

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 4, 2013.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements under the Rural Energy for America Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0050.

Summary of Collection: This program is authorized under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Act) that established the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) under Title IX, Section 9007. The Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants and/or guaranteed loans for several types of projects, including grants, loan guarantees, and grants and loan guarantees (combined funding) to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. REAP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small business reduce energy cost and consumption, develop new income streams, and help meet the nation's critical energy needs. Applicants wishing to apply for the grant or guaranteed loans will have to submit applications along with specified documents to the State Rural Energy Coordinator.

Need and Use of the Information: RBS will use the collected information to determine applicant eligibility, to determine project eligibility and feasibility, ensure compliance with applicable regulations, and to ensure that grantees/borrowers operate on a sound basis and use funds for authorized purposes. Without this collection of information RBS would be unable to meet the requirements of the Act and effectively administer the program.

Description of Respondents: Farmers, Ranchers, and Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 3,634.

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 310,184.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

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Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Supplemental Form for Collecting Taxpayer Identifying Numbers.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0501.

Summary of Collection: Section 31001(y) of the Debt Collection

Improvement Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–134) requires all Federal agencies to obtain taxpayer identifying number (TINs) from all individuals and entities they enter into a direct payment agreement with to furnish the TIN whenever a request for payment is submitted to Federal payment officials. A taxpayer identifying number can be either a Social Security Number or an Employer Identification Number.

Need and Use of the Information: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information using form FNS–711, “Supplemental Form for Collecting Taxpayer Identifying Numbers” from individuals and entities receiving payments directly from the agency under any of the various nutrition and nutrition education programs administered by the Agency. The information is collected at the time of program application, and is only collected once unless an entity renews its application or reapplies for program participation. If the information were not collected, FNS would be unable to include taxpayer identifying numbers with each certified request for payment.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 800.

Frequency of Responses: Report: On occasion; Other (at time of app.).

Total Burden Hours: 66.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013–02807 Filed 2–7–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Dairyland Power Cooperative: CapX 2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Transmission Line Proposal

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to providing financial assistance to the Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) for its share in the construction of a proposed 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated infrastructure between Hampton, Minnesota and the La Crosse area in Wisconsin (Proposal). The Administrator of RUS has signed the ROD, which was effective upon signing. The EIS was prepared pursuant to the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 et seq.) and in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508) and RUS’ Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794).

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the ROD or for further information, contact: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 2244, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250–1571, or email stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov. The ROD is also available at RUS’ Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As the lead federal agency, and as part of its broad environmental review process, RUS must take into account the effect of the Proposal on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) and its implementing regulation “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR part 800). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), RUS used its procedures for public involvement under NEPA, in part, to meet its responsibilities to solicit and consider the views of the public and other interested parties during the Section 106 review process. Accordingly, comments submitted in the EIS process also informed RUS’s decision making in the Section 106 review process.

Dairyland is participating in the proposal with a number of other utilities. The other participants include Xcel Energy [comprised of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin Corporation (NSPW)], Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), Rochester Public Utilities (RPU), and WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI)]. The purpose of the proposal is to: (1) Improve community reliability of the transmission system in Rochester, Winona, La Crosse, and the surrounding areas, which include areas Dairyland currently provides electrical service; (2) improve the regional reliability of the transmission system; and (3) increase generation outlet capacity.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) participated in the EIS as cooperating agencies, with RUS as the lead federal agency. The USACE and the USFWS will each issue its own ROD as necessary. The proposal includes

construction and operation of a 345-kV transmission line and associated infrastructure, two 161-kV transmission lines in the vicinity of Rochester, Minnesota, and two new and three expanded substations, with a total transmission line length of approximately 171 miles. Counties through which the proposal will pass include Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, and Olmsted in Minnesota, and La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Buffalo in Wisconsin.

The decision documented in RUS’ ROD is that RUS agrees to consider, subject to loan approval, financing Dairyland’s share in the proposal. Details regarding RUS’ regulatory authority, rationale for the decision, and compliance with applicable regulations are included in the ROD.

RUS published its Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register** on December 16, 2011 (76 FR 78235–78236), and in newspapers of general circulation within the proposal’s area of environmental impact. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published its notice of receipt of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register** on December 16, 2011 (76 FR 78235–78236). The comment period for the Draft EIS was extended from 45 to 60 days and ended on February 13, 2012. Public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS were held from January 9 to 13, 2012, in Alma and Galesville, Wisconsin; Wanamingo, Cannon Falls, and Plainview, Minnesota. All comments received on the Draft EIS were addressed in the Final EIS. RUS published its NOA of the Final EIS in the **Federal Register** on July 13, 2012 (77 FR 41369–41370), and in newspapers of general circulation within the Proposal’s area of environmental impact. USEPA published its notice of receipt of the Final EIS in the **Federal Register** on July 20, 2012 (77 FR 42727–42728). The 30-day comment period ended on August 20, 2012. Comments received on the Final EIS were addressed in the ROD. After considering alternatives to meet the purpose and need of the proposal, Dairyland identified participation in construction of the proposal as its best course of action. A number of alternatives to meet the purpose and need were considered, but not studied in detail, including demand side management, use of existing generation and transmission, new generation, decentralized generation systems, undergrounding of the transmission line, and a number of route alternatives.

Among the alternatives addressed in detail in the EIS is the No Action alternative, under which the proposal