

direct loans that their records will be matched to determine whether they are delinquent or in default on a federal debt. HUD and DOJ will also publish notices concerning routine use disclosures in the **Federal Register** to inform individuals that a computer match may be performed to determine a loan applicant's credit status with the federal government.

*Categories Of Records/Individuals Involved:* The debtor records include these data elements from HUD's systems of records, HUD/Dept-2: SSN, claim number, program code, and indication of indebtedness. Categories of records include: records of claims and defaults, repayment agreements, credit reports, financial statements, and records of foreclosures, and federal judgment liens. Categories of individuals include former mortgagors and purchasers of HUD-owned properties, manufactured (mobile) home and home improvement loan debtors who are delinquent or in default on their loans, and rehabilitation loan debtors who are delinquent or in default on their loans, and individuals or corporations against whom judgments have been filed by DOJ.

*Period of the Match:* Matching will begin at least 40 days from the date copies of the signed (by both Data Integrity Boards) computer matching agreements are sent to both Houses of Congress or at least 30 days from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**, whichever is later, providing no comments are received which would result in a contrary determination. The matching program will be in effect and continue for 18 months with an option to renew for 12 additional months unless one of the parties to the agreement advises the other in writing to terminate or modify the agreement.

Dated: March 23, 2006.

**Lisa Schlosser,**  
Chief Information Officer.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket Number FR-5062-N-01]

### Operating Fund Program; Transition Funding and Guidance on Demonstration of Successful Conversion to Asset Management to Discontinue the Reduction of Operating Subsidy

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing; HUD.

#### ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On September 19, 2005, HUD published a final rule amending the regulations of The Public Housing Operating Funding Program to adopt a new formula for determining the payment of operating subsidy to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). The September 19, 2005, final rule contained different transition provisions to determine whether a PHA will have a reduction or an increase in operating subsidy. The Operating Fund Program final rule also provides that PHAs may submit documentation of successful conversion to asset management in order to discontinue their reduction in operating subsidy under the new formula, commonly referred to as the "stop-loss" provision. This notice advises the public that HUD has posted a notice on its Web site ([www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)) providing additional guidance on the calculation of transition funding and how PHAs may qualify for the "stop loss" provision.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Hanson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Departmental Real Estate Assessment Center, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 2000; Washington, DC 20410-0500; telephone 202-475-7949 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Interested parties should consult notice posted on the HUD Web site, [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov), for guidance regarding how transition funding will be calculated, the criteria for successful conversion to asset management, and the procedure for submitting documentation of successful conversion to asset management in order to discontinue a reduction in operating subsidy. The portions of the notice pertaining to "stop-loss" apply only to PHAs that: (1) Lose funding under the new formula; and (2) wish to submit documentation in accordance with the requirements for the first stop-loss deadline of October 1, 2006, so they may limit their losses to 5 percent. In order to provide PHAs with sufficient time to prepare for this first stop-loss deadline, HUD has developed the abbreviated requirements set forth in the notice that can be accessed from the HUD Web site. HUD will issue expanded requirements for the subsequent deadline dates to qualify for stop-loss.

Dated: March 29, 2006.

**Orlando J. Cabrera,**  
Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive (NSLRSDA) Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The fourth meeting of the third Charter period will be held on April 19 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) April 20 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and April 21 (8 a.m. to Noon), 2006, at The Watergate Hotel, 2650 Virginia Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20037.

The Committee, comprised of 15 members from academia, industry, government, information science, natural science, social science, and policy/law, will provide the Department of the Interior and USGS management with advice and consultation on defining and accomplishing the NSLRSDA's archiving and access goals to carry out the requirements of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act; on priorities of the NSLRSDA's tasks; and, on issues of archiving, data management, science, policy, and public-private partnerships.

Topics to be reviewed and discussed by the Committee include determining the content of and upgrading the basic data set as identified by the Congress; metadata content and accessibility; product characteristics; availability, and delivery; and, archiving, data access, and distribution policies.

Agenda will be finalized at the beginning of the meeting.

The meeting is open to all members of the interested public and time on the agenda has been reserved at the conclusion of each day's work for the Committee to receive verbal comments (limited to 5 minutes per person) from the public. To speak before the Committee, please register in advance with Mr. John Faundeen (see contact information below), the USGS Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the Committee.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Faundeen, USGS EROS Archivist, USGS EROS, 47914 252nd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57198, 605-594-6092,  
[Faundeen@usgs.gov](mailto:Faundeen@usgs.gov).

Dated: March 30, 2006.

**Barbara Ryan,**

*Associated Director, Geography.*

[FR Doc. 06-3242 Filed 4-4-06; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of rate adjustments.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) owns, or has an interest in, irrigation facilities located on various Indian reservations throughout the United States. We are authorized to establish rates to recover the costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate those facilities. We are notifying you that we have adjusted the irrigation assessment rates at several of our irrigation facilities for operation and maintenance.

**DATES: Effective Date:** The irrigation assessment rates shown in the tables are effective on January 1, 2006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For details about a particular BIA irrigation project, please use the tables in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section to contact the regional or local office where the project is located.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Notice of Proposed Rate Adjustment was published in the **Federal Register** on October 4, 2005 (70 FR 151), to adjust the irrigation rates at several BIA irrigation facilities. The public and interested parties were provided an opportunity to submit written comments during the 60-day period prior to December 8, 2005.

#### Did the BIA Defer Any Proposed Rate Increases?

For the Fort Peck Irrigation Project, the BIA, in consultation with the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and Fort Peck Irrigation Project water users, has deferred the rate increase for 2006.

For the Flathead Irrigation Project, the BIA, in consultation with the Flathead Irrigation Project water users, has deferred the rate increase for 2006 until 2007. This notice makes the rate increase final for 2007.

The BIA, in consultation with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, has decided to raise the final rates for the Pine River Irrigation Project. However, the rate will be less than was proposed in the Notice

of Proposed Rate Adjustment published on October 4, 2005.

#### Did the BIA Receive Any Comments on the Proposed Irrigation Assessment Rate Adjustments?

Written comments were received for the proposed rate adjustments for the Fort Peck Irrigation Project, Montana, the San Carlos Irrigation Project—Joint Works (SCIP—JW), Arizona, and the Pine River Irrigation Project, Colorado.

#### What Issues Were of Concern to the Commenters?

The commenters were concerned with one or more of the following issues: (1) How funds collected from stakeholders are expended on operation and maintenance; (2) the impact of an assessment rate increase on the local agricultural economy and on individual land owners and irrigators; (3) record keeping practices and sharing this information with water users prior to the proposed rate adjustment notice; and (4) the timeliness of the rate adjustment notice.

#### How Does BIA Respond to the Concern of How Funds Are Expended for Operation and Maintenance?

BIA includes the following expenses in irrigation project budgets: Project personnel costs; materials and supplies; vehicle and equipment repairs; equipment; capitalization expenses; acquisition expenses; rehabilitation costs; maintenance of a reserve fund for contingencies or emergencies; and other expenses we determine necessary to properly operate and maintain the irrigation projects.

The BIA's budget estimates and records of expenditures for all of its irrigation facilities are public records and available for review by stakeholders or interested parties. Stakeholders (project water users/land owners/tribes) can review these records during normal business hours at the individual agency offices. Alternatively, BIA may treat requests to review project records as requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and provide copies of such records to the requesting party in accordance with FOIA. To review or to obtain copies of these records, stakeholders and interested parties are directed to contact the BIA representative at the specific facility serving them using the tables in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

#### How Does BIA Respond to Concerns About Irrigation Assessment Rate Increases and Related Impacts on the Local Agricultural Economy and on Individual Land Owners and Irrigators?

All of the BIA's irrigation projects are important economic contributors to the local communities they serve contributing millions in crop value annually. Historically, BIA tempered irrigation rate increases to demonstrate sensitivity to the economic impact on water users. This has resulted in a rate deficiency at most of the irrigation projects.

Over the past several years the BIA's irrigation program has been the subject of several Office of Inspector General (OIG) audits. In the most recent audit, No. 96-I-641, March 1996, the OIG concluded, "Operation and maintenance revenues were insufficient to maintain the projects, and some projects had deteriorated to the extent that their continued capability to deliver water was in doubt. This occurred because operation and maintenance rates were not based on the full cost of delivering water, including the costs of systematically rehabilitating and replacing project facilities and equipment, and because project personnel did not seek regular rate increases to cover the full cost of operation." This audit recommendation is still outstanding.

A previous OIG audit, No. 88-42, February 1988, reached the same conclusion. A separate audit performed on one of BIA's largest irrigation projects, Wapato Indian Irrigation Project, No. 95-I-1402, September 1995, reinforced the general findings of the OIG on the BIA's irrigation program. This pointed out a lack of response by the BIA to the original findings of the OIG in addressing this critical issue over an extended period of time. The BIA must systematically review and evaluate irrigation assessment rates and adjust them when necessary to reflect the full costs to properly operate, and perform all appropriate maintenance on, the irrigation facility infrastructure for safe and reliable operation. If this review and evaluation is not accomplished, a rate deficiency can eventually accumulate. Overcoming rate deficiencies can result in the BIA having to raise irrigation assessment rates in larger increments and over shorter time frames than would have been otherwise necessary.

In the past, BIA has provided limited appropriated funds to the irrigation projects to assist the projects in their operations and maintenance.