

# 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.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Information Collection Generic Clearance Request for USAID Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Under the Foreign Assistance Act

**AGENCY:** Agency for International Development (USAID).

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** USAID invites public comment on our intent to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) approval for a new information collection. USAID proposes a generic clearance to collect feedback and conduct research, monitoring and evaluations of programs and policies through surveys, interviews, and focus groups to understand effectiveness of programs and policies and to discern how programs are affected by crises and other unexpected changes in context. This will help the Agency make better decisions to improve the effectiveness of programs and achieve development and foreign assistance objectives through activities pursuant to Foreign Assistance Act, including under rapidly changing conditions. This will also help safeguard U.S. National Security interests and ensure accountability to U.S. taxpayers. Information collected from USAID partners, stakeholders and program participants is a valuable resource to ensure the Agency programs and operations remain safe, relevant, efficient and effective.

**DATES:** All comments should be submitted within 30 calendar days from the date of this publication.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this

notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Roen, [eroen@usaid.gov](mailto:eroen@usaid.gov), 202–712–1493.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** USAID is requesting a general clearance to collect feedback and conduct research, monitoring and evaluations of programs and policies through surveys, interviews, and focus groups to understand effectiveness of programs and policies and to discern how programs are affected by crises and other unexpected changes in context. USAID conducts programs outside of the United States and will collect data from approximately 450,000 respondents per year, made up primarily of foreign nationals participating in USAID programs, other stakeholders local to the programs, and federal contractors and grantees implementing the programs. The collection of personally identifiable information will be kept to the minimum. The total estimated number of annual burden hours is 225,000 hours. USAID, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on the proposed information collection. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), USAID is providing the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on the proposed collection of information. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 48550) on June 7, 2024. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*OMB Control Number:* To be issued by OMB.

**Elizabeth Roen,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research, Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management, USAID.*

[FR Doc. 2024–18018 Filed 8–12–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6116–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–LP–24–0012]

### Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program Advisory Council: Notice of Intent To Establish Charter and Solicitation for Nominations

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to establish charter and call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary's intent to establish the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program Advisory Council (Council) under the Growing Climate Solutions Act and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), solicits nominations for membership on the Council, and solicits nominations for a pool of candidates to fill future unexpected vacancies in any of the position categories should that occur.

**DATES:** The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. ET on October 15, 2024, via <https://www.regulations.gov>: Document # AMS–LP–24–0012. Nomination packages including a cover letter to the Secretary, the nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae, and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information Form AD–755 must be postmarked on or before October 15, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Nomination packages can be submitted electronically by email to [Sasha.Strohm@usda.gov](mailto:Sasha.Strohm@usda.gov), or mailed to: Sasha Strohm, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0249, Washington, DC 20250, Attn: GCSA Advisory Council. Electronic submittals are preferred.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sasha Strohm by telephone at 202–720–5705 or email at [Sasha.Strohm@usda.gov](mailto:Sasha.Strohm@usda.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background and Authority

The Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA) directs the Secretary of USDA to establish a non-discretionary advisory

committee to be known as the “Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program Advisory Council” (Council). The GCSA was signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Pub. L. 117–328) and is codified in relevant part at 7 U.S.C. 6712. The GCSA specifies that the Council shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. 10, 1001–1014), except that section 14(a)(2) of that Act (5 U.S.C. 1013(a)(2)), concerning the automatic termination of advisory committees, shall not apply. The purpose of the Council is to support the newly established Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program (Program) in facilitating the participation in voluntary environmental credit markets of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners, including beginning, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and veteran farmers.

Key activities of the Council include periodically reviewing and recommending any appropriate changes to the protocols recognized by the Program for generating environmental credits; the required qualifications for entities that provide technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and landowners; and the activities available to farmers, ranchers, and landowners under the Program to prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

The Council responsibilities include advising the Secretary regarding: (1) current methods used in voluntary environmental credit markets to quantify and verify the prevention, reduction, or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions; and (2) ways to reduce the barriers to entry and transaction costs associated with such markets. Finally, the Council will submit an initial assessment to Congress about the Program, and it will consult with the Secretary regarding subsequent periodic assessments. For more information about the Council’s duties and functions, interested persons are encouraged to review the GCSA, as set forth in 7 U.S.C. 6712, particularly subsections (f) and (g) of the law.

## II. Structure

The Secretary will appoint the Council members. The GCSA requires that the Council be broadly representative of the agriculture and private forest sectors; include beginning, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and veteran farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners; and be composed of not less than 51 percent farmers, ranchers, or private forest landowners.

In accordance with the GCSA, members appointed shall include:

- Up to four representatives from USDA, Environmental Protection Agency, and National Institute of Standards and Technology, including:
  - Not more than two from USDA, as determined by the Secretary;
  - Not more than one from the Environmental Protection Agency, as determined by the Administrator; and
  - Not more than one from the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The selection process for the Federal employee seats referenced above consists of the submission of a memorandum/letter from USDA to the Agency Head/Department Secretary requesting the agency/department identify a representative to serve on the Council by a certain date. The corresponding agency would respond with a letter of recommendation to USDA.

- Not fewer than twelve representatives of the agriculture industry (of which not fewer than six must be active farmers and ranchers).
- Not fewer than four representatives of private forest landowners or the forestry and forest products industry.
- Up to four representatives of the relevant scientific research community, including:
  - Not fewer than two representatives from land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)
    - Of which one shall be a representative of a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (commonly known as the “Second Morrill Act”) (26 Stat. 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*), including Tuskegee University.

- Up to two experts or professionals, serving as Special Government Employees (SGE), familiar with voluntary environmental credit markets and the verification requirements in those markets.

- Up to three public representatives (*i.e.*, members of nongovernmental or civil society organizations with relevant expertise):

- Of which not fewer than one shall represent the interests of socially disadvantaged groups.

- Up to three representatives from private sector businesses or organizations that participate in voluntary environmental credit markets.

The Council will be balanced in its membership in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. Fresh points of view are

encouraged through staggered membership terms and limiting the number of years a member may serve on the Council. In accordance with the GCSA, a member term shall be 2 years, except that of the members first appointed:

- not fewer than 8 members shall serve for a term of 1 year;
- not fewer than 12 members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and
- not fewer than 12 members shall serve for a term of 3 years.

After a member’s initial term on the Council, the member may serve not more than 4 additional 2-year terms.

The Council shall meet not less frequently than annually. During the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the members are appointed, the Council shall hold an initial meeting. All meetings are open to the public in accordance with the FACA and its implementing regulations and guidelines. Pursuant to the GCSA, the Agriculture Secretary shall designate a member of the Council to serve as the Chair.

A permanent Federal employee is to be appointed in accordance with agency procedures and will serve as the Designated Federal Official (DFO). The DFO will approve the Council’s and subcommittees’ meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all council and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the Council reports.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has the authority to create subcommittees. Subcommittees must report back to the parent Council and must not provide advice or work products directly to the agency.

## III. Compensation

In accordance with the GCSA, members of the Council shall serve without compensation. However, members may be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem instead of subsistence, while engaged in the performance of duties away from their homes or regular places of business. All travel for Council business must be approved in advance by the DFO.

## IV. Nominations

AMS will consider nominations of all qualified individuals to ensure the Council includes the areas of subject matter expertise noted above (see “Structure”). Individuals may nominate themselves or other individuals, and professional associations and organizations may nominate one or

more qualified persons for membership on the Council. Nominations must state that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the Council.

A nomination package should include the following information for each nominee:

(1) A completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information Form AD-755, (<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755.pdf>).

(2) A curriculum vitae and/or resume, and

(3) A biographical sketch of the nominee (cover letter) explaining which group the nominee would represent (see "Structure"), how they are qualified to represent that group, and why they want to serve on the Council.

The following is optional:

- A letter of nomination stating the nominee's name, affiliation, and contact information, the basis for the nomination (*i.e.*, what specific attributes recommend him/her for service in this capacity), and the nominee's field(s) of expertise.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all member appointments to the Council. To ensure that the recommendations of the Council consider the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the many communities, identities, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, abilities, cultures, and beliefs of the American people, including underserved communities.

USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, political beliefs, income derived from a public assistance program, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

The Charter and additional information on the Council will be available on the website at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/GCSA> or may be requested by contacting the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Dated: August 7, 2024.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024-17938 Filed 8-12-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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 are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by September 12, 2024 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

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 Housing Service

*Title:* 7 CFR part 1924-A, Planning and Performing Construction and Other Development.

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-0042.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is the credit Agency for rural housing and community development within Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Agency offers a supervised credit program to build modest housing and essential community facilities in rural areas. This regulation prescribes the policies and

responsibilities, including the information and collection necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable acts for planning and performing development work for these facilities. Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace, or rehabilitate dwellings, farm buildings and/or related facilities to provide decent, safe, sanitary living conditions and adequate farm buildings and other structures in rural areas. Section 506 of the Act requires that all new buildings and repairs shall be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications as required by the Secretary and that such construction be supervised and inspected. Section 509 of the Act grants the Secretary the power to determine and prescribe the standards of adequate farm housing and other buildings. The Housing and Urban Rural Recovery Act of 1983 amended section 509(a) and section 515 to require residential buildings and related facilities comply with the standards prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture, the standards prescribed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, or the standards prescribed in any of the nationally recognized model building codes. Similar authorizations are contained in sections 303, 304, 306, and 339 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, which authorized loans and grants for essential community services. In several sections of both acts, loan limitations are established as percentages of development costs, requiring careful monitoring of those costs. Also, the Secretary is authorized to prescribe regulations to ensure that Federal funds are not wasted or dissipated, and that construction will be undertaken economically and will not be of elaborate or extravagant design or materials.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RHS provides several forms to assist in the collection and submission of information. The information is used by Rural Development to determine whether a loan/grant can be approved, to ensure that Rural Development has adequate security for the loans financed, to provide for sound construction and development work, and to determine that the requirements of the applicable acts have been met. The information is also used to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of the loan/grant and to monitor the prudent use of Federal funds.