Meeting of the Environmental Financial Advisory Board; Public Notice

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB) will hold a public meeting on May 15–16, 2013. EFAB is an EPA advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to provide advice and recommendations to EPA on creative approaches to funding environmental programs, projects, and activities.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear from informed speakers on environmental finance issues, proposed legislation, and EPA priorities; to discuss activities and progress with regard to current EFAB work projects; and to consider recent requests for assistance from EPA offices.

Environmental finance discussions are expected on the following topics: clean air technology; tribal environmental programs; transit-oriented development in sustainable communities, energy efficiency/green house gas emissions reduction; drinking water pricing and infrastructure investment; and green infrastructure.

The meeting is open to the public; however, seating is limited. All members of the public who wish to attend the meeting must register in advance, no later than Friday, May 3, 2013.

DATES: The full board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time and Thursday, May 16, 2013 from 9–5 p.m., Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: Potomac Yard Two, North Entrance, Room 4120, 2733 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

Registration and Information Contact: To register, get additional information and for information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Sandra Williams, U.S. EPA, at (202) 564–4999 or williams.sandra@epa.gov. Request for accommodations for individuals with disabilities should be made 10 days prior to the meeting, to allow processing time of your request.

Dated: April 12, 2012.

Joseph L. Dillon,
Director, Center for Environmental Finance.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–9804–8]

Underground Injection Control Program; Hazardous Waste Injection Restrictions; Petition for Exemption—Class I Hazardous Waste Injection; BASF Corporation Freeport, Texas

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of a final decision on a no migration petition reissuance.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a reissuance of an exemption to the land disposal Restrictions, under the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste
Amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, has been granted to BASF Corporation for three Class I injection wells located at Freeport, Texas. The company has adequately demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Agency by the petition reissuance application and supporting documentation that, to a reasonable degree of certainty, there will be no migration of hazardous constituents from the injection zone for as long as the waste remains hazardous. This final decision allows the underground injection by BASF, of the specific restricted hazardous wastes identified in this exemption, into Class I hazardous waste injection wells WDW–51 and WDW–99 and WDW–408 until December 31, 2028, unless EPA moves to terminate this exemption. Additional conditions included in this final decision may be reviewed by contacting the Region 6 Ground Water/UIC Section.

A public notice was issued December 27, 2012. The public comment period closed on February 15, 2013. No comments were received. This decision constitutes final Agency action and there is no Administrative appeal. This decision may be reviewed/appealed in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

DATES: This action is effective as of February 21, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the petition for reissuance and all pertinent information relating thereto are on file at the following location: Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division, Source Water Protection Branch (6WQ–S), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202–2733.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip Dellinger, Chief Ground Water/ UIC Section, EPA—Region 6, telephone (214) 665–8324.

Dated: April 9, 2013.

William K. Honker, Division Director, Water Quality Protection Division.

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FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSURANCE CORPORATION

Policy Statement Concerning Assistance

AGENCY: Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

ACTION: Policy statement.

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (Corporation or FCSIC) announces that it has given final approval to a new “Policy Statement Concerning Assistance,” which replaces the Corporation’s existing “Policy Statement Concerning Stand-Alone Assistance.” The new policy statement provides additional transparency concerning the Corporation’s authority to provide assistance and how the least-cost test might be performed. This policy statement also includes enhanced criteria of what is to be included in assistance proposals, and a new section discussing assistance agreements.

DATES: Effective Date: The policy statement is effective on April 11, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wade Wynn, Senior Risk Analyst, and James M. Morris, General Counsel, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102, (703) 883–4380, TDD (703) 883–4390.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Corporation, in its sole discretion, is authorized under section 5.61(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Act),1 to provide assistance to a stand-alone Farm Credit System (System) institution or to facilitate a merger or consolidation of a System institution with another System institution,2 provided it meets the statutory least-cost test.3 If the Corporation receives a request to assist a troubled System institution, it must compare the cost of liquidating to the cost of providing assistance to determine the least costly alternative to the Farm Credit Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund). In making this discretionary determination, the Corporation is authorized under section 5.59(b) of the Act4 to gather any information necessary from the troubled System institution or any other System institution to perform the least-cost test. After gathering pertinent information, the Corporation must: (1) Evaluate alternatives on a present-value basis, using a reasonable discount rate, (2) document the evaluation and the assumptions on which the evaluation is based, and (3) retain the documentation for not less than 5 years.

The Corporation’s “Policy Statement Concerning Stand-Alone Assistance” is, for the most part, a summary of the powers of the Corporation under section 5.61(a) of the Act to provide assistance to a troubled System institution, including the timing and steps for making the least-cost test. For example, the policy specifies that the Corporation’s Board of Directors must determine that providing assistance is the least costly means of all possible alternatives available to the Corporation, including liquidation of the troubled System institution, and lists the steps for conducting the statutory least-cost test. The existing policy statement also provides a list of criteria of what the Corporation expects to receive in assistance proposals to help the Corporation conduct the least-cost test.

II. Comments on the Draft Policy Statement

On June 21, 2012, the Corporation published for comment a draft “Policy Statement Concerning Assistance to Troubled Farm Credit System Institutions” to replace the Corporation’s existing “Policy Statement Concerning Stand-Alone Assistance.” The Corporation received two comment letters on the draft policy statement. In brief, both commenters are concerned that the Corporation will not consider a request for assistance until after all other resolution alternatives are exhausted, including resolution alternatives available to the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). Both also commented on the least-cost test as it relates to the cost of liquidating a troubled System institution. Each of these areas is addressed below.

A. Resolution Alternatives

In the first sentence of the draft policy statement, the Corporation stated that, in general, it would consider a request for assistance after other resolution alternatives have been exhausted such as voluntary assistance provided from within the System, voluntary merger with one or more System institutions, or involuntary merger with one or more System institutions, or involuntary merger with one or more System institutions.