

necessary, EPA will issue a response. Frivolous or insubstantial requests for a hearing may be denied by the Regional Administrator. However, if a substantial request for a public hearing is made by April 16, 2004, a public hearing will be held.

A request for public hearing shall include the following: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the individual, organization, or other entity requesting a hearing; (2) a brief statement of the requesting person's interest in the Regional Administrator's determination and of information that the requesting person intends to submit at such a hearing; and (3) the signature of the individual making the request; or, if the request is made on behalf of an organization or other entity, the signature of a responsible official of the organization or other entity.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

Thomas Valtaggio,

Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region III.

[FR Doc. 04-5998 Filed 3-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Meeting of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and summary agenda for a meeting of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and describes the functions of the Council. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

DATES AND PLACE: March 30, 2004, Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open. Further details on the agenda will be posted on the PCAST Web site at: <http://www.ostp.gov/PCAST/pcast.html>.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND AGENDA: The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology is scheduled to meet in open session on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, at approximately 9 a.m. The PCAST is tentatively scheduled to: (1) Discuss a draft report from its workforce-education subcommittee; and (2) continue its discussion of nanotechnology and its review of the federal National Nanotechnology Initiative through presentations and discussions concerning the management

of the potential environmental and health effects of nanoscale materials. This session will end at approximately 5 p.m. Additional information on the agenda will be posted at the PCAST Web site at: <http://www.ostp.gov/PCAST/pcast.html>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There will be time allocated for the public to speak on the above agenda items. This public comment time is designed for substantive commentary on PCAST's work topics, not for business marketing purposes. Please submit a request for the opportunity to make a public comment five (5) days in advance of the meeting. The time for public comments will be limited to no more than 5 minutes per person. Written comments are also welcome at any time following the meeting. Please notify Stan Sokul, PCAST Executive Director, at (202) 456-6070, or fax your request/comments to (202) 456-6021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding time, place and agenda, please call Stan Sokul at (202) 456-6070, prior to 3 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2004. Information will also be available at the PCAST Web site at: <http://www.ostp.gov/PCAST/pcast.html>. Please note that public seating for this meeting is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology was established by Executive Order 13226, on September 30, 2001. The purpose of PCAST is to advise the President on matters of science and technology policy, and to assist the President's National Science and Technology Council in securing private sector participation in its activities. The Council members are distinguished individuals appointed by the President from non-Federal sectors. The PCAST is co-chaired by Dr. John H. Marburger, III, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and by E. Floyd Kvamme, a Partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

Stanley S. Sokul,

Executive Director, PCAST, and Counsel, Office of Science and Technology Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-6051 Filed 3-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3170-01-M

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Systematic Collection of Standardized Loan Data

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

ACTION: Notice with request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit Administration (FCA or agency) is seeking public input on the changes it should consider making to its systematic collection of standardized loan data. The agency currently collects basic descriptive information from Farm Credit System (FCS or System) banks and associations, in a standardized format, using the Loan Account Reporting System—Modified (LARS—M). The agency is planning to reengineer its collection of standardized loan data to meet its current and future information needs. In support of this reengineering project, FCA is seeking public comment on changes the agency should consider making to the loan data it collects; what processes and technological approaches to employ when collecting loan data; how to minimize the reporting burden on System institutions while meeting agency needs; and what types of standardized reports to make available to the general public and System institutions.

DATES: Please send your comments to the FCA by May 3, 2004.

ADDRESSES: We encourage you to send comments by electronic mail to reg-comm@fca.gov or through the Pending Regulations section of FCA's Web site, <http://www.fca.gov>. You may also send comments to Andrew Jacob, Assistant Director, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA 22102-5090 or by facsimile to (703) 734-5784. You may review copies of all comments we receive at our office in McLean, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gaylon J. Dykstra, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4073, TTY (703) 883-4434; or
Howard Rubin, Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4029, TTY (703) 883-2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. What Loan Data Does FCA Collect?

FCA currently collects certain standardized loan information from FCS banks and associations using the LARS—M. Examples of standardized variables collected include:

1. The date the loan was originated and the date on which it matures;

2. The primary agricultural commodity produced by the borrower;
3. Whether a loan is covered by a government guarantee;
4. If a loan is past due, the number of days the loan payment is delinquent;
5. The risk of the loan based on the uniform classification system as defined in the FCA Examination Manual (EM-320); and
6. Whether the borrower is in bankruptcy or the loan is in foreclosure status.

The agency also obtains direct institution-specific loan data as needed for examination purposes.

B. How Does FCA Use Loan Data?

FCA uses loan information to support its supervision and regulation of System institutions. For supervisory purposes, loan information is important for evaluating portfolio risk associated with agricultural lending and analyzing credit risks in individual agricultural loans. Loan data are also required for monitoring Systemwide trends and emerging vulnerabilities. For regulatory purposes, loan information is used for developing regulations and other public policy actions. FCA also uses loan data in fulfilling reporting requirements and informational requests.

C. Identifying Loan Portfolio Risk

Identification of risks in a loan portfolio is essential to FCA's evaluation of an institution's safety and soundness. Loan portfolio risk reflects individual loan exposures and the combined effects on a portfolio. Risk in individual loans is a function of characteristics associated with a borrower's agricultural operation and financial condition and performance. Examples of loan characteristics include the commodities produced, geographic location, payment history, financial strength, and off-farm income. These types of loan data are important determinants of the credit risk of a loan. Therefore, FCA access to loan data is critical for evaluating portfolio risks of System institutions and the credit risk of individual loans.

D. Monitoring Systemwide Trends

Analyzing Systemwide trends and emerging vulnerabilities is a critical agency activity for monitoring the overall mission accomplishment and ongoing safety and soundness of the FCS. Monitoring Systemwide trends helps FCA identify when risks are impacting the System's agricultural loans. For example, the System may show an overall increase in delinquent loans. Access to loan data allows the agency to analyze this trend and associated characteristics, such as

geographic location, commodity linkage, or other commonalities among affected institutions. Similarly, the agency uses loan data to analyze the impact of emerging vulnerabilities, such as food safety concerns, trade disputes, changes in government support programs, shifts in consumer preferences, and climactic events. Using loan data, the agency can better identify vulnerable System loans. Access to loan data increases FCA's understanding of the systemic risks facing the FCS and helps the agency determine if any policy actions are needed.

E. Developing Regulations and Policy

FCA uses loan data to support its regulation of System institutions. For example, loan data provide information needed to evaluate the impact of capital adequacy standards, lending limits, and liquidity requirements. Moreover, access to loan data allows the agency to analyze the effectiveness and results achieved from regulations and policy actions.

F. Fulfilling Reporting Requirements and Responding to Information Requests

The agency is required to periodically provide reports to Congress. The agency also frequently responds to information requests from Congress and others. Ready access to loan data aids FCA in timely and accurately responding to reporting requirements and information requests.

G. Why Is FCA Considering Changing Its Standardized Collection of Loan Data?

LARS-M was first implemented in 1987 and last revised in 1993. While LARS-M provides FCA with a standardized and centralized collection of loan data, it has not kept pace with changes in financial reporting systems, is incomplete as to loan types, lacks detail, and only allows access to current quarter data. FCA, therefore, believes improvements are needed to fully meet the agency's current and future information needs.

FCA examiners also obtain loan information directly from System institutions on an as-needed basis for use in conducting examinations, but this information is not standardized or centralized. As a result, directly downloaded data are not useful or available for Systemwide analysis or reporting. More importantly, the downloaded data vary considerably by FCA field office since loan information systems vary across System institutions. Therefore, standardized and centralized collection of loan data would help overcome the variety in electronic loan

information systems used by FCS institutions.

II. Objectives of This Project

The objectives of FCA's project to reengineer its standardized collection of loan data from System institutions are to:

1. Determine the appropriate set of loan data to collect on a systematic, centralized, and standardized basis that meets the agency's needs;
2. Streamline the collection process of loan data to enhance reliability, timeliness, and data accuracy;
3. Minimize the reporting burden on System institutions; and
4. Provide appropriate standardized reports to internal and, potentially, external parties.

The reengineering project will address the limitations of the current approach to a standardized collection of loan data. The agency is already considering the data elements it needs to collect on individual loans, including what specific financial information, loan performance data, and other essential information about loan characteristics that are necessary for adequately evaluating portfolio and loan risks. Moreover, the project will also address the agency's need to collect information for all loans made by System institutions. Along with these considerations, the agency is evaluating the data elements needed to model loan performance characteristics through time, such as probability of default, loss severity, and exposures at default. In the future, modeling loan performance may become a key aspect in the evaluation of a System institution's capital adequacy. FCA is also evaluating new technologies to streamline and improve the collection process. This evaluation includes reducing the reporting burden by relying on an efficient process that utilizes information readily available in the different FCS institutions' electronic loan information systems.

FCA is also evaluating the standardized reports the agency currently uses in conducting its supervisory and regulatory programs, including considering the type of reports to make available to the general public and System institutions in light of legal restrictions and other constraints regarding the release of private and sensitive business information used solely for examination purposes.

III. Questions

To augment the agency's experience and expertise with agricultural lending practices and credit analysis, FCA is seeking public input on the changes it

should consider making as it reengineers the systematic collection of standardized loan data from System institutions. Specifically, the agency requests comments on:

1. What suggestions do you have regarding loan data elements?
2. What processes and technological approaches to employ to streamline the collection of loan data?
3. How to minimize the reporting burden on System institutions while meeting the agency's informational needs?
4. What standardized reports to make available to the general public and System institutions, considering the need to protect private and proprietary confidential information?

Along with these questions, we welcome any other comments or suggestions the agency should consider as it moves forward with this initiative.

Dated: March 12, 2004.

Jeanette C. Brinkley,
Secretary, Farm Credit Administration Board.
[FR Doc. 04-5988 Filed 3-16-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6705-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreements Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreements under the Shipping Act of 1984. Interested parties can review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Room 940. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

Agreement No.: 011528-025.

Title: Japan/United States Eastbound Freight Conference.

Parties: A.P. Moller-Maersk Sealand; American President Lines, Ltd.; Hapag-Lloyd Container Linie GmbH; Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd.; Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.; Nippon Yusen Kaisha; Orient Overseas Container Line Limited; P&O Nedlloyd B.V.; P&O Nedlloyd Limited; and Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines AS

Synopsis: The amendment deletes Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines AS as a party to the agreement.

Agreement No.: 011871.

Title: West Coast-Security Bridge Agreement.

Parties: The members of the West Coast MTO Discussion Agreement (FMC Agreement No. 201143), on the one hand, and the members of the Maritime

Security Discussion Agreement (FMC Agreement No. 011852), on the other hand.

Synopsis: The agreement would authorize the parties to meet, discuss, and exchange information related to maritime security.

Agreement No.: 201026-005.

Title: New Orleans/P&O Ports LA Terminal Lease Agreement.

Parties: Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans P&O Ports Louisiana, Inc.

Synopsis: The amendment amends the lease to include a larger acreage and a roadway reservation and to permit the lessee other similar rights of way in the facility.

Agreement No.: 201150-001.

Title: Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal Lease Agreement.

Parties: The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans; P&O Ports Louisiana, Inc.

Synopsis: The modification changes the basis for calculating the rent under the lease agreement.

Dated: March 12, 2004.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-6039 Filed 3-16-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Ocean Transportation Intermediary License; Revocations

The Federal Maritime Commission hereby gives notice that the following Ocean Transportation Intermediary licenses have been revoked pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718) and the regulations of the Commission pertaining to the licensing of Ocean Transportation Intermediaries, effective on the corresponding date shown below:

License Number: 017472N.

Name: ARC Global Logistics, Inc.

Address: 1552B NW. 82nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33126.

Date Revoked: February 9, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

License Number: 017120N.

Name: Celestial International Freight, Inc.

Address: 2300 E. Higgins Road, Suite 224, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

Date Revoked: February 27, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

License Number: 011564N.

Name: Inter-Shipping Chartering Co.

Address: 8284 NW. 66th Street, Miami, FL 33166.

Date Revoked: February 20, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

License Number: 003093F.

Name: Noboru Tom Nakamura dba TN Forwarding

Address: 2627 28th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Date Revoked: February 26, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

License Number: 016083F.

Name: Palmetto Freight Forwarding Corp.

Address: 2577 West 80th Street, Hialeah, FL 33016.

Date Revoked: February 25, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

License Number: 003511F.

Name: Respond Cargo Services Corporation.

Address: 15711 West Hardy Road, Suite 3, Houston, TX 77060.

Date Revoked: February 25, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

License Number: 014454N.

Name: Seoul Express Line, Inc.

Address: 283 E. Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena, CA 90248.

Date Revoked: February 19, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

License Number: 003896F.

Name: Sino AM Cargo, Inc.

Address: 1335 Evans Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124.

Date Revoked: February 25, 2004.

Reason: Failed to maintain a valid bond.

Sandra L. Kusumoto,

Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing.

[FR Doc. 04-6041 Filed 3-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Ocean Transportation Intermediary License; Reissuances

Notice is hereby given that the following Ocean Transportation Intermediary licenses have been reissued by the Federal Maritime Commission pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718) and the regulations of the Commission pertaining to the licensing of Ocean Transportation Intermediaries, 46 CFR part 515.