DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; Correction.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service published a notice in the Federal Register on December 28, 2011, stating the intent to hold a Federal Advisory Committee, (FACA) meeting of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. The official FACA meeting scheduled in Washington, DC, on January 25–26, 2012, at the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Whitten Building has been cancelled. However, members will attend a Forest Service meeting for the purpose of training and informational exchange during the same time period.

DATES: January 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and January 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, 2012.

ADDRESSES: USDA Whitten Building, 12th and Jefferson Drive SW., Washington, DC 20250; Phone: (202) 205–7829.


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 Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

Correction

In the Federal Register of December 28, 2011, in FR doc. 2011–33216 on page 81472 in the first column, correct the “Purpose of meeting” has changed to read: The official FACA meeting of

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the Biorefinery Assistance Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice on funding availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces there will be no funds available for the Biorefinery Assistance Program for FY 2012. Applications will not be accepted under this program until further notice.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Biorefinery Assistance Program provides guaranteed loans for the development and construction of commercial-scale biorefineries and for the retrofitting of existing facilities using eligible technology for the development of advanced biofuels. For Fiscal Year 2012, the Agency has not been allocated funding to support this program. Applications will not be accepted until such funds are made available to the program.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket Number 120103003–1757–01]

Proposed Data Sharing Activity

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) of the Department of Commerce proposes to share business data for statistical purposes. More specifically, the Census Bureau will share selected business data of multi-location businesses with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the Department of Labor. In accordance with the requirement of Section 524(d) of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002, we are providing the opportunity for public comment on this data sharing action. Through the use of these shared data, BLS will use the Census Bureau’s multi-location company data to achieve efficiencies in the maintenance of its universe list of U.S. businesses. The BLS employees and agents who will have access to the Census Bureau data will be required to maintain the confidentiality provisions of Title 13. Any employees and agents will have background clearance and must have background clearance and must maintain their own, separate comprehensive lists of active U.S. businesses called universe lists.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 27, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments on this proposed program to the Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 8H001, Mail Stop 0100, Washington, DC 20233.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shirin A. Ahmed, Assistant Director for Economic Programs; Room 8K108, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233; phone (301) 763–2558; or email Shirin.Ahmed@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA) (Pub. L. 107–347, sections 501–526, 44 U.S.C. 3501 note), and 13 U.S.C. 402 allow the Census Bureau to share business data for statistical purposes with the BLS. Section 524(d) of CIPSEA requires public notice of the intent to share data (allowing 60 days for public comment), whenever the data to be shared were collected through mandatory reporting, and the respondents were not informed that the data could be shared among the statistical agencies. Section 524 also requires the Census Bureau to provide information about the terms of the written data sharing agreement. The following are covered in this notice:

• Background;
• Data items to be shared with BLS;
• Improvement or creation of products by use of data for statistical purposes; and
• Legal authority regarding confidentiality and data access.

Background

Both the Census Bureau and the BLS compile and maintain their own, separate comprehensive lists of active U.S. businesses called universe lists. The Census Bureau and BLS universe lists are similar in content, and are costly for the government to maintain. The lists can also be burdensome on businesses that are required to respond to multiple surveys. However, these lists are critical to the quality of source data and the timely preparation of many key indicators of U.S. economic performance.

The Census Bureau and the BLS can achieve major qualitative enhancements and cost efficiencies through increased data sharing. Specifically, the sharing of these data will allow the two bureaus to develop consistent industry classifications of establishments and companies and improve multi-location coverage, thus improving the comparability and accuracy of Federal economic statistics.

In the 2002 Economic Report of the President, the Council of Economic Advisers noted the critical need for reliable statistical data, and stated that expanded sharing among Federal statistical agencies would increase data quality. In an October 2005 Workshop on the Benefits of Interagency Business Data Sharing sponsored by the National Research Council, representatives of several agencies advocated an increase of business data sharing among Federal statistical agencies. Moreover, subsection 521(a) of CIPSEA finds that enhanced sharing of business data among these three Federal statistical agencies will improve their ability to track the large and rapidly changing nature of U.S. business more accurately. Consequently, section 522 of CIPSEA authorizes the sharing of business data among three designated statistical agencies—the Census Bureau, the BLS, and the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). In addition, section 523 of CIPSEA mandates that heads of these agencies identify opportunities to eliminate duplication, reduce reporting burdens and costs imposed on the public in providing information for statistical purposes, and enter into joint statistical projects to improve the quality and reduce the cost of statistical programs.

Over the past several years, the Census Bureau and the BLS have conducted comprehensive research to evaluate each other’s business lists and to analyze opportunities to improve each list through increased data sharing. This research confirms that data sharing not only will improve the comparability and accuracy of Federal economic statistics, but will also produce efficiencies.

Data Items To Be Shared With BLS

The BLS will benefit from selected multi-location data, which already exists in the Census Bureau’s Business Register. The Business Register combines administrative data with census-collected information to produce a comprehensive business universe list. Data from the 5-year Economic Censuses and the annual Company Organization Survey (COS) provide much of the organizational, structural, and establishment-level data for multi-location companies. The Economic Census also provides precise industrial classifications based on the value of product and/or service outputs. The Census Bureau carries out a separate data collection regarding multi-location companies, because administrative records do not identify the relationship among multi-location companies and their affiliated Employer Identification Number (EIN) entities and establishments. All of these Census Bureau data are collected under the provisions of Title 13 of the United States Code, sections 182, 195, 224, and 225.

The Census Bureau will furnish the BLS with several categories of multi-location company data:

• North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes and associated multi-location information, including the business name and address; state, county, and place geocodes; EINs; the source of the NAICS codes; first quarter employment; and first quarter and annual payroll;
• Enterprise linkages for multi-location companies, including the EINs