

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2011–0119]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Plant Pest, Noxious Weed, and Garbage Regulations

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with plant pest, noxious weed, and garbage regulations.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 26, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0119-0001>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2011–0119, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0119> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you,

please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding plant pest, noxious weed, and garbage regulations, contact Dr. Shirley Wager-Pagé, Chief, Pest Permit Branch, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734–8453. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851–2908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Plant Pest, Noxious Weed, and Garbage Regulations.

OMB Number: 0579–0054.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is authorized, among other things, to prohibit the importation and interstate movement of plants, animals, plant and animal products, noxious weeds, and other articles to prevent the introduction into and dissemination within the United States of plant and animal pests and diseases and noxious weeds.

In connection with this mission, APHIS regulates the importation and interstate movement of plant pests, noxious weeds, and waste material derived from plant or animal matter (commonly referred to as garbage) under 7 CFR parts 330 and 360 and 9 CFR part 94.

These regulations contain information collection requirements, including requirements to apply for permits to import regulated articles (e.g., plant pests, noxious weeds, or soil) or to move regulated articles interstate, requirements for facilities to be approved by APHIS to dispose of regulated garbage, and requirements for any person engaged in the business of handling or disposing of regulated garbage to first enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS. These requirements are necessary to ensure that importation and interstate movement of regulated articles, and disposal of regulated garbage, occur under appropriate conditions to prevent the dissemination of plant and animal pests and diseases and noxious weeds.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information

collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.505420017 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers and shippers of plant pests, noxious weeds, and other regulated articles; State plant health officials; owners/operators of regulated garbage-handling facilities.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 25,755.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.414832071.

Estimated annual number of responses: 36,439.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 18,417 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of January 2012.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–1308 Filed 1–24–12; 8:45 am]

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