

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. 98-031-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

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 in support of regulations to protect endangered species of terrestrial plants.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 10, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 98-031-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-031-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the importation or exportation of endangered species of

terrestrial plants, contact Mr. Michael Lidsky, CITES Program Coordinator, Operational Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 146, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-5762. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Cheryl Groves, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5086.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Endangered Species Regulation and Forfeiture Procedures.

OMB Number: 0579-0076.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1998.

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

Abstract: Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for protecting endangered species of terrestrial plants by regulating the individuals or entities who are engaged in the business of importing, exporting, or reexporting these plants.

To carry out this mission, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA, administers regulations at 7 CFR part 355. In accordance with these regulations, any individual, nursery, or other entity wishing to engage in the business of importing, exporting, or reexporting terrestrial plants listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) regulations at 50 CFR 17.12 or 23.23 must obtain a general permit (PPQ Form 622). This includes importers, exporters, or reexporters who sell, barter, collect, or otherwise exchange or acquire terrestrial plants as a livelihood or enterprise engaged in for gain or profit. This does not include persons engaged in business merely as carriers or customs brokers.

To obtain a general permit, these individuals or entities must complete an application (PPQ 621) and submit it to APHIS for approval. When a permit has been issued, the plants covered by the permit may be imported into the United States provided they are accompanied by documentation required by the regulations and provided all other conditions of the regulations are met.

Effectively regulating entities who are engaged in the business of importing, exporting, or reexporting endangered species requires the use of this

application process, as well as the use of other information collection activities, such as notifying APHIS of the arrival or impending exportation of endangered species, marking containers used for the importation and exportation of plants, and creating and maintaining records of importation, exportation, and reexportation.

The information provided by these information gathering activities is critical to our ability to carry out the responsibilities assigned to us by The Endangered Species Act. These responsibilities include the careful monitoring of importation, exportation, and reexportation activities involving endangered species of plants, as well as investigating possible violations of the Endangered Species Act.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the continued use of this information collection activity.

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

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed 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 proposed 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 .1977 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. importers and exporters of endangered species.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,400.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 11.51.

Estimated annual number of responses: 16,115.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 3,186 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average 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 5th day of May 1998.

Charles P. Schwalbe,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-12397 Filed 5-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection in support of the CCC Supplier Credit Guarantee Program (SCGP), a variant of the Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102), based on reestimates.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 10, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact L. T. McElvain, Director, Commodity Credit Corporation Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AgBox 1035, Washington, DC 20250-1035, telephone (202) 720-6211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: CCC/Supplier Credit Guarantee Program (SCGP).

OMB Number: 0551-0037.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of the SCGP is to expand U.S. agricultural exports by making available export credit guarantees to encourage U.S. private sector financing of foreign purchases of U.S. agricultural

commodities on credit terms. Furthermore, the SCGP is designed to assist exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities who wish to provide relatively short term (up to 180 days) credits to their importers evidenced by promissory notes executed by such importers. The CCC currently offers the SCGP for exports to at least 8 countries and 6 country regions, with more than 1,000 exporters currently eligible to participate. Under 7 CFR Part 1493, exporters are required to submit the following: (1) Information about the exporter for program participation, (2) export sales information in connection with applying for a payment guarantee, (3) information regarding the actual export of the commodity, (evidence of export report), (4) notice of default and claims for loss, and (5) other documents, if applicable, including notice assignment of the right to receive proceeds under the export credit guarantee. In addition, each exporter and exporter's assignee (U.S. financial institution) must maintain records on all information submitted to CCC and in connection with sales made under the SCGP. The information collected is used by CCC to manage, plan, evaluate and account for Government resources. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper and judicious use of public funds.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for these collections is estimated to average 3.37 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. Exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities, U.S. banks or other financial institutions, producer associations, U.S. export trade associations, and U.S. Government agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 annum.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 25 per annum.

Estimated Total Annual Burden of Respondents: 674 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Valerie Countiss, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-6713.

Requests for comments: Send comments regarding (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the

burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to L.T. McElvain, Director, Commodity Credit Corporation Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AgBox 1035, Washington, DC 20250-1035.

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.

Signed at Washington, DC. April 30, 1998.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-12414 Filed 5-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-M

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 2:00p.m., May 11, 1998.

PLACE: Room 104-A, Jamie Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Open Meeting of November 3, 1997.

2. Memorandum re: Update of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)-Owned Inventory.

3. Memorandum re: Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC's) Financial Condition Report.

4. Resolution re: Termination of Obsolete CCC Board Dockets.

5. Docket CZ-157, Revision 6, re: Policy and Procedure Governing the Submission of Dockets to the Board of Directors, CCC, and the Handling of Dockets Considered by the Board.

6. Docket A-POL-98-007, re: Commodity Credit Corporation Claims Policy.

7. Settlement Actions Report.

8. Docket P-COM-98-004, re: Delegation of Responsibility for Commodity Credit Corporation's Domestic Commodity Programs.

9. Docket P-COM-98-005, re: Delegation of Responsibility for the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Credit Guarantee Programs, Export Credit Sales Programs, Export Bonus Programs and Other Similar Programs Commodity Credit Corporation.

10. Docket P-COM-006, re: Policies Regarding the Management of