

whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate, automated, electronic, mechanical or other technology.

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.

#### Summary of 2004 Comments

A previous notice requesting comments on this information collection request was published in the **Federal Register** on June 23, 2004 (69 FR 34990–34991). The 60-day comment period for the notice closed on August 23, 2004; 6 comments were received. The scope of the request for information collection approval has been narrowed to initially focus on information collected by the three service center agencies, the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Rural Development (RD). None of the comments addressed any issues related to information collection by FSA, NRCS, or RD.

Signed at Washington, DC on May 7, 2009.

**Joe Leonard, Jr.,**

*Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.*

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BILLING CODE 3410–98–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Amended Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP is a new program authorized by the Food,

Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill). The EIS will assess the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for administration and implementation of BCAP. Through this notice and public meetings, CCC is requesting the public to provide comments and inputs on the preliminary proposed program alternatives and environmental concerns associated with the implementation of BCAP.

**DATES:** See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for dates of the six public meetings.

*Comments:* We will consider comments that we receive by June 12, 2009. We will consider comments submitted after that date, to the extent possible.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments and to participate in public meetings on the proposed alternatives related to BCAP. If you e-mail, fax, or mail your comments, include the volume, date, and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Go through the established public comments Web site located at <http://public.geo-marine.com>.
- *E-Mail:* [bcap@geo-marine.com](mailto:bcap@geo-marine.com).
- *Fax:* (757) 873–3703.
- *Mail:* BCAP EIS c/o Geo-Marine, Inc., 2713 Magruder Boulevard, Suite D, Hampton, Virginia 23666.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Deliver comments to the above address.
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Comments may be inspected in the Office of the Director, CEPD, FSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 4709 South Building, Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for addresses for the six public meetings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Matthew T. Ponish, FSA National Environmental Compliance Manager at (202) 720–6853 or [matthew.ponish@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:matthew.ponish@wdc.usda.gov). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** BCAP is authorized by Title IX of the 2008 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 110–246). The 2008 Farm Bill amends Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–171); specifically, for BCAP, the 2008 Farm Bill adds section 9011 (7 U.S.C. 8111) to Title IX. BCAP is intended to support the establishment and production of crops for conversion to bio-energy in project areas (locations) and to assist with collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility.

As a new energy program, BCAP presents an opportunity to encourage landowners and operators to produce biomass for commercial energy production in ways that both are economically and environmentally sound. CCC plans to implement BCAP by approving the best-qualifying project proposals from project sponsors (producers or facilities) and then entering into contracts with individual producers in the approved project locations. BCAP is a CCC program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with the support of other Federal and local agencies.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the EIS process provides a means for the public to provide input on program implementation alternatives and on environmental concerns. This notice informs the public of CCC's intention to prepare an EIS for BCAP. CCC initially solicited public input and comments on the proposed EIS for BCAP from the notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 1, 2008 (72 FR 5704–57047).

When we received comments and inputs from the public and through internal agency scoping, CCC developed the following alternatives for the BCAP analysis to be considered as part of the regulatory requirements under NEPA process:

(1) *No Action Alternative*—addresses the potential effects from not implementing BCAP.

(2) *Action Alternative 1*—addresses a targeted implementation of BCAP to specific areas or regions of the United States.

(3) *Action Alternative 2*—addresses a broad national implementation of BCAP.

The public meetings will be scoping meetings and will provide public input for the development of the alternatives.

Date	Time	Location information
May 28, 2009 .....	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. local time ..	Red Lion Hotel, 2300 Evergreen Park Drive, Olympia, Washington 98501, Ph: 360-252-0972, Fax: 360-753-9651.
June 2, 2009 .....	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. local time ..	Hilton Garden Inn, 9000 Interstate 40 West, Amarillo, Texas 79124, Ph: 806-355-4400, Fax: 806-355-4411.
June 4, 2009 .....	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. local time ..	Alexander Fulton Hotel & Convention Center, 701 4th Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301, Ph 318-442-9000.
June 8, 2009 .....	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. local time ..	Renaissance Savery Hotel, 401 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, Ph: 515-365-7232, Fax: 515-244-1228.
June 10, 2009 .....	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. local time ..	Hilton Garden Inn, 101 S. Front Street, Albany, Georgia 31701, Phone: 229-518-5003, Fax: 229-878-4862.
June 11, 2009 .....	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. local time ..	Hilton Garden Inn Syracuse, 6004 Fair Lakes Road, Syracuse, New York 13057, Ph: 315-431-4800, Fax: 315-431-4999.

Signed in Washington, DC on May 7, 2009.

**Doug Caruso,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Cibola National Forest, Mount Taylor Ranger District, NM, La Jara Mesa Mine

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** Laramide Resources (USA) Inc. has submitted a Plan of Operations (the Plan) proposing to develop and conduct underground uranium mining operations on their mining claims on La Jara Mesa on the Mount Taylor Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. La Jara Mesa is located approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Grants in Cibola County, New Mexico. The mine portal facilities would be located on claims controlled by the applicant on national forest lands at the base of the La Jara Mesa at an elevation of 7,300 feet in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 15, T12N, R9W, NMPM. The mineralized zones that would be accessed from the portal are located in portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, and 14, T12N, R9W, NMPM. The escape shaft would be located on Forest Service administered lands on top of La Jara Mesa in Section 11, T12N, R9W, NMPM. The Cibola National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement to assess the development of a uranium exploration and mining operation on the Mount Taylor Ranger District.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by 30 days after the publication of the NOI. Public scoping open houses will be held during the scoping period in Grants and Gallup New Mexico. The schedule for the open houses is as follows:

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in Grants, New Mexico, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Cibola County Convention Center and Thursday, May 21, 2009 in Gallup, New Mexico from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Gallup Community Service Center. Times and locations of these meetings will be announced by public notice and will be available on the Cibola National Forest Web site. The draft environmental impact statement is expected before the end of 2009 and the final environmental impact statement and Record of Decision (ROD) is expected in spring/summer, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Rodney Byers, Minerals Program Manager, Cibola National Forest, 2113 Osuna Road, NE., Albuquerque, NM 87113.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, mail correspondence to Rodney Byers, Minerals Program Manager, Cibola National Forest, 2113 Osuna Road, NE., Albuquerque, NM 87113. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Purpose and Need for Action**

Laramide Resources (USA), Inc. has submitted a Plan of Operations for development of a uranium mine at the La Jara Mesa property. The purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed Plan of Operations and determine whether to approve the Plan as proposed or to require additional mitigation measures to protect the environment (in accordance with Forest Service regulations for locatable minerals).

The need for action is to allow Laramide Resources (USA), Inc. to exercise their rights under U.S. mining laws. Laramide Resources (USA), Inc. has a right to develop and remove the mineral resources as set forth by the

General Mining Law of 1872 as amended. These laws provide that the public has a statutory right to conduct prospecting, exploration, development and production activities (1872 Mining Law and 1897 Organic Act), provided they are reasonably incident (1955 Multiple Use Mining Act and case law) to mining and comply with other Federal laws.

The Forest Service has the responsibility to protect surface resources. Mining regulations state that "operations shall be conducted so as, where feasible, to minimize adverse environmental effects on National Forest System surface resources (36 CFR 228.8)" provided such regulation does not endanger or materially interfere with prospecting, mining, or processing operations or reasonably incidental uses (1955 Multiple Use Mining Act and case law).

Laramide Resources (USA), Inc.'s need is to provide uranium ore for processing to meet national and international market demands for uranium on the open market. Such demand is created by a current need for uranium for nuclear power plant fuel to generate electricity or for commercial and other uses. The Forest Service has concluded that the underlying need for this mining activity is to provide uranium for U.S. and world markets.

##### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is an underground uranium mine consisting of a 15-16 acre footprint on the surface which will be comprised of waste rock, temporary ore storage, a new water line and electrical transmission line following the existing private and Forest roads to the site. The mine will include two audit portals and, after active mining is initiated, a vertical escape shaft to the top of the mesa to provide air circulation and an escape route in the event of an accident. The shaft opening and supporting power and equipment will lie inside a fenced area of approximately 0.1 acre. Additional