

assist APHIS in developing more effective methods for the NEPA process. APHIS intends to create mechanisms for early and frequent interactions between APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services program staff and participants in the pilot project to identify and thoroughly evaluate the potential environmental impacts pertinent to the Agency's NEPA analysis. This pilot will also include mechanisms to identify NEPA-related issues early in the process involving both the petitioners and interested partners. APHIS also intends to use the pilot project to develop guidance for all petitioners that clearly identifies the information needed to initiate and complete the required NEPA analysis.

APHIS will evaluate the overall results of the pilot project, including the effectiveness of using environmental analyses and documents prepared by petitioners (environmental reports) as compared to environmental analyses and documents prepared using an independent contractor (EAs and EISs), and a cost analysis of the two approaches in relationship to the quality and timeliness of the final product.

APHIS is soliciting letters of interest from regulated entities interested in participating in the NEPA Pilot Project; no limit has been set on the number of participants. APHIS anticipates that the pilot project will run for 2 years. However, APHIS is interested in advancing the pilot project in the next few months and therefore encourages interested entities to submit letters of interest as soon as possible. Interested entities may submit letters of interest by mail or e-mail through April 8, 2013 to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. APHIS will promptly contact all entities that submit letters of interest to discuss their participation in the NEPA Pilot Project.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 7701-7772 and 7781-7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of April 2011.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2011-8329 Filed 4-6-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Information Collection; Certified State Mediation Program

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

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on an extension of a currently approved information collection that supports the Certified State Mediation Program. The information collection is necessary to ensure the grant program is being administered properly. The collection of information by mail, phone, fax, in person, and by the internet is utilized by FSA initially to determine whether the State meets the eligibility criteria to be a recipient of grant funds. Lack of adequate information to make these determinations could result in the improper administration and appropriation of Federal grant funds.

**DATES:** We will consider comments that we receive by June 6, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments on this notice. In your comments, include date, volume, and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Mail:* Carol Wagner, Certified State Mediation Program Manager, USDA, FSA, Appeals and Litigation Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Ag Stop 0570, Washington, DC 20250-0570.

- *E-mail:*

*Carol.Wagner@wdc.usda.gov.*

- *Fax:* (202) 690-3003.

You may also send comments to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of the information collection may be requested by contacting Carol Wagner at the above addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Wagner, FSA, Appeals and Litigation Staff, telephone (202) 720-4966.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Certified State Mediation Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0165.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* August 31, 2011.

*Type of Request:* Extension.

*Abstract:* This information is needed for FSA to effectively administer the Certified State Mediation Program in accordance with Subtitles A and B of Title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5106). FSA requires some of the collected information to be reported in a standard manner. Although other institutions, public and private, generally require and collect information similar to that requested by

FSA, there is a wide diversity in reporting practices.

The information to be collected includes an application for certification, re-verification for subsequent annual approval, SF-424, SF-424A, and SF-424B Application for Federal Assistance, financial management systems and reporting requirements, and audit reports. The information collection request has not changed since the last OMB approval.

The information requested is reported annually and is necessary for the FSA to determine eligibility and administer the mediation grant program in an equitable and cost-effective manner.

*Estimated of Annual Burden:* The public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 34 hours per respondent.

*Respondents:* State Agencies.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 35.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.

*Estimated Total Annual of Responses:* 175.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden hours:* 1190 hours.

We are requesting comments on all aspects of this information collection to help us to:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

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

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

(4) 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.

All comments in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington DC, on April 1, 2011.

**Carolyn B. Cooksie,**

*Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

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