

pursuant to new legislation, to release up to \$81 million of loan indebtedness for certain 1999 crop loans made in North Carolina by the Commodity Credit Corporation where the collateral was destroyed or damaged by Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd or Irene. To assure all are given a chance to be heard, this notice sets out the statute and invites all persons who believe that they may be entitled to relief under the terms of the statute as well as all other interested persons to comment or suggest how eligibility for relief should be determined and how such relief should be administered.

DATES: Comments with respect to this notice must be received by October 27, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be filed by the date set in this notice with Larry W. Mitchell, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, STOP 0510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0510.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas R. Burgess, telephone (202) 720-0156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2101 of Chapter 5 of the Fiscal Year 2001 Military Construction Appropriations (Pub. L. 106-246) provides in connection with North Carolina hurricane losses for up to \$81 million for relief in connection with the 1999 crop year loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The entire Section reads as follows:

Sec. 2101. With respect to any 1999 crop year loan made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to a cooperative marketing association established under the laws of North Carolina, and to any person or entity in North Carolina obtaining a 1999 crop upland cotton marketing assistance loan, the Corporation shall reduce the amount of such outstanding loan indebtedness in an amount up to 75 percent of the amount of the loan applicable to any collateral (in the case of cooperative marketing associations of upland cotton producers and upland cotton producers, not to exceed \$5,000,000 for benefits to such associations and such producers for up to 75 percent of the loss incurred by such associations and such producers with respect to upland cotton that had been placed under loan) that was produced in a county in which either the Secretary of Agriculture or the President of the United States declared a major disaster or emergency due to the occurrence of Hurricane Dennis, Floyd, or Irene if the Corporation determines that such collateral suffered any quality loss as a result of said hurricane: *Provided*, That if a person or entity obtains a benefit under this section with respect to a quantity of a commodity, no marketing loan gain or loan deficiency payment shall be made available under the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 with respect to such

quantity: *Provided further*, That no more than \$81,000,000 of the funds of the Corporation shall be available to carry out this section: *Provided further*, That the entire amount shall be available only to the extent an official budget request for \$81,000,000, that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement as defined in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, is transmitted by the President to the Congress: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act.

This notice is intended to provide an opportunity for any person who believes that they are entitled to relief to provide comments on how the statutes eligibility provisions should be construed. Such comments should be addressed to Larry W. Mitchell, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, STOP 0510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0510.

Following such comment, the Deputy Administrator will take such action as may be warranted taking into account, the comments and any other new information as may be relevant, including new legislation as may related to the use of such funds.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on October 4, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and Oklahoma; Proposed 115KV Transmission Line Project on the Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest, Taos County, NM

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Based on a request made by the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, the Carson National Forest is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of a proposal to authorize Kit Carson Cooperative to construct, operate and maintain a new 115 KV electric transmission line and fiber optic system on National Forest Lands from the existing Ojo to Taos 115 KV line to Ojo Caliente, New Mexico. The proposal also includes construction, operation and

maintenance of a substation in Ojo Caliente.

The proposal has several parts, most of which pertain directly to National Forest lands and for which the USDA Forest Service will make the decision. Other portions pertain to Bureau of Land Management administered lands including the proposed substation location, for which the responsible line officer in the Bureau of Land Management will be the deciding official. If any alternative should be selected that might include private holdings, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative will negotiate for approval. The purpose of the project is to improve existing service by reducing voltage fluctuations and the number of outages. It is also to provide fiber optic capabilities to a number of small communities in the area.

DATES: The proposed action is currently available for review and comment. It is estimated that the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be completed and distributed for comments by the end of January, 2000. A 45 day comment period will follow. The final environmental impact statement and a record of decision is estimated to be released by the end of July 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed action and DEIS will be available upon request from the Carson Forest Supervisor's Office, 208 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571, Attn: Power Line Analysis Team. Comments related to the DEIS can be sent to the same address.

Responsible Official: The Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, is the responsible official and will decide whether or not the project will be implemented on Forest Service lands. If so, the Forest Supervisor will decide where, how and when they will be implemented.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Power Line Team Leader, Carson Forest Supervisor's Office, (505) 758-6200.

40 CFR 1501.7

Dated: September 27, 2000.

Gilbert Vigil,

Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for