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#### C. Additional Information

The Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.219. For reasons set forth in the final rule-related Notice to 7 CFR Part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983), this Program is excluded from the scope of Executive Order No. 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0022.

Done at Washington, D.C., on this 4th day of January, 2001.

#### Colien Hefferan,

*Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.*

#### Edward B. Knipling,

*Acting Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-1018 Filed 1-12-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Interim National Drought Council

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Interim National Drought Council meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Interim National Drought Council (Interim Council) was established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Its purpose is to coordinate activities between and among Federal Agencies, States, local governments, tribes and others. The first meeting of the Interim Council was held November 9, 2000. All meetings are open to the public; however, seating is limited and available on a first-come basis.

**DATES:** The Interim Council will meet on January 25, 2001, in Room 233 of the Hall of the States building located at 444 North Capitol Street, NW. in Washington, DC from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time. This meeting will be devoted to revising the work plan and other Interim Council business.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leona Dittus, Executive Director, Interim National Drought Council, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 6701-S, STOP 0501, Washington, D.C., 20250-0501 or telephone (202) 720-3168; FAX (202) 720-9688; internet [leona.dittus@usda.gov](mailto:leona.dittus@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the MOU is to establish a more comprehensive, integrated, coordinated approach toward reducing the impacts of drought through better preparedness, monitoring and prediction, risk management, and response to drought emergencies in the United States. The Interim Council will encourage cooperation and coordination between and among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and others, relative to preparation for and response to serious drought emergencies. Activities of the Interim Council include providing coordination to: (a) Resolve drought related issues, (b) exchange information about lessons learned, and (c) improve public awareness of the need for drought planning and mitigation measures. The Interim Council is co-chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture or his designee, and a non-federal co-chair, selected from among the members who are not Federal officers or employees. Ms. Ane D. Deister, Executive Assistant to the General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, representing urban water interests, was selected as the non-federal co-chair at the Interim Council's organizational meeting. Administrative staff support essential to the execution of the Interim Council's responsibilities shall be provided by USDA. The Interim Council will continue in effect for 5 years or until Congress establishes a permanent National Drought Council.

If special accommodations are required, please contact Leona Dittus, at the address specified above, by COB January 22, 2001.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on January 10, 2001.

#### George Arredondo,

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 01-1226 Filed 1-12-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Meeting on the Implementation of the United States Warehouse Act

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** To solicit comments and options for consideration in implementing the United States Warehouse Act of 2000 that was enacted on November 9, 2000 (USWA 2000), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a public meeting.

The meeting is open to the public with attendance limited to space that will be available on a first come basis. All attendees are asked to be prepared to share information concerning their current and future e-commerce activities. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations should notify the contact person listed below in advance of the meeting. No registration is required and there is no fee to attend the public meeting.

**DATES:** The public meeting to present implementation options and to solicit oral comments will be held on January 23, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. E.S.T., in the Jefferson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of Agriculture South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, near the Smithsonian Metro Station.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Roger Hinkle, Chief, Licensing Authority Branch, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0553, Washington DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-7433; e-mail: [Roger\\_Hinkle@wdc.fsa.usda.gov](mailto:Roger_Hinkle@wdc.fsa.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USWA 2000 was enacted on November 9, 2000, to replace the original United States Warehouse Act (USWA) that was enacted in 1916. USWA 2000 can be found online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/uswamain/public-law-106-472.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/uswamain/public-law-106-472.pdf). This statute was enacted to make Federal warehouse licensing and operations more relevant to today's agricultural marketing and financial systems. USWA 2000 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations governing (1) The issuance and transfer of electronic warehouse receipts across State and international boundaries; (2) the manner in which electronic documents relating to the shipment, payment, and financing of the sale of agricultural products may be