

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Farm Service Agency****Emergency Conservation Program**

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces the availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for potential changes to the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). ECP provides emergency funding to farmers and ranchers who have suffered damage to their agricultural lands as a result of a natural disaster. The goals of ECP are to restore farmland (currently, cropland, hayland, and pastureland) to a normal productive state after a natural disaster and provide assistance to producers to carry out emergency water conservation or enhancing measures in times of severe drought. The potential changes (proposed action) under consideration include expanding ECP eligibility to other types of farmland, namely timberland, farmsteads, roads, and feedlots. If FSA implements the changes, FSA would publish a proposed rule to reflect changes to the policy. The draft SEIS is available for public comment. The draft SEIS analyzes the impacts of the proposed action on the nation's environmental resources and economy. FSA analyzed the no action alternative (continuation of current program) to provide an environmental baseline.

**DATES:** To ensure that the full range of issues and alternatives related to the ECP are addressed, FSA requests comments. We will consider comments that we receive by June 26, 2008. We will consider comments submitted after this date to the extent possible.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments on this notice. Send written comments on the draft SEIS and requests for copies of the draft SEIS to ECP SEIS, c/o Geo-Marine Incorporated, 2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D, Hampton, VA 23666-1572; or comment via the Web or request a hardcopy of the Draft SEIS by logging on to <http://public.geo-marine.com>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Matthew T. Ponish, National Environmental Compliance Manager, USDA FSA CEPD, Stop 0513, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0513, (202) 720-6853, or e-mail at: [Matthew.Ponish@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Matthew.Ponish@wdc.usda.gov). More detailed information on ECP may be obtained from FSA's Web site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=ecp>.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 20, 2008.

**Teresa C. Lasseter,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. E8-11774 Filed 5-23-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS****Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that orientation and planning meetings of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2008, in the Billings North Lounge located at 48 University Place at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an orientation to new members and plan future activities of the committee. The committee will also have a briefing on racial profiling.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office by July 12, 2008. The address is Eastern Regional Office, 624 9th St., NW., Washington, DC 20425. Persons wishing to e-mail their comments, or who desire additional information should contact Alfreda Greene, Secretary, at 202-376-7533 or by e-mail to: [agreene@usccr.gov](mailto:agreene@usccr.gov).

Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meetings and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meetings.

Records generated from these meetings may be inspected and reproduced at the Eastern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meetings. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or to contact the Eastern Regional Office at the above e-mail or street address.

The meetings will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission and FACA.

Dated in Washington, DC, May 21, 2008.

**Christopher Byrnes,**

*Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.*

[FR Doc. E8-11783 Filed 5-23-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6335-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit 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 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

*Agency:* U.S. Census Bureau.

*Title:* Housing Vacancy Survey (HVS).

*OMB Control Number:* 0607-0179.

*Form Number(s):* HVS-600, BC-1428RV, CPS-263(L).

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

*Burden Hours:* 4,278.

*Number of Respondents:* 6,936.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 3 minutes.

*Needs and Uses:* The U.S. Census Bureau collects the HVS data for a sample of vacant housing units identified in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) sample and provides the only quarterly statistics on rental vacancy rates, and home ownership rates for the United States, the four census regions, inside vs. outside metropolitan areas (MSAs), the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the 75 largest MSAs. Private and public sector organizations use these rates extensively to gauge and analyze the housing market. In addition, the rental vacancy rate is a component of the index of leading economic indicators published by the Department of Commerce.

Policy analysts, program managers, budget analysts, and Congressional staff use data obtained from the remaining questions that do not deal specifically with the vacancy rate to advise the executive and legislative branches of government with respect to number and characteristics of units available for occupancy and the suitability of housing initiatives. Public and private sector organizations use these data for evaluating the housing market with regard to supply, cost, and affordability at various points in time.

The Census Bureau produces a press release, "Census Bureau Reports on Residential Vacancies and Home Ownership," on a quarterly basis. In addition, it places the HVS data on the Internet for users to access. The Internet

address for the HVS data is [www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/hvs.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/hvs.html). Several other government agencies use these data on a continuing basis, for example, the Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the HVS data in calculating consumer expenditures for housing as a component of the gross domestic product; the Department of Housing and Urban Development relies on the HVS data to measure the adequacy of the supply of rental and homeowner units and works with the White House in measuring homeownership for minorities. The National Association of Home Builders, the National Association of Realtors, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Reserve Board, the Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) are among the many users in the private sector who routinely use the HVS data in making policy decisions relating to the housing market. In addition, investment firms use the HVS data to analyze market trends and for economic forecasting.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* Monthly.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13 U.S.C., Section 182.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Brian Harris-Kojetin, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dhynek@doc.gov](mailto:dhynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202) 395-7245 or e-mail ([bharrisk@omb.eop.gov](mailto:bharrisk@omb.eop.gov)).

Dated: May 20, 2008.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E8-11599 Filed 5-23-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**International Trade Administration**

**Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; as amended by Pub. L. 106-36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Ave., NW., Room 2104, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 2104, U.S. Department of Commerce.

*Docket Number:* 08-016. *Applicant:* University of Colorado, 572 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0572. *Instrument:* Three-Channel Digital Radio Vector Field Sensor (RVFS). *Manufacturer:* Swedish Institute of Space Physics, Sweden. *Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used in a scientific project on the verification of the theory of multiple scattering of HF signals in the ionosphere with small-scale irregularities. The RVFS must have a capability to work with dipole antennas of two different lengths (1 m and 3 m) and a capability to oversample the output I&Q data. These specifications enable the instrument to operate in both mobile-mount and stationary conditions. Application accepted by *Commissioner of Customs:* April 30, 2008.

*Docket Number:* 08-017. *Applicant:* City College of the City University of New York, 160 Convent Ave., New York, NY 10031. *Instrument:* Ultrabroadband. *Ti:* Sapphire Laser Model Rainbow-DFG. *Manufacturer:* Femtolasers, Inc., Austria. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to develop experimental tools necessary to characterize ultrafast phenomena. A unique characteristic of this instrument is that it must generate optical pulses of less than 7 femtoseconds.

The amplifier system will be coupled with a 6 femtosecond laser and streak camera system to provide high spatial, high temporal and high spectral resolution for characterization, tunneling and carrier/phonon dynamics studies for nanoscale semiconductor

quantum structures and devices. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* April 24, 2008.

*Docket Number:* 08-018. *Applicant:* Washington University, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130. *Instrument:* Modular Hot Cell—COMECER Model MIP1-1P-1350. *Manufacturer:* COMECER, Italy. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to evaluate the kinetics, biodistribution stability, dosimetry and safety of PET radiopharmaceuticals *i.e.*, [18F]FHBG. The hot cell MIP1350 will house an automated chemistry module used to synthesize [18F]FHBG. Unique features of this instrument include a sealed enclosure independent of the door as well as stainless steel enclosures. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* April 29, 2008.

Dated: May 16, 2008.

**Faye Robinson,**

*Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff, Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. E8-11561 Filed 5-23-08; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**International Trade Administration**

**Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, as amended by Pub. L. 106-36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be postmarked on or before June 16, 2008. Address written comments to Statutory Import Programs Staff, Room 2104, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Room 2104.

*Docket Number:* 08-014. *Applicant:* Ohio State University, Materials Science and Engineering, 2041 College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210. *Instrument:* Transmission Electron Microscope. *Manufacturer:* FEI Company/Philips Electron Optics, the Netherlands.

*Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used to study different types of solid state materials. It will be used for general morphological and structural studies of ceramics, metals,