conduct Pilot Project for Harvesting of Biomass From Land Enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program To Be Used for Energy Production

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity to submit application.

SUMMARY: Up to six pilot projects, no more than one of which may be in any State, may be authorized for the harvest of biomass from land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be used for energy production. Applications for conducting pilot projects of the harvest of biomass from land enrolled in the CRP for energy production may be submitted to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked on or before December 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Applications will be accepted by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director in the respective State in which the pilot project is proposed to be conducted. State FSA office addresses are provided in Exhibit 1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Preston, Agricultural Program Specialist, Conservation Programs Branch, Conservation and Environmental Programs Division, FSA, at (202) 720-9563.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General Provisions

Section 769 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act, 2000 (Pub. L. 106-78), amended Section 1232(a)(7) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide new authority to use Conservation Reserve Program land for pilot biomass projects. Specifically, Section 769 provided that the Secretary shall approve not more than six projects, no more than one of which may be in any State, under which land subject to the contracts may be harvested for recovery for biomass used in energy production if: (i) No acreage subject to the contract is harvested more than once every other year and (ii) not more than 25 percent of the total acreage enrolled in the program in any crop reporting district (as designated by the Secretary) is harvested in any 1 year. The statute specified that no portion of the crop on the pilot land could be used for any commercial purpose other than energy production from biomass, and instructed the Secretary that this allowance would not include the harvesting of any wetland, or any acreage of any type enrolled in a partial field conservation practice (including riparian forest buffers, filter strips, and buffer strips). It was also specified in the statute that the owner or operator must agree to a CRP payment reduction in an amount determined by the Secretary, and that the total acres for all of the projects could not exceed 250,000 acres.

This notice sets out the terms under which pilot projects will be considered and the questions that must be answered on the application so that a considered choice may be made in choosing which projects to approve. The conditions set on the application process, as set forth in this notice, generally follow the terms of the statute.