Background and Purpose

The VMLRP helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinarian shortage situations. NIFA will enter into educational loan repayment agreements with veterinarians who agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations for a determined period of time. NIFA may repay up to $25,000 of a veterinarian’s student loan debt per year if the veterinarian commits to at least three years to provide veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area. Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on any government or commercial loans received for the attendance at an accredited college of veterinary medicine that result in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent.

In December 2003, the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA) was passed into law adding section 1415A to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA). This law established a new Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (7 U.S.C. 3151a) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture (secretary) to carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which they agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. In November 2005, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Pub. L. 109–97), appropriated $495,000 to implement the VMLRP and represented the first time funds had been appropriated for this program. In February 2007, the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Pub. L. 110–5), appropriated an additional $495,000 for support of the program, and in December 2007, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110–161), appropriated an additional $686,875 for support of this program, and in March 2009, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111–8) was enacted, providing an additional $2,950,000, for the VMLRP, and in October 2009, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–80) appropriated another $4,800,000 for the VMLRP. On April 15, 2011, the President signed into law, Pub. L. 112–10, Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, which after a .2% rescission, appropriated an additional $4,790,400 for the VMLRP. On October 1, 2009, CSREES became the NIFA as mandated by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, section 7511(f). Accordingly, the authority to administer the VMLRP transferred from CSREES to NIFA.

In FY 2010, VMLRP announced its first funding opportunity and received 260 applications from which NIFA issued 53 VMLRP awards totaling $5,186,000. In FY 2011, VMLRP opened its second funding opportunity and received 159 applications from which NIFA has made 80 VMLRP award offers totaling $7,708,000. Each award offer is contingent upon submission of a signed contract, thereby executing the service agreement between the veterinarian and NIFA. Funding for future years is based on annual appropriations and balances, if any, remaining from prior years.

Section 7105 of the FCEA amended section 1415A to revise the determination of veterinarian shortage situations to consider (1) Geographical areas that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians; and (2) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety. This section also added that priority should be given to agreements with veterinarians for the practice of food animal medicine in veterinarian shortage situations.

NARETPA section 1415A requires the Secretary to determine the amount of repayment for a year of service by a veterinarian, to consider the ability of USDA to maximize the number of agreements from the amounts appropriated and to provide an incentive to serve in veterinary service shortage areas with the greatest need. This section also provides that loan repayments may consist of payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received by the individual for the attendance of the individual at an accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent. This program is not authorized to provide repayments for any government or commercial loans incurred during the pursuit of another degree, such as an associate or bachelor degree. Loans eligible for repayment include educational loans made for one or more of the following: Loans for tuition expenses; other reasonable educational expenses, including fees, books, and laboratory expenses, incurred by the individual; and reasonable living expenses as determined by the Secretary. In addition, the Secretary is directed to make such additional payments to participants as the Secretary determines appropriate for the purpose of providing reimbursements to participants for individual tax liability resulting from participation in this program. The Secretary delegated the authority to carry out this program to NIFA.

NIFA is inviting stakeholder comments to use in improving the administration of the VMLRP. Written comments and suggestions on issues may be submitted to the NIFA Docket Clerk at the address above.

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of October 2011.

Chavonda Jacobs-Young,
Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 2011–28508 Filed 11–2–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Meetings

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) plans to hold its regular Board meeting in Washington, DC, Wednesday, November 9, 2011, from 1:30–3 p.m.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–831]

Fresh Garlic From the People's Republic of China: Extension of Time Limit for Partial Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Lindsay or Lingjun Wang, AD/CVD Operations, Office 6, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–0780 or (202) 482–2316, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 28, 2010, the Department of Commerce (Department) published a notice of initiation of an administrative review of fresh garlic from the People’s Republic of China covering the period November 1, 2009, through October 31, 2010. See Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews and Request for Revocation in Part, 75 FR 81565 (December 28, 2010). On July 15, 2011, the Department published a notice in the Federal Register that extended the time limit to issue the preliminary results by 100 days. See Fresh Garlic From the People’s Republic of China: Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 76 FR 41795 (July 15, 2011). On October 20, 2011, the Department issued partial preliminary results covering the PRC-wide entity which included seven companies on which a review was initiated, and fourteen companies that certified no shipments. See Fresh Garlic From the People’s Republic of China: Partial Preliminary Results, Rescission of, and Intent To Rescind, in Part, the 2009–2010 Administrative Review, 76 FR 65172 (October 20, 2011) (First Partial Preliminary Results).

The partial preliminary results covering seven companies on which the review was initiated but who were not covered by the First Partial Preliminary Results are currently due no later than November 10, 2011.

Extension of Time Limit for Partial Preliminary Results

Section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires