

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

April 9, 2018.

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 are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by May 14, 2018 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

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.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Title: Long Term Contracting.

OMB Control Number: 0578-0013.

Summary of Collection: The Long Term Contracting regulations at 7 CFR part 630, and the Conservation program regulations at 7 CFR 624, 625, 701 set forth the basic policies, program provisions, and eligibility requirements for owners and operators to enter into and carry out long-term conservation program contracts with technical assistance under the various program. These programs are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These programs authorize federal technical and financial long-term cost sharing assistance for conservation treatment with eligible land users and entities. Under the terms of the agreement, the participant agrees to apply, or arrange to apply, the conservation treatment specified in the conservation plan. In return for this agreement, Federal financial assistance payments are made to the land user, or third party, upon successful application of the conservation treatment.

Need and Use of the Information: NRCS will collect information using several NRCS forms. The forms are needed to administer NRCS long-term contracting programs as authorized. NRCS uses the information to ensure the proper utilization of program funds.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Farms; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 5,560.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Annually, Other (As required).

Total Burden Hours: 3,085.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-07572 Filed 4-11-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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April 9, 2018.

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Rural Utility Service

Title: High Energy Cost Grants Rural Communities.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0136.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act) (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) as amended in November 2000, to create new grant and loan authority to assist rural communities with extremely high energy costs (Pub. L. 106-472). The amendment authorized the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture through Rural Development to provide competitive grants for energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities in which the national average residential expenditure for home energy is at least 275 percent of the national average residential expenditure for home energy. All applicants are required to submit a project proposal containing the elements in the prescribed format.

Need and Use of the Information: Information is collected by the Rural Utility Service from applicants to confirm that the eligibility requirements and the proposals are consistent with the purposes set forth in the statute. Various forms and progress reports are used to monitor compliance with grant agreements, track expenditures of Federal funds and measure the success of the program. Without collecting the listed information, USDA will not be assured that the projects and communities served meet the statutory requirements for eligibility or that the proposed projects will deliver the intended benefits.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,172.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-07561 Filed 4-11-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Docket No. FSIS-2018-0008]

Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs; Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

AGENCY: Office of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA),

is sponsoring a public meeting on May 31, 2018. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 41st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) taking place in Rome, Italy, between July 2 and 6, 2018. The Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 41st Session of the CAC and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 2018, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the USDA, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 107-A, Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 41st Session of the CAC will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

The U.S. Delegate to the 41st Session of the CAC invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: uscodex@fsis.usda.gov.

Call-in-Number

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 41st Session of the CAC by conference call, please use the call-in-number and the participant code listed below:

Call-in-Number: 1-888-844-9904.

The participant code will be posted on the web page below: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/public-meetings>.

Registration

Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by emailing uscodex@fsis.usda.gov by May 29, 2018. Early registration is encouraged as it will expedite entry into the building. The meeting will convene in a Federal building. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through security screening systems. Attendees who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but wish to participate, may do so by phone.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

About the 41st session of the CAC contact: U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157, Email: uscodex@fsis.usda.gov.

About the public meeting contact: Jasmine Curtis, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4865, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157, Email: Jasmine.Curtis@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

CAC was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, the CAC seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade; promotes coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations; determines priorities and initiates and guides the preparation of draft standards through and with the aid of appropriate organizations; finalizes the standards elaborated and publishes them in a *Codex Alimentarius* (food code) either as regional or worldwide standards, together with international standards already finalized by other bodies, wherever this is practicable; and amends published standards, as appropriate, in the light of new developments.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 41st Session of the CAC will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Report by the chairperson on the 74th and 75th Sessions of the Executive Committee
- Amendments to the Procedural Manual
- Final Adoption of Codex texts
- Adoption of Codex Texts at Step 5
- Revocation of Codex Texts
- Proposals for New Work
- Discontinuation of Work
- Amendments to Codex Standards and Related Texts
- Matters arising from the reports of the Commission, the Executive Committee and Subsidiary Bodies
- Committees working by correspondence and pilot for a Committee on Standards Advancement
- Regular Review of Codex Work Management: Report 2017–2018
- Codex Budgetary and Financial Matters: Report 2016–2017 and Progress 2018–2019
- Codex Budgetary and Financial Matters: Proposal 2020–2021