

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[No. LS-04-05]

Notice of Opportunity to Request a Soybean Referendum

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing that soybean producers may request a referendum to determine if producers want a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order) as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act). If at least 10 percent (not in excess of one-fifth of which may be producers in any one State) of the 663,880 eligible producers, as determined by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), nationwide participate in the Request for Referendum a referendum will be held within 1 year from that determination. If results of the Request for Referendum indicate that a referendum is not supported, a referendum would not be conducted.

DATES: Soybean producers may request a referendum during a 4-week period beginning on May 3, 2004, and ending on May 28, 2004. To be eligible to participate in the Request for Referendum, producers must certify and provide supporting documentation that shows they, or the producer entity they are authorized to represent, paid an assessment at sometime between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2003.

Form LS-51-1, Request for Referendum, may be obtained by mail, fax, or in person from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices from May 3, 2004, through May 28, 2004. Form LS-51-1 may also be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/re-soy.htm> during the same

time period. Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate county FSA offices by fax or in person no later than close of business May 28, 2004, or if returned by mail must be postmarked by midnight May 28, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Payne, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Program; Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, Room 2638-S; STOP 0251; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-02541, on telephone number 202/720-1115, fax number 202/720-1125, or by e-mail at Kenneth.Payne@usda.gov or Phil Brockman; DAFO, USDA, FSA; STOP 0542; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington DC 20250-0542, on telephone number 202/690-8034, fax number 202/720-5900, or by e-mail on Phil.Brockman@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Act (7 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.*), this Notice announces the dates when the Request for Referendum will be conducted and the place where soybean producers may request a referendum on the Order. The Act provides that the Secretary, 5 years after the conduct of the initial referendum and every 5 years thereafter, shall give soybean producers the opportunity to request an additional referendum on the Order. The initial referendum was held in February 1994. The last opportunity for producers to request a referendum on the Order was October 1999. Only 17,970 eligible soybean producers completed valid requests—far short of the 60,082 required to trigger a referendum.

Individual producers and other producer entities will be provided the opportunity to request a referendum, at the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's administrative farm records. For the producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the county FSA office serving the county where the producer owns or rents land. Participation in the Request for Referendum is not mandatory.

On March 23, 2004, USDA published in the **Federal Register** a final rule (69 FR 13458) that sets forth procedures that will be used in conducting the Request for Referendum. The final rule includes definitions, provisions for supervising

the process for requesting a referendum, eligibility, procedures for requesting and completing the required form, required documentation showing that assessment was paid, where the Request for Referendum will be conducted, counting and reporting results, and disposition of the forms and records. Since the Request for Referendum will be conducted at the county FSA offices, FSA employees will assist AMS by determining eligibility, counting requests, and reporting results.

Pursuant to the Act, USDA is conducting the required Request for Referendum from May 3, 2004, through May 28, 2004.

To be eligible to participate in the Request for Referendum producers or the producer entity they are authorized to represent must certify and provide supporting documentation that shows they paid an assessment sometime between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2003.

Form LS-51-1 may be requested in person, by mail, or by facsimile from May 3, 2004, through May 28, 2004. Form LS-51-1 may also be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/re-soy.htm> during the same 4-week period. Individual producers and other producer entities would request a referendum at the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's, corporation's, or other entity's administrative farm records. For the producer, corporation, or other entity not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum would be provided at the county FSA office serving the county where the producer, corporation, or other entity owns or rents land.

Producers can determine the location of county FSA offices by contacting (1) the nearest FSA office, (2) the State FSA office, or (3) through an online search of FSA's Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/default.asp>. From the options available on this Web site select "Your local office," click on your State, and click on the map to select a county.

Form LS-51-1 and supporting documentation may be returned in person, by mail, or facsimile to the appropriate county FSA office. Form LS-51-1, and accompanying documentation may be returned in person or by facsimile, must be received

in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business of May 28, 2004. Form LS-51-1 and accompanying documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight of May 28, 2004.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the information collection requirements made in connection with the Request for Referendum have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB control number 0581-0093.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6301-6311.

Dated: March 23, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-6767 Filed 3-23-04; 11:40 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; FS-2800-9-Contract for the Sale of Mineral Materials

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to extend the information collection, FS-2800-9-Contract for the Sale of Mineral Materials. The collected information enables the Forest Service to ensure that individuals, organizations, companies, or corporations, conducting mining operations on National Forest System lands, conduct the operations in a manner consistent with all applicable land management laws and regulations in an environmentally responsible manner and are financially accountable.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before May 24, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Director, Minerals and Geology Management Staff, Mail Stop 1126, 1601 N. Kent Street—5th Floor, Forest Service, USDA, Arlington, VA 22209.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (703) 605-1575 or by e-mail to mgreeley@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments in the Office of the Director, Minerals and Geology Management Staff, 1601 N. Kent Street—5th Floor, Forest Service, USDA, Arlington, Virginia, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (703) 605-4797 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mike Greeley, Minerals and Geology Management, at (703) 605-4797.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended, and the Multiple Use Mining Act of 1955, as amended, authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to dispose of petrified wood and common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay, and other similar materials on lands administered by the Forest Service. Individuals, organizations, companies, or corporations may apply for a permit to mine these mineral materials using the form, FS-2800-9-Contract for the Sale of Mineral Materials. The agency is requesting an authorization extension for form FS-2800-9-Contract for the Sale of Mineral Materials.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:
Title: FS-2800-9—Contract for the Sale of Mineral Materials.

OMB Number: 0596-0081.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension.

Abstract: The collected information enables the Forest Service to document planned operations, to prescribe the terms and conditions the agency deems necessary to protect surface resources, and to effect a binding contract agreement.

Forest Service employees will evaluate the collected information to ensure that entities, applying to mine petrified wood and common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay, and other similar materials on lands administered by the Forest Service, are financially accountable and conduct their activities in accordance with the mineral regulations at Part 228, subpart C, of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Individuals, organizations, companies, or corporations, interested in mining mineral materials on National Forest System lands, may contact their local Forest Service office to inquire about opportunities and to learn about areas on which such activities are permitted. Interested parties also may request the form, FS-2800-9, at this time.

Individuals, organizations, companies, or corporations are asked to provide information that includes the purchaser's name and address, the location and dimensions of the area to be mined, the kind of material that will

be mined, the quantity of material that will be mined, the sales price of the mined material, the payment schedule, the amount of the bond, and the period of the contract.

Data collected in this information collection are not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 2.5 hours.

Type of Respondents: Mineral materials operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 15,000 hours.

Comment is invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: March 19, 2004.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 04-6686 Filed 3-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SES Performance Review Board

AGENCY: American Battle Monuments Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the appointment of members of the ABMC Performance Review Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theodore Gloukhoff, Director of Personnel and Administration, American Battle Monuments