

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 87, No. 34

Friday, February 18, 2022

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 15, 2022.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (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; 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 March 21, 2022 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. 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 Utilities Service

Title: Advance of Loan Funds and Budgetary Control and Related Burdens.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0015.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, as amended, “to make loans in several States and territories of the United States for rural electrification and for the purpose of furnishing and improving electric and telephone service in rural areas and to assist electric borrowers to implement demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems.” Borrowers will provide the agency with information that supports the use of the funds as well as identify the type of projects for which they will use the funds.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS electric borrowers will submit RUS form 595 and 219. Form 595, Financial Requirement & Expenditure Statement, to request an advance of loan funds remaining for an existing approved loan and to report on the expenditure of previously advanced loan funds. Form 219, Inventory of Work Orders, serves as a connecting line and provides an audit trail that verifies the evidence supporting the propriety of expenditures for construction of retirement projects that supports the advance of funds. The information collected will ensure that loan funds are expended and advanced for RUS approved budget process and amounts. Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determinations of eligibility or improper use of funds.

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

Number of Respondents: 598.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 14,523.

Rural Utility Service

Title: 7 CFR 1773, Policy on Audits of RUS Borrowers.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0095.

Summary of Collection: Under the authority of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (ACT), as amended 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, the Administrator is authorized

and empowered to make loans under certain specified circumstances for rural electrification and the furnishing of electric energy to persons in rural areas and for the purpose of furnishing and improving telephone service in rural areas. RUS, in representing the Federal Government as Mortgagee, relies on the information provided by the borrowers in their financial statements to make lending decisions as to borrowers' credit worthiness and to assure that loan funds are approved, advanced and disbursed for proper Act purposes. Borrowers are required to furnish a full and complete report of their financial condition, operations and cash flows, in form and substance satisfactory to RUS.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information to evaluate borrowers' financial performance, determine whether current loans are at financial risk, and determine the credit worthiness of future losses. If information is not collected, it would delay RUS' analysis of the borrowers' financial strength, thereby adversely impacting current lending decisions.

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

Number of Respondents: 1,300.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 14,439.

Rural Utility Service

Title: Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA), 7 CFR 1700, Subpart D.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0147.

Summary of Collection: The 2008 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 110–246) authorized the Substantially Underserved Trust Area (SUTA) initiative. The SUTA initiative identifies the need and improves the availability of Rural Utility Service (RUS) programs to reach trust areas. The initiative gives the Secretary of Agriculture certain discretionary authorities relating to financial assistance terms and conditions that can enhance the financing possibilities in areas that are underserved by certain RUS electric, water and waste, and telecom and broadband programs.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS provides loan, loan guarantee and grant programs for rural electric, water and waste, and telecommunications and broadband infrastructure. Eligible applicants notify RUS in writing, at the time of application, that it seeks consideration under the requirements of

7 CFR 1700, subpart D. The data covered by this collection are those materials necessary to allow the agency to determine applicant and community eligibility, and an explanation and documentation of the high need for the benefits of the SUTA provisions. Without this information RUS would not be able to make a prudent loan decision.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 2.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 60

Rural Utility Service

Title: The Rural Alaska Village Grant (RAVG) Program; 7 CFR part 1784.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0150.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Alaska Village Grant (RAVG) Program is authorized under (Section 3061 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT)), (7 U.S.C. 1926(d)), as amended. Governing regulations are codified in 7 CFR part 1784. Under the RAVG program, the Secretary may make grants to the State of Alaska for the benefit of rural or Native Villages in Alaska to provide for the development and construction of water and wastewater systems to improve the health and sanitation conditions in those villages. To be eligible to receive a grant under the RAVG program, the project must provide 25 percent in matching funds from the State of Alaska. The matching funds must come from non-Federal sources.

Need and Use of the Information: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will collect information using several forms. RUS state and field offices collect the information from applicants, grantees, and consultants. The collected information is used to determine applicant eligibility and project feasibility. RUS also uses the information to ensure that grantees operate on a sound basis and use the grants funds for authorized purposes.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 36.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 523.

Levi S. Harrell,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2022-03594 Filed 2-17-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Codex Office

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

AGENCY: U.S. Codex Office, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on March 24, 2022. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which will convene virtually April 25–May 4, 2022. The U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius and the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 22nd Session of the CCFFV and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2022, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to the 22nd Session of the CCFFV will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/it/?meeting=CCFFV&session=22>.

Mr. Dorian Lafond, U.S. Delegate to the 22nd Session of the CCFFV, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.

Registration: Attendees must register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-GrqjsvHxm0ZzGEBP4rZe8dAdqHjFE>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about the 22nd Session of the CCFFV, contact U.S. Delegate, Mr. Dorian Lafond, dorian.lafond@usda.gov, +1 (202) 690-4944.

For further information about the public meeting Contact: U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, Washington, DC 20250. Phone (202)

720-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157, Email: uscodex@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) are:

(a) To elaborate worldwide standards and codes of practice as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables;

(b) to consult, as necessary, with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication.

The CCFFV is hosted by Mexico. The United States attends the CCFFV as a member country of Codex.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 22nd Session of the CCFFV will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Adoption of the Agenda
- Matters referred to the Committee by the CAC and other Codex Subsidiary Bodies
- Matters arising from other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Proposed draft standard for onions and shallots
- Proposed draft standard for berry fruits
- Proposed draft standard for fresh dates
- Discussion paper on glossary of terms used in the layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables
- Consideration of the proposals for new work (replies to Circular Letter 2021/79-FFV)

Public Meeting

At the March 24, 2022, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Mr. Dorian Lafond, U.S. Delegate for the 22nd Session of the CCFFV (see