

Background

Timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T are used by the Forest Service for the sale of all large, complex timber sales. Timber sale contract Form FS-2400-6 is used when timber is measured for payment after it is harvested, and timber sale contract Form FS-2400-6T is used when the basis for payment is measurement prior to sale. These contracts were originally brought into use in July 1970 and January 1972, respectively, and were the result of extended discussions between the Federal Timber Purchasers Committee and the Forest Service. These contracts were revised in September 1973 and October 1973, respectively, to incorporate modifications based upon experience gained and policy changes since their inception.

From 1973 until July 2001, the requirements of new legislation and Forest Service policy were implemented in the contracts by issuing special provisions that replaced or added to the standard contract provisions. In July 2001, new versions of timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T were issued. The July 2001 versions incorporated the special provisions that had been brought into use since 1973, but did not make any other changes that affect the rights and obligations of the Forest Service and timber sale purchasers.

Summary of Comments

In response to public comments, over 75 changes were made to timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T, including:

1. Adding a contract provision to provide for an emergency rate redetermination after severe market declines.
2. Changing the procedure for reimbursing purchasers for changes in road construction cost to provide more timely reimbursement.
3. Removing the contract provision requiring that purchasers comply with other Federal, State, and local laws, since they have this obligation anyway.
4. Shortening the time requirement for the Forest Service to inspect the timber sale purchaser's completed work from 10 days to 5 days.
5. Adding a contract provision to allow the timber sale purchaser to terminate the contract if the market declined substantially during a Forest Service suspension.
6. Based on information it currently has, the Forest Service believes the appropriate level for liquidated damages should be increased from 7 percent to

15 percent. The Forest Service will monitor liquidated damages to determine if further adjustments are needed.

7. Adding a contract provision to provide for reducing the performance bond during a Forest Service suspension.

Contract Revisions

The final revised timber sale contract Forms FS-2400-6 and FS-2400-6T provide a better balance of risk between the timber sale purchaser and:

1. Clarify and simplify the remedies available when contracts are suspended, modified, or terminated for environmental reasons.
2. Incorporate special provisions that are applicable to all timber sales into the standard contract provisions.
3. Correct inconsistencies and clarify language that has accumulated by the addition of 30 years of special provisions to the timber sale contracts.
4. Make organizational and editorial changes intended to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary provisions.
5. Provide for liquidated damages when the Forest Service unilaterally terminates or partially terminates a timber sale contract.
6. Provide for a rate redetermination after a specified time when the Forest Service orders the delay or interruption of operations for specific reasons.
7. Provide for an emergency rate redetermination if there is a severe market decline after the timber sale is purchased.

The final revised contracts and responses to public comments are available electronically and in paper copy, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Dated: April 30, 2004.

Sally Collins,

Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 04-10287 Filed 5-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to

request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 6, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard C. Annan, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5170 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-8818. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are 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 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 those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Richard C. Annan, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, Room 5170 South Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

Title: Weather Radio Transmitter Grant Program.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0124.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The National Weather Service operates an All Hazards Early Warning System that alerts people in areas covered by its transmissions of approaching dangerous weather and other emergencies. The National Weather Service can typically provide warnings of specific weather dangers up to fifteen minutes prior to the event. At

present, this system covers all major metropolitan areas and many smaller cities and towns; however, many rural areas lack NOAA Weather Radio coverage. The Rural Utilities Service Weather Radio Transmitter Grant Program finances the installation of new transmitters to extend the coverage of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio system (NOAA Weather Radio) in rural America thereby promoting public safety and awareness. The President of the United States and the United States Congress have made \$5 million in grant funds available to facilitate the expansion of NOAA Weather Radio system coverage into rural areas that are not covered or are poorly covered at this time. This grant program will continue to provide grant funds, on an expedited basis, for use in rural areas and communities of 50,000 or less inhabitants. Grant funds are available immediately and applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until the appropriation is used in its entirety. Grant funds are used to purchase and install NOAA Weather Radio transmitters and antennas that are combined with donated tower space and other site resources to establish new rural NOAA Weather Radio transmitters. Eligible applicants must be non-profit corporations or associations (including Rural Utilities Service electric and telecommunications borrower cooperatives), units of local or state government, or Federally-recognized Indian tribes.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 113.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,356.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from MaryPat Daskal, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-7853, FAX: (202) 720-4120.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 30, 2004.

Hilda Gay Legg,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 04-10281 Filed 5-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13.

Bureau: International Trade Administration.

Title: Implementation of Tariff Rate Quota Established Under Title V of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 as Amended by the Trade Act of 2002 for Imports of Certain Worsted Wool Fabric.

Agency Form Number: ITA-4139P, ITA-4140P.

OMB Number: 0625-0240.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Estimated Burden: 352 hours.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 24.

Est. Avg. Hours Per Response: 1-24 hours.

Needs and Uses: Title V of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 ("the Act") as amended by the Trade Act of 2002 contains several provisions to assist the wool products industries. These include the establishment of tariff rate quotas (TRQ) for a limited quantity of worsted wool fabrics. The Act requires the President to fairly allocate the TRQ to persons who cut and sew men's and boys' worsted wool suits and suit like jackets and trousers in the United States, and who apply for an allocation based on the amount of suits they produce in the prior year. The Act further requires the President, on an annual basis, to consider requests from the manufacturers of the apparel products listed above, to modify the limitation on the quantity of imports subject to the TRQ. The Act specifies factors to be addressed in considering such requests. The TRQ was originally effective for goods entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2001, and was to remain in force through 2003. On August 6, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Trade Act of 2002, which includes several amendments to Title V of the Act including the extension of the program through 2005. A TRQ allocation will be valid only in the year for which it is issued.

On December 1, 2000, the President issued Proclamation 7383 that, among other things, delegates authority to the Secretary of Commerce to allocate the TRQ; to consider, on an annual basis, requests to modify the limitation on the quantity of the TRQ and to recommend appropriate modifications to the

President; and to issue regulations to implement these provisions. On January 22, 2001, the Department of Commerce published regulations establishing procedures for allocation of the tariff rate quotas (66 FR 6459, 15 CFR part 335) and for considering requests for modification of the limitations (66 FR 6459, 15 CFR part 340).

The Department must collect certain information in order to fairly allocate the TRQ to eligible persons and to make informed recommendations to the President on whether or not to modify the limitation on the quantity of the TRQ. This request for comment is for the proposed information collections after July 31, 2004.

Affected Public: Business or other for profits.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-7340.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 3, 2004.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-10346 Filed 5-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13.

Bureau: International Trade Administration.

Title: Information for Self-Certification Under FAQ 6 of the United States European Union Safe Harbor Privacy Framework.

Agency Form Number: N/A.

OMB Number: 0625-0239.

Type of Request: Regular Submission.