

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Southwest Oregon Province
Interagency Executive Committee
Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon Province Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee will meet on February 6, 2002 in Brookings, Oregon at the Best Western Brookings Inn at 1143 Chetco Ave. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) An update from the Regional Ecosystem Office; (2) public comment; (3) a discussion of forest plan monitoring; and (4) current issues as perceived by Advisory Committee members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Roger Evenson, Province Advisory Committee Coordinator, USDA, Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest, 2900 NW Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470, phone (541) 957-3344.

Dated: January 16, 2002.

Michael D. Hupp,*Acting Designated Federal Official.*

[FR Doc. 02-1595 Filed 1-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Notice of Agreement Under the
Comprehensive Environmental
Response, Compensation and Liability
Act (CERCLA)****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA and Department of Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of proposed settlement agreement; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), notice is hereby given of a proposed administrative settlement between the United States, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and NL Industries, Inc. for the recovery of costs incurred by the United States in responding to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at and from the El Portal Barium Mine and Mill Site in El Portal, Mariposa County, California. Under the

proposed settlement, NL Industries will pay \$190,000 to the US Department of Interior's Central Hazardous Materials Fund and \$85,000 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

DATES: Comments must be received, in writing, on or before February 22, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this proposed settlement agreement may be sent to: both James E. Alexander, USDA Office of General Counsel, Room 1734 Federal Building, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97224 and Shawn P. Mulligan, National Park Service, 1050 Walnut Street, Suite 220, Boulder, Colorado 80302 and should refer to the El Portal Barium Mine and Mill site, El Portal, Mariposa County, California. A copy of the proposed settlement agreement may be obtained by mail from Mary Grove, USDA Office of General Counsel, Room 1734 Federal Building, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97224.

Dated: January 14, 2002.

Jack A. Blackwell,*Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service,
Region 5.*

[FR Doc. 02-1445 Filed 1-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Utilities Service****Broadband Pilot Loan Program****AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of funds availability.

SUMMARY: This is to notify interested parties that, during the current fiscal year (FY) 2002, \$80 million is available for loans in the Broadband Pilot Loan Program administered by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). This is a continuation of the Broadband Pilot Loan Program initiated by RUS during FY 2001 to finance the construction of facilities and systems providing broadband transmission service to rural consumers. The program provides financing for facilities serving rural communities of up to 20,000 inhabitants so that rural consumers in those areas may enjoy the same quality and range of telecommunications services as are available in urban and suburban communities. This notice describes the eligibility and application requirements and the criteria RUS will consider in evaluating applications for broadband loans.

RUS currently has applications for broadband loans, submitted in response to the FY 2001 Broadband Pilot Loan Program, in excess of \$350 million.

Before accepting new applications, RUS will act on those completed applications currently pending. RUS currently has completed applications in the aggregate amount of \$150 million. RUS anticipates that the FY 2002 lending authority will be fully committed after it has acted on those completed applications. However, should FY 2002 loan authority remain available thereafter, RUS shall publish a notice advising interested parties that it is accepting additional applications.

DATES: New applications will be accepted only if, after processing all pending completed applications, RUS publishes an additional notice announcing that loan funds remain available. See discussion below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590, Telephone (202) 720-9554, Facsimile (202) 720-0810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Information Collection and
Recordkeeping Requirements**

This notice contains no reporting or recordkeeping provisions requiring Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) because RUS has already received all information required for analysis of the loans to be considered under this notice.

General Information

During FY 2002, \$80 million will be made available for loans for the construction of facilities and systems to provide broadband transmission services in rural areas. The Broadband Pilot program is authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa and the Agriculture Appropriations Act, 2002, Public Law 107-76 and is a continuation of the Broadband Pilot Loan Program initiated by RUS during FY 2001 pursuant to a NOFA published December 5, 2000, 65 FR 75920 (Initial NOFA).

The Initial NOFA announced that \$100 million in loan funds would be available during FY 2001 on a first-come, first-served basis. The queue for considering and approving loans was established by the date on which the application was determined to be complete by RUS. During FY 2001, RUS approved for funding 12 applications totaling \$100 million dollars. RUS currently has pending completed applications for broadband loans, submitted in response to the Initial