

grain elevators. At the same time, the market began a crucial transformation to more fully account for differences in the value of grain in its end use.

Export markets, the genesis of this transformation, typically blend grain lots to achieve a minimum average No. 2 quality. They usually do not pay premiums for No. 1 grain, and they discount from the No. 2 standard. The industry argues that economic gains from blending allow it to operate on a narrower per bushel price margin. This emphasis on price downplays the functional attributes that affect nutrient content or processing characteristics. Moreover, kernel characteristics which increase the harvestability and storability of grain are the opposite of those that improve the efficiency of processing operations. Although processors want softer-textured, thin pericarp kernels, plant breeders have generally focused on harder-textured products.

Consequently, softer grains must be produced on a systematic and contractual basis since such varieties deteriorate when passing through the traditional commodity distribution system. These newer, often genetically-engineered grains are typically produced and marketed outside today's commodity system and purchased as "manufactured" or identity-preserved products.

Cooperatives' infrastructure—farmer linkages, elevators, distribution channels, and grain processing activities—gives them an unparalleled opportunity to position themselves within the emerging identity-preserved grain sector before alternative systems have emerged. Yet, it is not clear to what degree cooperatives are cognizant of or prepared for these opportunities. The survey will reveal a baseline of cooperative resources and preferences that, at a minimum, could raise cooperative awareness of industry opportunities, and, ultimately, contribute to the standardized production and marketing grain sector desired by processors.

Because identity-preserved grains represent a new industry, data on production intentions, marketing, infrastructure requirements, and other facets of industry structure and performance are not available from alternative sources.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response.

**Respondents:** Local cooperatives involved in grain or feed marketing or handling.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 700.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** One.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 175 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jean Mosley, Support Services Division, Regulation and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 690-0041.

#### Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Jean Mosley, Support Services Division, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0742, Washington, D.C. 20250. All comments to this notice will be summarized. All comments will also become a matter of a public record.

Dated: April 28, 1999.

**Dayton J. Watkins,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-11979 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Application filing deadline.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces its Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program application window for funding during fiscal year (FY) 1999. For FY 1999, \$12.5 million in grants and \$150 million in loans will be made available for distance learning and telemedicine projects serving rural America. The funding will be provided in three categories: (1) \$7.5 million will be available for grants; (2) \$100 million will be available for loans; and (3) \$55

million will be available for combination grants and loans (\$5 million in grants paired with \$50 million in loans).

**DATES:** Applications for grants must be postmarked by RUS no later than Friday, July 9, 1999. Applications for FY 1999 loans or combination loans and grants may be submitted at anytime up to September 30, 1999, and will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications are to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 1550, Washington, DC 20250-1550. Applications should be marked "Attention: Director, Advanced Services Division, Telecommunications Program".

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590, Telephone (202) 720-9554, Facsimile (202) 720-0810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For FY 1999, \$7.5 million in grants, a combination of \$5 million in grants paired with \$50 million in loans, and \$100 million in loans will be made available for distance learning and telemedicine projects. On May 10, 1999, regulations published in the **Federal Register**, March 25, 1999, at 64 FR 14401, governing this program became final. These new regulations clarify the requirements for the different types of financial assistance offered; streamline policies and procedures for obtaining loans and expand the purposes for which loan funds can be used; and award grants on a competitive basis.

Notice is hereby given that under §§ 1703.124, 1703.133, and 1703.143, RUS has determined the maximum amount of an application for a grant that will be considered for funding in FY 1999 as \$350,000. The maximum amount for a loan, generally, that will be considered for funding in FY 1999 is \$10,000,000. However, RUS may fund a project greater than \$10,000,000 subject to the project's feasibility and the availability of loan funds.

Applications for financial assistance must be submitted in accordance with 7 CFR part 1703, which establishes the policies and procedures for submitting an application for financial assistance. This document and an application guide to assist in the preparation of applications are available on the

Internet at the following address: "http://www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm". Applications guides may also be requested from RUS by contacting one of the following Area Offices:

Eastern Area, USDA-RUS, Phone: (202) 690-4673

Northwest Area, USDA-RUS, Phone: (202) 720-1025

Southwest Area, USDA "RUS, Phone: (202) 720-0800

Each application will be reviewed for completeness in accordance with 7 CFR part 1703. The applicant will be notified within 15 working days of receipt of the results of this review, citing any information needed to complete the application. It is suggested that grant applications be submitted prior to the deadline to ensure they can be reviewed and considered complete by the deadline.

Dated: May 6, 1999.

**Wally Beyer,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-11856 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 17-99]

#### **Foreign-Trade Zone 124—LaPlace, LA, Foreign-Trade Subzone 124H—Bollinger Shipyards Lockport, LLC; Application for Expansion (Shipbuilding)**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the South Louisiana Port Commission, grantee of FTZ 124, requesting authority to expand Subzone 124H, at the Bollinger Shipyards Lockport, LLC (Bollinger) shipbuilding facility located in Lockport, Louisiana, to include four new sites in Lafourche and St. Mary Parishes. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR Part 400). It was formally filed on April 29, 1999.

Subzone 124H was approved on July 10, 1998 (Board Order 993, 63 FR 39069, 7-21-98). The subzone currently consists of one site (250 acres) is located at 8365 Louisiana Highway 308, about 4 miles south of Lockport (Lafourche Parish), Louisiana. The applicant is now requesting authority to expand the subzone to include four additional sites: proposed Site 2 (168 acres)—Bollinger Larose, LLC, 1515 Highway 24, Larose (Lafourche Parish); proposed Site 3 (67

acres)—Bollinger Marine Fabricators, LLC, 816 Bollinger Lane, Amelia (St. Mary's Parish); proposed Site 4 (101 acres)—Bollinger Morgan City, LLC, 806 Bollinger Lane, Amelia; and, proposed Site 5 (50 acres)—Bollinger Amelia Repair, LLC, 606 Ford Industrial Road, Amelia. The Bollinger Lockport facility is used for the construction and repair of commercial and government vessels under FTZ procedures for domestic and international customers.

This proposal does not request any new authority under FTZ procedures in terms of products or components, but it does involve a potential increase in the facility's level of production under FTZ procedures. Bollinger will operate the proposed sites as an integral part of Subzone 124H.

The proposed expanded manufacturing activity conducted under FTZ procedures would be subject to the "standard shipyard restriction" applicable to foreign-origin steel mill products (e.g., angles, pipe, plate), which requires that Customs duties be paid on such items.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is July 12, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to July 26, 1999).

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

Office of the Port Director, U.S. Customs Service, 110 North Airline Avenue, Gramercy, LA 70052

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230

Dated: April 30, 1999.

**Dennis Puccinelli,**

*Acting Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-12016 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 16-99]

#### **Foreign-Trade Subzone 59A—Lincoln, NE; Request for Removal of Board Order Condition; Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. (Utility Work Trucks)**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. (KMM), operator of FTZ 59A, requesting removal of the time limit in Board Order 744 (60 FR 30518, 6-9-95), which authorized the manufacture of utility work trucks (Mules™) under FTZ procedures for an initial period ending July 1, 1999, subject to extension. The application was formally filed on April 29, 1999.

Subzone 59A was approved by the Board in 1980 with authority granted for the manufacture of motorcycles, jet skis, and four wheel all-terrain vehicles (Board Order 163, 45 FR 58637, 9-4-80). The subzone was subsequently expanded in 1994 (Board Order 712, 59 FR 66891, 12-28-94). The Board later approved the manufacture of off-road, utility work trucks and industrial robots with 6 or more axes of motion under FTZ procedures for the U.S. market and export (Board Orders 744 and 745, 60 FR 30517, 6-9-95).

KMM is now requesting that the FTZ manufacturing authority for utility work trucks be extended on a permanent basis. Foreign-sourced components for the work trucks comprise approximately 53 percent of the value of finished vehicles' materials and include: engines, transmissions, calipers/brake parts, and tires (duty rate range: free-9.0%).

FTZ procedures exempt KMM from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production. On its domestic sales, the company is able to choose the duty rate that applies to finished work trucks (HTSUS 8709.19.0030, duty free) for the foreign components noted above. The request indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures will continue to help improve the facility's international competitiveness. In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their