

Issuance, Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties, NH.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental objections to impacts to the aquatic environment which should be addressed through additional analysis, mitigation and other commitments in the FEIS. Specifically, EPA recommends that risks to surface and ground waters from road salt and air quality impacts be addressed in greater detail. Mitigation plans should also be enhanced in addition to the inclusion of more information regarding commuter bus and high occupancy vehicle services in the project plans.

ERP No. DS-FHW-F40118-MI Rating EC2, US-31 Freeway Connection, Napier Road to I-94, Updated Information concerning Transportation Improvements, Berrien County, MI.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding project impacts to wetlands and wildlife connectivity.

Additional information regarding wetlands minimization and mitigation measures should be included in the final EIS.

ERP No. DS-FTA-E40777-FL Rating EC2, Miami-Miami Beach (Bay Link) Transportation Corridor Study, Transportation Improvements Connecting Government Center and Downtown Miami Beach Convention Center, Dade County, FL.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding social impacts, noise exposure, and aquatic resource impacts and recommends minimization or mitigation of these impacts.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-L65400-ID, The West Gold Creek Project, Forest Management Activities Plan, Implementation, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Sandpoints Ranger District, Bonner County, ID.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-BLM-L03012-AK, Renewal of Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, Right-of-Way Grant and Approvals, AK.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-BLM-L60107-OR, Coos County Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Construction, Operation and Maintenance, Roseburg to Coos Bay, Right-of-Way Grant, Coos Bay District, Coos County, OR.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-FHW-C40151-NY, County Road (Mill Hill Road and Glen Road) Improvements, Howard Drive to NY-9N including a New Bridge over the East

Branch of the Ausable River, Funding and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit Issuance, Essex County, NY.

Summary: EPA continued to express environmental concerns with the project's cumulative impacts and impacts to wetlands.

ERP No. F-FTA-K59002-AZ, Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail Transit Corridor Construction, Operation and Maintenance, Funding, Cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa, Maricopa County, AZ.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-SFW-K70008-AZ, Roosevelt Habitat Conservation Plan, Issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to Allow Continued Operation of Roosevelt Dam and Lake, Implementation, Gila and Maricopa Counties, AZ.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Joseph C. Montgomery,
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7440-4]

Extension of Public Comment Period on the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits for Log Transfer Facilities in Alaska: AK-G70-0000 and AK-G70-1000

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of extension of public comment period on two general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for log transfer facilities in Alaska.

SUMMARY: The Director, Office of Water, EPA Region 10, is extending the public comment period on the proposed modifications of the two general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for Alaskan log transfer facilities (LTFs) and the project area zone of deposit to January 27, 2003.

DATES: Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed modifications to general NPDES permits AK-G70-0000 and AK-G70-1000 and on the project area zone of deposit on or before January 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be sent to the attention of Alaskan LTF Public Comments, EPA Region 10 (OW-130),

1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. All comments should include the name of the commenter, a concise statement of the comment, and the relevant facts upon which the comment is based.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The NPDES Permits Unit, EPA Region 10 Office of Water, Seattle, Washington, at (206) 553-0775.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 22, 2002, the EPA published the public notice of its request for comment on proposed modifications to two general permits for Alaskan log transfer facilities and a project area zone of deposit (67 FR 64885). On November 13, 2002, the EPA provided supplemental information and extended the public comment period for 60 days (67 FR 68869). That comment period ends January 13, 2003. On January 8, 2003, Sealaska submitted a request to extend the public comment period to January 27, 2003. This notice grants that request.

Administrative Record: The two draft general NPDES permit nos. AK-G70-0000 and AK-G70-1000, the October 22, 2002, **Federal Register** notice, the November 13, 2002, **Federal Register** notice, and this **Federal Register** notice are available for inspection and copying at six locations: (a) EPA-Juneau, 709 West 9th Street, room 223A; (b) ADEC-Juneau, 410 Willoughby Avenue, suite 200; (c) EPA-Anchorage, 222 West 7th Avenue, room 19; (d) ADEC-Anchorage, 555 Cordova Street; (e) ADEC-Ketchikan, 540 Water Street; and (f) EPA-Seattle, 1200 Sixth Avenue, 10th floor library. These documents are also available on EPA Region 10's internet site at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>. The administrative record for the proposed modifications reflected in the draft general NPDES permits AK-G70-0000 and AK-G70-1000 and the project area zone of deposit can be reviewed in the EPA's Seattle Office, 1200 Sixth Avenue, 13th Floor.

Dated: January 9, 2003.

Randall F. Smith,

Director, Office of Water, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 03-1147 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

RIN 3052-AC13

Loan Policies and Operations; Loan Syndication Transactions

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) is seeking public

comment on the regulatory treatment of Farm Credit System (FCS or System) loan syndication transactions. The FCA has received requests to provide guidance about the scope of System institutions' authorities to engage in syndications that non-System lenders originate, and the FCA seeks input from the public before it responds.

DATES: Please send your comments to the FCA by February 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments by electronic mail to reg-comm@fca.gov or through the Pending Regulations section of FCA's Web site, <http://www.fca.gov>. You may also send comments to Thomas G. McKenzie, Director, Regulation and Policy Division, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090 or by facsimile to (703) 734-5784. You may review copies of all comments we receive at our office in McLean, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis K. Carpenter, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4498, TTY (703) 883-4434; or Richard A. Katz, Senior Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4020, TTY (703) 883-2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

System institutions have asked the FCA to provide guidance on the regulatory treatment of loan syndications that they enter into with non-System lenders. The FCA Board recognizes the importance of funding to agriculture and rural America through multilender transactions, including loan syndications and participations.

The Board acknowledges that System institutions may desire to engage in loan syndications for many different reasons, some of which would include:

- Diversification of an institution's portfolio, which is often concentrated in certain industries or geographic regions;
- Diversification of an institution's portfolio relative to loan size and risk exposure limits;
- Increased revenue and in many cases, cooperative patronage arising from lower cost of credit delivery;
- Networking—strengthening cooperation and relationships between FCS institutions and non-System lenders;
- Increased knowledge of specific industries;
- Support for existing and potential customer bases; and

- Expanded opportunities to provide complementary services such as appraisal services, industry expertise, loan origination and payment collection expertise, and administrative capacity.

Several System institutions have suggested that loan syndications should be treated as part of their participation authority. However, we have previously indicated that loan syndication transactions come within the System's direct loan authorities. If loan syndications were treated as within the System's direct loan authority, the System's share of a loan syndication would be subject to the stock purchase, borrower rights, and territorial concurrence requirements of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Act) and applicable regulations. In addition, Farm Credit banks operating under title I of the Act that have transferred their direct lending authority to their affiliated associations would not be authorized to enter into loan syndications. Finally, System institutions would not be authorized to purchase assignments of loan syndications from outside the System.

II. Questions

We recognize that the financial markets and the funding needs of agriculture continue to evolve. We support the need of the System to evolve with agriculture and the financial markets. Therefore, we seek your comments on the following:

1. What is the proper regulatory treatment of loan syndications?
2. Assuming syndication transactions are within the System's loan-making authority, should the FCA consider regulatory changes that allow: (a) Borrowers to waive borrower rights in syndication transactions; and (b) associations to take part in syndications to eligible borrowers who are located in the chartered territories of other associations without consent?
3. If the FCA would choose to recommend legislative changes to Congress regarding the System's authority to engage in various types of multilender transactions with non-System lenders, what specifically should the FCA include in its recommendation?

Dated: January 14, 2003.

Jeanette C. Brinkley,
Secretary, Farm Credit Administration Board.
[FR Doc. 03-1136 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]
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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Notice of Agency Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b), notice is hereby given that at 9:35 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation met in closed session to consider matters relating to the Corporation's corporate activities.

In calling the meeting, the Board determined, on motion of Director James E. Gilleran (Director, Office of Thrift Supervision), seconded by Vice Chairman John M. Reich, concurred in by Chairman Donald E. Powell, that Corporation business required its consideration of the matters on less than seven days' notice to the public; that no earlier notice of the meeting was practicable; that the public interest did not require consideration of the matters in a meeting open to public observation; and that the matters could be considered in a closed meeting by authority of subsections (c)(2) and (c)(10) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2) and (c)(10)).

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the FDIC Building located at 550—17th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated: January 15, 2003.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation:

Valerie J. Best,

Assistant Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-1233 Filed 1-15-03; 1:06 pm]

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1450-DR]

Arkansas; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Arkansas (FEMA-1450-DR), dated January 6, 2003, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 6, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705 or Magda.Ruiz@fema.gov.