

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

Office of the Secretary

7 CFR Part 3

Debt Collection

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This document gives notice that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to amend and make changes to its existing debt collection procedures at 7 CFR part 3 to reflect changes made by the revised Federal Claims Collection Standards (FCCS) published by the Department of Treasury (Treasury) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on November 22, 2000, in the **Federal Register**. The Treasury and DOJ revised the FCCS to make clear and reduce in scope Federal debt collection standards and incorporate changes mandated by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) and the General Accounting Office Act of 1996 (GAOA).

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Dale Theurer, Credit, Travel and Accounting Policy Division, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, Room 4628 South, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Baumgartner on 202-720-4958, FAX 202-690-1529, email to jbaumgartner@cfo.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Debt Collection Act of 1982 (DCA), Pub. L. No. 97-365, was implemented on a government-wide basis by the Federal Claims Collection Standards (FCCS), set forth at 4 CFR part 101 *et seq* issued by DOJ and the General Accounting Office on March 9, 1984. *See* 49 FR 8889 (1984). USDA implemented the FCCS in 7 CFR part 3. As mandated by the DCIA, Pub. L. No. 104-134, on November 22,

2000, the Treasury and DOJ jointly promulgated the revised FCCS which appears in the Code of Federal Regulations at 31 CFR parts 901-904 to reflect the legislative changes to Federal debt collection procedures enacted under the DCIA. *See* 65 FR 70390 (2000). The revised FCCS supersedes the current FCCS codified at 4 CFR parts 101-105, and removes the Comptroller General as a promulgator of the FCCS in accordance with the GAOA, Pub. L. No. 104-316. USDA has reviewed the administrative offset provisions of the revised FCCS and finds the protections and procedures provided to debtors by the current USDA debt collection procedures for administrative offset at 7 CFR part 3, subpart B consistent with those provided by the newly revised FCCS.

At a later date, USDA will move to amend 7 CFR part 3 to reflect the promulgation of the revised FCCS and to incorporate other changes that are USDA specific on collecting debt by administrative offset. USDA requests comments from the public regarding what changes to 7 CFR part 3 should be included as part of any future notice of proposed rules.

Done at Washington, DC, this 29th day of October 2001.

Ann M. Veneman,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Part 106

[NOTICE 2001-15]

Request for Comment on Draft Statement of Policy Regarding Party Committee Transfers of Nonfederal Funds for Payment of Allocable Expenses

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Draft statement of policy with request for comments.

SUMMARY: In light of the suspension of fundraising activities by some party committees after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Commission is considering exercising its discretion by not pursuing *prima facie* violations of the 60 day time limit for party committee transfers of nonfederal funds

to pay for the nonfederal share of allocable expenses. The limitations on the scope and duration of the policy under consideration will be discussed in detail below. The Commission seeks comments on the policy under consideration, and on any other circumstances arising out of the events of September 11 that need to be addressed.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 14, 2001.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Rosemary C. Smith, Assistant General Counsel, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written comments should be sent to the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20463. Faxed comments should be sent to (202) 219-3923, with printed copy follow-up to insure legibility. Electronic mail comments should be sent to transfers@fec.gov. Commenters sending comments by electronic mail must include their full name, electronic mail address and postal service address within the text of their comments. Comments that do not contain the full name, electronic mail address and postal service address of the commenter will not be considered. The Commission will make every effort to have public comments posted on its web site within ten business days of the close of the comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosemary C. Smith, Assistant General Counsel, or Richard Ewell, Staff Attorney, 999 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20463, (202) 694-1650 or (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Sections 106.1 and 106.5 of the Commission's regulations (11 CFR 106.1 and 106.5) allow party committees to defray the costs of activities that relate to both federal and nonfederal elections by allocating the costs between their federal and nonfederal accounts, so long as they pay an amount equal to or greater than the federal portion of these expenses with funds that are permissible under the Federal Election Campaign Act, 2 U.S.C. § 431 *et seq.* ["FECA" or "the Act"].

Party committees allocate these expenses by paying the entire amount of the expense from a federal account or allocation account, and transferring funds from a nonfederal account to