

32 hours per response. This estimate does not include burden associated with providing information required in accordance with information collections prescribed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Only businesses submitting offers in response to a solicitation are affected by this collection.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 67,200 hours.

3. *Title:* Procurement: Brand Name or Equal Clause.

OMB Number: 0505-0014.

Expiration Date: 11/30/2006.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Proposed use of information: The Agriculture Acquisition Regulation permits the use of "brand name or equal" purchase descriptions to procure commercial products. Such descriptions require the offeror on a supply procurement to identify the "equal" item being offered and to indicate how that item meets salient characteristics stated in the purchase description. The contracting officer can determine from the descriptive information furnished whether the offered "equal" item meets the salient characteristics of the Government's requirements. The use of brand name or equal descriptions eliminates the need for bidders or offerors to read and interpret detailed specifications or purchase descriptions.

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 26,678.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One (1).

Estimate of Burden: This information collection is limited to solicitations for products for which other methods of product specification are impracticable. Only businesses wishing to submit bids or offers in response to a solicitation are affected. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one tenth of an hour per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,668 hours.

4. *Title:* Procurement: Key Personnel Clause.

OMB Number: 0505-0015.

Expiration Date: 11/30/2006.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Proposed use of information: The information enables the agency to determine whether the departure of a key person from the contractor's staff may have a deleterious effect upon contract performance, and to determine what accommodations or remedies may be taken. If the agency could not obtain information about departing key

personnel, it could not ensure that qualified personnel continue to perform contract work.

Respondents: State or local governments; businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One (1).

Estimate of Burden: The information collection is required only when a contractor proposes to make changes to key personnel assigned to performance of a contract. Consequently, information collection is occasional. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 300 hours.

5. *Title:* Procurement: Progress Reporting Clause.

OMB Number: 0505-0016.

Expiration Date: 11/30/2006.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Proposed use of information: The information is requested monthly or quarterly from contractors performing research and development (R&D) or advisory and assistance services, including ADP system or software development. The information enables the contracting office to monitor actual progress and expenditures compared to anticipated performance and proposal representations upon which the contract award was made. The information alerts the contracting office to technical problems, to a need for additional staff resources or funding, and to the probability of timely completion within the contract cost or price. If the contracting office could not obtain a report of progress, it would have to physically monitor the contractor's operations on a day-to-day basis throughout the performance period.

Respondents: State or local government; businesses or other for-profit; small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: The frequency of progress reports varies from monthly to quarterly depending on the complexity of the contract and the risk of successful completion. Based on monthly reporting, each respondent would submit 12 responses per year.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one and one half hours per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,400 hours.

Comments: Comments received will be considered in order to: (a) Evaluate whether each proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of USDA contracting offices, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of OPPM's estimate of the burden of each proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the five collections of information on those who respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record.

G.D. Haggstrom,

Deputy Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management.

[FR Doc. E6-8307 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-TX-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Kootenai National Forest's Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday June 7, 2006 at 6 p.m. at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Libby, Montana for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: June 7, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Forest Supervisor's Office, 1101 US Hwy 2 West, Libby, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Edgmon, Committee Coordinator, Kootenai National Forest at (406) 283-7764, or e-mail bedgmon@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda topics include vote to reallocate funds to complete approved projects, receiving proposals for 2007, and receiving public comment. If the meeting date or location is changed, notice will be posted in the

local newspapers, including the Daily Interlake based in Kalispell, Montana.

Dated: May 23, 2006.

John Carlson,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-4912 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: "Above Ground, Multi-Outlet Pipeline (Code 431)," "Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441)," "Pond Sealing or Lining—Flexible Membrane (Code 521A)," "Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mine Land (Code 543)," "Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land (Code 544)," and "Watering Facility (Code 614)." NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into Section IV of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guides (eFOTG). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land, or on land determined to be wetland.

DATES: Effective Dates: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication. Final versions of these new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period, following consideration of all comments. Comments should be submitted to Daniel Meyer, National Agricultural Engineer, at Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890, or via e-mail at Daniel.Meyer@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of these standards can be downloaded or printed from the

following Web site: [ftp://ftp-*fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/federal-register/*](ftp://ftp-<i>fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/federal-register/). Single copies of these standards are also available from NRCS' National Headquarters. Submit individual inquiries in writing to Daniel Meyer, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890, or electronically at Daniel.Meyer@wdc.usda.gov.

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 relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of changes will be made.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 17, 2006.

Bruce I. Knight,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. E6-8203 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

East Kentucky Power Cooperative: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment for public review.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service, an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs (USDA Rural Development) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financial assistance to East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) for the construction of approximately 19 miles of double circuit 345/138 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line and two 345 kV electric transmission substations. The proposed transmission line and substation projects would be located in Clark County, Kentucky. EKPC is requesting USDA Rural Development to provide financial assistance for the proposed project.

DATES: Written comments on this Notice must be received on or before June 29, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The Environmental Assessment will be available for public review at the Agency's address provided in this notice, at the Agency's Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>, at EKPC's headquarters office located at 4775 Lexington Road, Winchester, Kentucky 40391; and at the Clark County Library, 370 South Burns Avenue, Winchester, KY 40391.

Written comments should be sent to: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 or e-mail stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, Telephone: (202) 720-0468. Ms. Strength's e-mail address is stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project area is located in northeastern, central, and southeastern Clark County, Kentucky. The proposed route for the new electric transmission line extends westerly on new and existing electric utility line rights-of-way (ROWs) from a proposed new substation site located at EKPC's existing J.K. Smith Electric Generating Station, east of the unincorporated community of Bloomingdale in southeastern Clark County. Just east of Muddy Creek Road the proposed route turns northerly following new and mostly existing utility line ROWs to a proposed new substation site located in northeastern Clark County near the Bourbon County/Clark County/Montgomery County Line, and north of Donaldson Road. The electrical conductors for the proposed new transmission line would be supported by Corten steel, two and three pole structures with an average height of 100 feet aboveground. The proposed new line would require a right-of-way (ROW) width of 150 feet. Construction of a portion of the new line would involve rebuilding 16.56 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line on an existing 100-foot wide ROW. The existing line would be dismantled and replaced by the proposed new transmission line. An additional 50 feet in width would be added to the existing ROW to accommodate the proposed new line.