DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2003 From Carryover and Recovered Funds

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR part 4279, subpart B, each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent. This notice covers only fiscal year (FY) 2002 carryover and recovered funds. Once FY 2003 appropriated funds are apportioned, a second notice will be published for those funds.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster, or are experiencing fundamental structural changes in the economic base.

Not all of the available Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan program funding authority for FY 2002 was used; consequently, this and recovered funding authority for approved B&I Guaranteed Loans which did come to fruition are now apportioned and available for use. Not more than 12 percent of the Agency's quarterly apportioned carryover and recovered guarantee authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent and not more than 15 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned carryover and recovered guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans guaranteed with carryover and recovered funds during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. Up to 50 percent of CAIP funds may be used for loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent guarantee fee or a guaranteed loan exceeding 80 percent must be forwarded to the National Office, Attn: Director, Business and Industry Division, for review and consideration prior to obligation of the guaranteed loan. The Administrator will provide a written response to the State Office confirming approval or disapproval of the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 21, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Kieferle, Processing Branch Chief, Business and Industry Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3224, telephone (202) 720–7818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 03–1226 Filed 1–17–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC)

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

Date: February 21, 2003.

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m and 2:30 p.m to 3:30 p.m.

Place: U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, Room 4830 (Room 3407 has also been reserved as a backup).

SUMMARY: The Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC) will hold a plenary meeting on February 21, 2003 at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The ETTAC will discuss administrative and trade issues including the status of trade negotiations in regards to environmental technologies trade liberalization and recent management changes within the U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership Program (USAEP). Time will be permitted for public comment. The meeting is open to the public.

Written comments concerning ETTAC affairs are welcome anytime before or after the meeting. Minutes will be available within 30 days of this meeting.

The ETTAC is mandated by Public Law 103–392. It was created to advise the U.S. government on environmental trade policies and programs, and to help it to focus its resources on increasing the exports of the U.S. environmental industry. ETTAC operates as an advisory committee to the Secretary of Commerce and the interagency Environmental Trade Working Group (ETWG) of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC). ETTAC was originally chartered in May of 1994. It was most recently rechartered until May 30, 2004.

For further information phone Corey Wright, Office of Environmental Technologies Industries (ETI), International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce at (202) 482–5225. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to ETI.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Carlos F. Montoulieu,

Director, Office of Environmental Technologies Industries.

[FR Doc. 03–1227 Filed 1–17–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010203C]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 473–1700, 545–1488, 662–1661 and 1039–1699

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of applications for new permits and permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following individuals/organizations have applied in due form for a permit or permit amendment to take humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalis*), minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), gray