

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.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Clarification of Exemption Regarding Historic Preservation Review Process for Projects Involving Historic Natural Gas Pipelines

AGENCY: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

ACTION: Notice of clarification of exemption regarding historic natural gas pipelines.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation clarifies its exemption from historic preservation review for projects involving historic natural gas pipelines by answering five questions that were posed after the exemption went into effect.

DATES: The exemption went into effect on April 5, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Address all questions about this clarification to Javier Marqués, Office of General Counsel, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Suite 809, Washington, DC 20004. Telephone: 202-606-8503. Facsimile: 202-606-8672. E-mail: jmarques@achp.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 5, 2002, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ("Council") published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Exemption Regarding Historic Preservation Review Process for Projects Involving Historic Natural Gas Pipelines (67 FR 16364). Since then, several questions regarding the interpretation and application of the exemption have been brought to the Council's attention. The purpose of this notice is to provide answers to those questions and to clarify the exemption. The following information constitutes the Council's formal views on the interpretation and application of the exemption and should be considered by all parties when taking actions under the exemption.

There are cases where the applicant, a Federal agency and a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) have completed the section 106 process for a Federal action concerning a historic natural gas pipeline prior to the effective date of the exemption. Does the exemption supersede agreements that have been previously executed under Section 106?

Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the exemption will supersede any Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in existence when the exemption went into effect. Note, however, that the exemption only applies to the effects of an action on historic natural gas pipelines. Accordingly, those portions of an MOA that deal with impacts on other historic properties remain in effect. If the agreement was a Programmatic Agreement (PA) developed in accordance with the Council's Section 106 regulations, the provisions of the PA remain applicable. See provision III of the exemption.

Some abandonments filed under section 7(b) of the Federal Natural Gas Act do not involve taking a historic pipeline permanently out of service or do not remove facilities from interstate commerce. Do these situations trigger the exception to the exemption that would require the applicant to meet the documentation standards contained in the exemption?

No. If the pipeline facilities will remain in operation and in interstate service, and therefore subject to subsequent Federal jurisdiction, the applicant for a section 7(b) abandonment is not required to comply with the documentation standards. For abandonments that would take facilities out of service permanently, or that would involve the sale of the facilities to a new owner who would remove the facilities from use in interstate commerce, the required documentation would be a condition for the abandonment.

If only a portion of a historic pipeline facility is proposed for abandonment, must the applicant meet the documentation requirements for the entire facility?

No. Only the portion proposed for abandonment must be documented before the Federal approval is granted. However, as the documentation for the segment to be abandoned may well include much of the information needed

should future segments be abandoned, applicants may wish to consider providing documentation for other segments, up to and including the entire pipeline facility, to eliminate the need for a subsequent documentation effort should another segment or the entire pipeline facility be proposed for abandonment in the future.

What is the timing for completion of the documentation requirements specified in the exception to the exemption?

The documentation requirements can be completed at any time prior to the formal Federal action approving the abandonment. Given that the time period for the Federal agency to review the proposed action is usually several months, it is anticipated that there will be sufficient time to complete the requirements so that processing of the Federal approval will not be delayed. Subject to their individual legal authorities, Federal agencies may condition their approval of the abandonment on satisfactory completion of the documentation requirements, after which the abandonment would take effect. Applicants are encouraged to undertake preparation of the documentation as soon as the abandonment process is initiated in order to avoid any subsequent delays.

If the applicant pursues the process laid out in the exemption and the opinion of the SHPO is sought regarding the eligibility of the pipeline facilities for the National Register of Historic Places, is there a time limit within which the SHPO must respond?

Yes. While the concurrence of the SHPO must be sought in reaching a determination of eligibility (36 CFR 800.4(c)(2)), the Council's regulations (36 CFR 800.3(c)(4)) authorize the Federal agency official to proceed to the next step in the process based on the proposed determination if the SHPO fails to respond within 30 days of receipt of a request for review of the determination. This means also that, where an applicant has taken the lead in establishing the eligibility of a historic pipeline facility for the National Register, the same 30-day limit applies for the SHPO response.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 470v; 36 CFR 800.14(c).

Dated: April 22, 2002.

John M. Fowler,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 02-10259 Filed 4-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho Falls, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) the Caribou-Targhee National Forests' Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Tuesday, May 21, 2002 in Idaho Falls for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The business meeting will be held on May 21, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Headquarters Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Reese, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 524-7500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on May 21, 2002, begins at 10 a.m., at the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Headquarters Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Agenda topics will include a review over the projects proposals that have been turned in.

Dated: April 22, 2002.

Jerry B. Reese,

Caribou-Targhee Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-10266 Filed 4-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on May 15, 2002, in Redding, Calif. The purpose of the meeting will be to review

and discuss remaining project proposals.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 15, 2002, from 8 a.m. to noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Shasta County Office of Education conference room, 1644 Magnolia Ave., Redding, CA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon Heywood, Designated Federal Official, USDA Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Ave., Redding, CA. Phone: (530) 242-2200. Email: sheywood@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Time will be provided for public input, giving individuals the opportunity to address the committee.

Dated: April 19, 2002.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-10267 Filed 4-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: Channel Stabilization; Critical Area Planting; Cross Wind Ridges; Dam; Hillside Ditch; Irrigation Regulating Reservoir; Irrigation Storage Reservoir; Land Smoothing; Lined Waterway or Outlet; Mulching; Pond; Precision Land Forming; Pumping Plant; Rock Barrier; Soil Salinity Management—Nonirrigated; Stripcropping; Surface Drain Main or Lateral; Terrace; and Waterspreading. These standards are used to convey national guidance in developing Field Office Technical Guide Standards used in the States and the Pacific Basin and Caribbean Areas. NRCS State Conservationists and Directors for the Pacific Basin and Caribbean Areas who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States/Areas will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office

Technical Guide. These practices may be used in resource management systems that treat highly erodible land, or on land determined to be wetland.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period, starting on the date of this publication. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in Washington, DC. Submit individual inquiries and return any comments in writing to William Hughey, National Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890. Telephone Number: (202) 720-5023. The standards are also available and can be downloaded from the Internet at: http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_stds.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. For the next 30 days, NRCS will receive comments on the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of change will be made.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 4, 2002.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 02-10251 Filed 4-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bayou Duralde—Lower Nezpique Watershed, Acadia, Evangeline, and Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural