

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 9, 2009.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Field Crops Production.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0002.

Summary of Collection: One of the National Agricultural Statistics Services' (NASS) primary functions is to prepare and issue current state and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition. The general authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. NASS collects information on field crops to monitor agricultural developments across the country that may impact on the nation's food supply. To help set these estimates, field crops production data is collected. NASS will collect information through the use of mail, telephone, and personnel interviews surveys.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS collects information on field crops to monitor agricultural developments across the country that may impact on the nation's food supply. The Secretary of Agriculture uses estimates of crop production to administer farm program legislation and to make decisions relative to the export-import programs. Collecting this information less frequently would eliminate the data needed to keep the Department abreast of changes at the State and national level.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Business or other for-profits.

Number of Respondents: 609,600.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 175,590.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-739 Filed 1-14-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Summer Food Service Program; 2009 Reimbursement

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program for Children. These adjustments address changes in the Consumer Price Index, as required under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The 2009 reimbursement rates are presented as a combined set of rates to highlight simplified cost accounting procedures that are extended nationwide by enactment of the Fiscal Year 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The 2009 rates are also presented individually, as separate operating and administrative rates of reimbursement, to show the effect of the Consumer Price Index adjustment on each rate.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 1, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Brewer, Head, CACFP and SFSP Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 640, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, 703-305-2590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.559 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and final rule-related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983).

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3518), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act. Additionally, this notice has been determined to be exempt from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Definitions

The terms used in this notice have the meaning ascribed to them under 7 CFR part 225 of the Summer Food Service Program regulations.

Background

This notice informs the public of the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). As required under sections 12 (42 U.S.C. 1760(f)) and 13 (42 U.S.C. 1761) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA), and SFSP regulations in 7 CFR part 225, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces the adjustments in SFSP payments for meals served to participating children during calendar year 2009.

The 2009 reimbursement rates are presented as a combined set of rates to highlight simplified cost accounting procedures. Section 738 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110-161, enacted on December 26, 2007, extends these procedures to all States. Beginning January 1, 2008, reimbursement is based solely on a “meals times rates” calculation, without comparison to actual or budgeted costs.

Sponsors receive reimbursement that is determined by the number of reimbursable meals served multiplied by the combined rates for food service operations and administration. However, the combined rate is based on separate operating and administrative rates of reimbursement, each of which is adjusted differently for inflation.

Calculation of Rates

The combined rates are constructed from individually authorized operating and administrative reimbursements. Simplified procedures provide flexibility, enabling sponsors to manage their reimbursements to pay for any allowable cost, regardless of the cost category. Although the requirement to categorize costs as “operational” or “administrative” has been eliminated, this does not diminish the sponsors’ responsibility for providing the best possible nutrition benefit to children, while ensuring proper administration of the Program.

The operating and administrative rates are calculated separately. However, the calculations of

adjustments for both are based on the same set of changes in the food away from home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. They represent a 4.9 percent increase in this series for the 12 month period, from November 2007 through November 2008 (from 209.854 in November 2007 to 220.043 in November 2008).

Table of 2009 Reimbursement Rates

Presentation of the 2009 maximum per meal rates for meals served to children in SFSP combines the results from the calculations of operational and administrative payments, which are further explained in this notice. The total amount of payments to State agencies for disbursement to SFSP sponsors will be based upon these adjusted combined rates and the number of meals of each type served. These adjusted rates will be in effect from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
2009 Reimbursement Rates (Combined)

Per meal rates in whole or fractions of U.S. dollars	All States except Alaska and Hawaii		Alaska		Hawaii	
	Rural or self-prep sites	All other types of sites	Rural or self-prep sites	All other types of sites	Rural or self-prep sites	All other types of sites
Breakfast	1.8150	1.7800	2.9450	2.8900	2.1225	2.0825
Lunch or Supper	3.1825	3.1300	5.1575	5.0750	3.7225	3.6625
Snack	0.7525	0.7350	1.2225	1.1950	0.8750	0.8550

Operating Rates

The portion of the SFSP rates for operating costs is based on payment

amounts set in section 13(b)(1) of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1761(b)(1)). They are rounded down to the nearest whole

cent, as required by section 11(a)(3)(B) of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1759(a)(3)(B)).

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
Operating Component of 2009 Reimbursement Rates

Operating rates in U.S. dollars, rounded down to the nearest whole cent	All States except Alaska and Hawaii	Alaska	Hawaii
	Breakfast	1.65	2.68
Lunch or Supper	2.88	4.67	3.37
Snack	0.67	1.09	0.78

Administrative Rates

The administrative cost component of the reimbursement is authorized under section 13(b)(3) of the NSLA (42 U.S.C.

1761(b)(3)). Rates are higher for sponsors of sites located in rural areas and for “self-prep” sponsors that prepare their own meals, at the SFSP site or at a central facility, instead of

purchasing them from vendors. The administrative portion of SFSP rates are adjusted, either up or down, to the nearest quarter-cent.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
Administrative Component of 2009 Reimbursement Rates

Administrative rates in U.S. dollars, adjusted, up or down, to the nearest quarter-cent	All States except Alaska and Hawaii		Alaska		Hawaii	
	Rural or self-prep sites	All other types of sites	Rural or self-prep sites	All other types of sites	Rural or self-prep sites	All other types of sites
Breakfast	0.1650	0.1300	0.2650	0.2100	0.1925	0.1525
Lunch or Supper	0.3025	0.2500	0.4875	0.4050	0.3525	0.2925
Snack	0.0825	0.0650	0.1325	0.1050	0.0950	0.0750

Authority: Sections 9, 13, and 14, Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1758, 1761, and 1762a, respectively).

Dated: January 12, 2009.

E. Enrique Gomez,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. E9-787 Filed 1-14-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Fitzgerald Renewable Energy, LLC: Notice of Intent To Hold Public Scoping Meetings and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.
ACTION: Notice of intent to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an Agency delivering the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities Programs, hereinafter referred to as Rural Development and/or the Agency, intends to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with potential impacts related to a project proposed by Fitzgerald Renewable Energy, LLC (FRE), with headquarters in Winter Park, FL. The proposal consists of the construction of a 55 megawatt (MW) biomass power plant located in Ben Hill County, Georgia on Peachtree Road. FRE is requesting the Agency to provide financial assistance for the proposed action.

DATES: USDA Rural Development will conduct a Scoping Meeting in an open house format, seeking the input of the public and other interested parties for the preparation of an EA. The meeting will be held on January 29, 2009, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., at The Grand Conference Center, 115 South Main Street, Fitzgerald, GA 31750, Telephone

(229) 426-5090. Comments regarding the proposed action may be submitted (orally or in writing) at the public scoping meeting or in writing and received within 30 days after the scoping meeting by Rural Development at the address provided in this notice.

ADDRESSES: To send comments or for further information, please contact Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, Telephone (202) 720-0468, or e-mail stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

An Electric Alternatives Evaluation and Site Selection Study Report (Report), prepared by FRE, will be presented at the public scoping meeting. The Report will be available for public review at the Agency's address provided in this notice, at the Agency's Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>, at Fitzgerald Renewable Energy, LLC, 152 Lincoln Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789, and at the Fitzgerald/Ben Hill County Library, 123 North Main Street, Fitzgerald, GA 31750, Telephone: 229-426-5080.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FRE proposes to construct a 55 MW biomass power plant on approximately 40 acres on Peachtree Road in Fitzgerald, GA. It is anticipated that the facilities would be in service in 2011.

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives from the Agency and FRE will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss the Agency's environmental review process, describe the proposal, the purpose and need for the proposal, alternatives under consideration, and to discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept comments.

From information provided in the Report, input that may be provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public, FRE will prepare an environmental report to be submitted to the Agency for review. The Agency will use the environmental report to determine the significance of the impacts of the proposal and, if acceptable, will adopt it as its EA for the proposal. The Agency's EA would be available for review and comment for 30 days.

Should the Agency determine, based on the EA, that the impacts of the construction and operation of the power plant would not have a significant environmental impact, it will prepare a finding of no significant impact; otherwise, the Agency would proceed to prepare an environmental impact statement. Public notification of a finding of no significant impact or the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement would be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers with a circulation in the project area.

Any final action by the Agency related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with environmental review requirements as prescribed by the Agency's environmental policies and procedures (7 CFR part 1794).

Dated: January 9, 2009.

Mark S. Plank,

Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA/Rural Development Utilities Programs.

[FR Doc. E9-775 Filed 1-14-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P