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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

7 CFR Part 2

Revision of Delegations of Authority; Correction

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture published in the **Federal Register** of February 4, 2000, a document of revising 7 CFR Part 2, Revision of Delegations of Authority. This document corrects the amendatory instructions in that document. The revisions to the delegations of authority were made to reflect passage of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective February 4, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip Schwab, Science Advisor and Legislation Affairs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA, Room 305-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Bldg., Washington, DC 20250, telephone 202-720-4423.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Agriculture published in the **Federal Register** of February 4, 2000, (65 FR 5414) a revision to the delegations of authority found at 7 CFR Part 2. Paragraph number (a)(1)(xx) was inadvertently omitted from amendatory instruction 2.d. This correction revises amendatory instruction 2.d. to include that paragraph number.

In FR Doc. 00-2396 published on February 4, 2000 (65 FR 5414) made the following correction. On page 5414, in the third column, amendatory instruction 2.d. to 2.21 is corrected to read as follows:

§ 2.21 [Corrected]

2. * * *

d. Revise paragraphs (a)(1)(x), (a)(1)(xx), (a)(1)(xliv), (a)(1)(l), (a)(1)(liii), (a)(1)(lvii), (a)(1)(lix), (a)(1)(lxxix), and (b)(1)(i) and add paragraphs (a)(1)(liv), (a)(1)(lxxx), (a)(1)(lxxxi), and (a)(1)(lxxxvii) to read as follows:

Done at Washington, DC on this 11th day of May, 2000.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 00-12439 Filed 5-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 00-004-2]

Asian Longhorned Beetle; Addition to Quarantined Areas

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the Asian longhorned beetle regulations by expanding the quarantined area in the city of Chicago, IL, and adding two new areas in Cook County, IL. As a result of the interim rule, the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas is restricted. The interim rule was necessary on an emergency basis to prevent the artificial spread of the Asian longhorned beetle to noninfested areas of the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The interim rule became effective on January 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ron Milberg, Operations Officer, Program Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In an interim rule effective January 27, 2000, and published in the **Federal Register** on February 2, 2000 (65 FR 4865-4866, Docket No. 00-004-1), we amended the Asian longhorned beetle regulations contained in § 301.51-1 through § 301.51-9 by expanding the

quarantined area in the city of Chicago, IL, and adding two new areas in Cook County, IL, in § 301.51-3. That action restricted the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before April 3, 2000. We did not receive any comments. Therefore, for the reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Orders 12866, 12372, and 12988, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived the review process required by Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule affirms an interim rule that amended the Asian longhorned beetle regulations by expanding the quarantined area in the city of Chicago, IL, and adding two new areas in Cook County, IL. As a result of the interim rule, the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas is restricted. The interim rule was necessary on an emergency basis to prevent the artificial spread of the Asian longhorned beetle to noninfested areas of the United States.

The following analysis addresses the economic effect of this rule on small entities, as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The quarantine and restrictions on the interstate movement of certain articles from the quarantined areas has been determined to be the most effective means of preventing the artificial spread of the pest outside the State of Illinois. Biological controls and pesticides do not currently appear to be effective alternatives.

Nonetheless, the interim rule will have no economic effect on businesses, large or small, since none are located in the newly quarantined 216 acres. The newly quarantined areas consist of a residential area, a cemetery, and a forest preserve.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

Accordingly, we are adopting as a final rule, without change, the interim rule that amended 7 CFR part 301 and that was published at 65 FR 4865–4866 on February 2, 2000.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 147a, 150bb, 150dd, 150ee, 150ff, 161, 162, and 164–167; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of May 2000.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00–12437 Filed 5–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Utilities Service****7 CFR Part 1710**

RIN 0572–AB52

General and Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Loans

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is amending its regulations to allow flexibility in determining whether a borrower needs to solicit bids from all sources for new or replacement generation. It is also deleting the requirement that borrowers seek bids if RUS financial assistance is requested from all sources for generation projects of 10 megawatts or more or for modifications to existing plants if it results in an increase in capacity of 10 percent. RUS will review each project on a case by case basis and determine whether there is a need for a borrower to seek bids from all sources for the project.

DATES: This rule will become effective July 3, 2000 unless we receive written adverse comments or written notice of intent to submit adverse comments on or before June 16, 2000. If we receive such comments or notice, we will publish a timely document in the **Federal Register** withdrawing the rule. Comments received will be considered under the proposed rule published in this edition of the **Federal Register** in

the proposed rule section. A second public comment period will not be held. Parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

ADDRESSES: Submit adverse comments or notice of intent to submit adverse comments to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 720–9550. RUS requires a signed original and three copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.4). Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wei M. Moy, Chief, Power Resources & Planning Branch, Power Supply Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1568, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–1568. Telephone: (202) 720–1438. FAX (202) 720–1401. E-mail: wmoy@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Executive Order 12866**

This rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. RUS has determined that this rule meets the applicable standards provided in section 3 of the Executive Order. In addition, all state and local laws and regulations that are in conflict with this rule will be preempted. No retroactive effect will be given to this rule, and in accordance with § 212(e) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 USC 6912(e)) administrative appeal procedures, if any, must be exhausted before an action against the Department or its agencies may be initiated.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

RUS has determined that this rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities, as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The RUS electric program provides loan and loan guarantees to borrowers at interest rates and terms that are more favorable than those generally available from the private sector. Small entities are not subjected to any requirements which are not applied equally to large entities. RUS borrowers, as a result of obtaining

federal financing, receive economic benefits that exceed any direct economic costs associated with complying with RUS regulations and requirements.

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

This rule contains no additional information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The program described by this rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance programs under No. 10.850, Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402–9325, telephone number (202) 512–1800.

Executive Order 12372

This rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may require consultation with State, local and tribal governments or the private sector. See the final rule related notice entitled “Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372” (50 FR 47034).

Unfunded Mandates

This rule contains no Federal mandates (under the regulatory provision of title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act) for State, local, and tribal governments or the private sector. Thus, this rule is not subject to the requirements of section 202 and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

National Environmental Policy Act Certification

The Administrator of RUS has determined that this rule will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, this action does not require an environmental impact statement or assessment.

Background

Section 1710.254 provides that RUS will consider providing financial assistance to borrowers for the construction of generation facilities and the modification of existing generation facilities only if certain conditions are met. The requirements also apply to financial assistance for all new generation facilities of 10 megawatts or more and for modifications to existing