Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 66, No. 117

Monday, June 18, 2001

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Canyon Lake Dam and Wyant Lake Dam Project, Darby Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, Ravalli County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement to disclose the effects of a proposal by Canyon Creek Irrigation District to rehabilitate Canyon and Wyant Dams. The proponents request helicopter use to airlift equipment and materials to the dam sites. The proposed rehabilitation would utilize ''on site'' material sources. The Canyon Lake Dam and Wyant Lake Dam are located approximately eight miles due west of Hamilton, Montana within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Bitterroot National Forest. The dams are located in T.6 N., R. 22 W., Sec. 27.

The purpose and need for the project stems from the Canyon Creek Irrigation District's existing rights and obligations to operate and maintain Canyon and Wyant Dams to meet current State and Federal Dam Safety Standards and pertinent laws and regulations governing the proponent's use and the protection of National Forest System lands.

Construction may start in August of 2002 for the Canyon Lake Dam and August 2003 for the Wyant Lake Dam. The construction period would be late summer and fall.

This project level EIS will tier to the Bitterroot National Forest Plan and Final EIS (September 1987) which provides overall guidance of all land management activities on the Bitterroot National Forest, the Region One Wilderness Dam Policy (June 1992), and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness General Management Direction (1992 Update).

DATES: Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be received on or before July 18, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Frank V. Guzman, Rangeland Management Specialist, Sula Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, 7338 Hwy. 93 S., Sula, Montana 59871.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Ballard, EIS Team Leader, Phone: (406) 777–5461.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service objective is to reasonably regulate the proponent's easement in order to achieve the purposes for which the National Forests were reserved and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness was designated.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the ''no action'' alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels of the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes as well as to respond to any public issues and other resource values.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities on both private and National Forest system lands will be considered. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis, commencing with the initial scoping process.

The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. A 30-day comment period will be provided immediately following publication of this notice. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service Officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service has not scheduled public meetings at this time.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminate minor issues or those that have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, such as the Bitterroot Forest Plan EIS.
4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect and cumulative effects).
6. Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

Preliminary issues that have been identified include:

1. Public safety and protection of property.
2. Wilderness resource and recreation.
3. Water storage.
4. Social and economic costs and benefits.
5. General environmental concerns.

Any required permits or licenses will be obtained prior to implementation of the project.

The United States Forest Service, Bitterroot National Forest is the lead agency.

The responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Rodd Richardson, Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest. Address for Forest Supervisor is Bitterroot National Forest, 1801 N. First St., Hamilton, MT 59840.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in march 2002. At that time the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by June 2002. The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements 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 be raised at the draft environmental impact

statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *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 so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement 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 at 40CFr 1503.3 in addressing these points.).

Dated: June 11, 2001.

Rodd Richardson,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01–15207 Filed 6–15–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 17, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Program Development & Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Stop 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 720–0736. FAX: (202) 720–4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Electric and Telecommunications Standards and Specifications, and Telecommunications Field Trials and Contract Forms

OMB Control Number: 0572–0059

Type of Request: Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: In order to facilitate the programmatic interest of the RE Act, and, in order to assure that loans made or guaranteed by RUS are adequately secured, RUS, as a secured lender, has established certain standards and specifications for materials, equipment and construction of electric and telecommunications systems. The use of standard forms, construction contracts, and procurement procedures helps assure RUS that appropriate standards and specifications are maintained, RUS' loan security is not adversely affected; and the loan and loan guarantee funds are used effectively and for the intended purposes.

Compliance with RUS specifications and standards is demonstrated to a large extent via presentation of laboratory tests resulting and other informational data upon which the determination of acceptability can be made. RUS evaluates this data to determine that the qualification of the products is acceptable and that their use will not jeopardize loan security. In the telecommunications program, because of the complex and highly technical nature of equipment, services, and system architectures, RUS also requires a manufacturer to demonstrate successful product use in a working telecommunications system. In most cases, manufacturers develop telecommunications products with field verifications as a normal business operating practice and they easily provide this information resource by simply providing the names of several users that RUS personally may contact and discuss product performance. Products that have not been deployed in a working environment can be handled and RUS' field trial procedures.

This request for reinstatement proposes to combine two of RUS' information collections under one control number. Control No. 0572–0076, RUS Specification for Quality Control and Inspection of Timber Products, will be combined into Control No. 0572–0059, Electric and Telecommunications Standards and Specifications, and Telecommunications Field Trials, and Control Forms. This effort is to streamline RUS' information collections into a more logical grouping of packages which eliminates duplication of efforts.

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

Respondents: Business or other for-profit and non-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 280.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 19.

Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,861 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Dawn Wolfgang, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service at (202) 720–0812. Comments are invited on (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumption 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 on other forms of information technology.

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: June 12, 2001.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 01–15217 Filed 6–15–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–588–852]

Notice of Extension of Time for the Preliminary Results of the Antidumping Duty New Shipper Review: Structural Steel Beams from Japan

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of an extension of time for the preliminary results of the antidumping duty new shipper review of structural steel beams from Japan.