

**ESTIMATION OF THE TOTAL NUMBERS OF HOURS NEEDED TO PREPARE THE INFORMATION COLLECTION INCLUDING
NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS, FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE, AND HOURS OF RESPONSE—Continued**

Reg. section	Paperwork requirement	Recordkeeping hours	Reporting hours	Number of jurisdictions	Total hours
§ 91.616	Confirm first-time homebuyer status	0.1	0.2	427	43
§ 92.502	Input first-time homebuyer status (IDIS)			427	85
Total Annual Respondent and Burden Hours.				6,667	521,478

Estimate of Respondent Cost: 521,478 hours × \$31/hour = \$16,165,818.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: March 3, 2006.

Pamela H. Patenaude,

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-4917-N-07]

**Mortgage and Loan Insurance
Programs Under the National Housing
Act—Debenture Interest Rates**

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces changes in the interest rates to be paid on debentures issued with respect to a loan or mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration under the provisions of the National Housing Act (the Act). The interest rate for debentures issued under section 221(g)(4) of the Act during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2006, is 5½ percent. The interest rate for debentures issued under any other provision of the Act is the rate in effect on the date that the commitment to insure the loan or mortgage was issued, or the date that the loan or mortgage was endorsed (or initially endorsed if there are two or more endorsements) for insurance, whichever rate is higher. The interest rate for debentures issued under these other provisions with respect to a loan or mortgage committed or endorsed during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2006, is 4⅞ percent. However, as a result of an amendment to section 224 of the Act, if an insurance claim relating to a mortgage insured under sections 203 or 234 of the Act and endorsed for insurance after January 23, 2004, is paid in cash, the debenture interest rate for purposes of calculating

a claim shall be the monthly average yield, for the month in which the default on the mortgage occurred, on United States Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: L. Richard Keyser, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 2232, Washington, DC 20410-8000; telephone (202) 755-7500 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 224 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715o) provides that debentures issued under the Act with respect to an insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4) of the Act) will bear interest at the rate in effect on the date the commitment to insure the loan or mortgage was issued, or the date the loan or mortgage was endorsed (or initially endorsed if there are two or more endorsements) for insurance, whichever rate is higher. This provision is implemented in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 203.405, 203.479, 207.259(e)(6), and 220.830. These regulatory provisions state that the applicable rates of interest will be published twice each year as a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Section 224 further provides that the interest rate on these debentures will be set from time to time by the Secretary of HUD, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, in an amount not in excess of the annual interest rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield of all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of maturities of 15 or more years.

The Secretary of the Treasury (1) has determined, in accordance with the provisions of section 224, that the statutory maximum interest rate for the period beginning January 1, 2006, is 4

7/8 percent; and (2) has approved the establishment of the debenture interest rate by the Secretary of HUD at 4 7/8 percent for the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2006. This interest rate will be the rate borne by debentures issued with respect to any insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4)) with insurance commitment or endorsement date (as applicable) within the first 6 months of 2006.

For convenience of reference, HUD is publishing the following chart of debenture interest rates applicable to mortgages committed or endorsed since January 1, 1980:

Effective interest rate	on or after	prior to
9½	Jan 1, 1980	July 1, 1980.
9⅞	July 1, 1980	Jan 1, 1981.
11¾	Jan 1, 1981	July 1, 1981.
12⅞	July 1, 1981	Jan 1, 1982.
12¾	Jan 1, 1982	Jan 1, 1983.
10¼	Jan 1, 1983	July 1, 1983.
10⅜	July 1, 1983	Jan 1, 1984.
11½	Jan 1, 1984	July 1, 1984.
13⅜	July 1, 1984	Jan 1, 1985.
11⅝	Jan 1, 1985	July 1, 1985.
11⅞	July 1, 1985	Jan 1, 1986.
10¼	Jan 1, 1986	July 1, 1986.
8¼	July 1, 1986	Jan 1, 1987.
8	Jan 1, 1987	July 1, 1987.
9	July 1, 1987	Jan 1, 1988.
9⅞	Jan 1, 1988	July 1, 1988.
9⅜	July 1, 1988	Jan 1, 1989.
9¼	Jan 1, 1989	July 1, 1989.
9	July 1, 1989	Jan 1, 1990.
8⅞	Jan 1, 1990	July 1, 1990.
9	July 1, 1990	Jan 1, 1991.
8¾	Jan 1, 1991	July 1, 1991.
8½	July 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992.
8	Jan 1, 1992	July 1, 1992.
8	July 1, 1992	Jan 1, 1993.
7¾	Jan 1, 1993	July 1, 1993.
7	July 1, 1993	Jan 1, 1994.
6⅝	Jan 1, 1994	July 1, 1994.
7¾	July 1, 1994	Jan 1, 1995.
8⅜	Jan 1, 1995	July 1, 1995.
7¼	July 1, 1995	Jan 1, 1996.
6½	Jan 1, 1996	July 1, 1996.
7¼	July 1, 1996	Jan 1, 1997.
6¾	Jan 1, 1997	July 1, 1997.
7⅞	July 1, 1997	Jan 1, 1998.
6⅜	Jan 1, 1998	July 1, 1998.
6⅞	July 1, 1998	Jan 1, 1999.

Effective interest rate	on or after	prior to
5½	Jan 1, 1999	July 1, 1999.
6⅛	July 1, 1999	Jan 1, 2000.
6½	Jan 1, 2000	July 1, 2000.
6½	July 1, 2000	Jan 1, 2001.
6	Jan 1, 2001	July 1, 2001.
5⅞	July 1, 2001	Jan 1, 2002.
5¼	Jan 1, 2002	July 1, 2002.
5¾	July 1, 2002	Jan 1, 2003.
5	Jan 1, 2003	July 1, 2003.
4½	July 1, 2003	Jan 1, 2004.
5⅛	Jan 1, 2004	July 1, 2004.
5½	July 1, 2004	Jan 1, 2005.
4⅞	Jan 1, 2005	July 1, 2005.
4½	July 1, 2005	Jan 1, 2006.
4⅞	Jan 1, 2006	July 1, 2006.

Section 215 of Division G, Title II of Public Law 108–199, enacted January 23, 2004 (HUD's 2004 Appropriations Act) amended section 224 of the Act, to change the debenture interest rate for purposes of calculating certain insurance claim payments made in cash. Therefore, effective immediately, for all claims paid in cash on mortgages insured under section 203 or 234 of the National Housing Act and endorsed for insurance after January 23, 2004, the debenture interest rate will be the monthly average yield, for the month in which the default on the mortgage occurred, on United States Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years, as found in Federal Reserve Statistical Release H–15. The Federal Housing Administration is in the process of making conforming amendments to applicable regulations to fully implement this recent change to section 224 of the Act.

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the “going Federal rate” in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term “going Federal rate” is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8- to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.255 and 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2006, is 5½ percent.

HUD expects to publish its next notice of change in debenture interest rates in July 2006.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD's environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

Authority: Sections 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 1715l, 1715o; Section 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: March 3, 2006.

Brian D. Montgomery,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Nansemond National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is available for review. The CCP/EA includes Nansemond NWR, an unstaffed refuge managed by the Great Dismal Swamp NWR. The Service prepared this CCP/EA in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd, *et seq.*).

This notice also advises the public that the Service is withdrawing a previous notice, published in 2002, stating that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be developed for the refuge complex. After completing the environmental analysis, we determined that an EIS is not warranted.

DATES: The draft CCP/EA will be available for public review and comment for a 30-day period starting with the publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft CCP/EA on compact diskette or in print may be obtained by writing or visiting Great Dismal Swamp NWR, 3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23434, or you may download an electronic copy from the

<http://library.fws.gov/ccps.htm> Web site. We plan to host three public meetings in the Cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, and in Camden and Gates Counties in North Carolina. We will announce the details at least 2 weeks in advance in local papers and post them at the refuge.

Comments should be submitted to Deloras Freeman, Great Dismal Swamp NWR, 3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23434, by fax at 757–986–2353, or email at deloras_freeman@fws.gov. Comments via email should include the comments in the body of the email, since email security programs could delete attached files.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deloras Freeman, Great Dismal Swamp NWR at 787–986–3706 or Bill Perry, Refuge Planner, Northeast Regional Office at 413–253–8371.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires the Service to develop a CCP for each refuge. The purpose of developing a CCP describes the desired future conditions of the refuge and provides refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, in conformance with the sound principles of fish and wildlife science, natural resources conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. The Service will review and update each CCP at least once every 15 years, in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Established in 1974, Great Dismal Swamp NWR encompasses 111,201 acres, the largest intact remnant of a vast habitat that once covered more than one million acres of southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. The Nansemond NWR, established December 12, 1973, is an unstaffed satellite refuge encompassing 423 acres.

The draft CCP/EA analyzes three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years. Alternative A (the “No Action” Alternative) would continue our present management and provides a baseline for comparing and