

# Notices

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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

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Determination of Total Amount of Fiscal Year 2024 WTO Tariff-Rate Quotas for Raw Cane Sugar and Certain Sugars, Syrups and Molasses

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Foreign Agricultural Service announces the establishment of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024) in-quota aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar at 1,117,195 metric tons raw value (MTRV), and the establishment of the FY 2024 in-quota aggregate quantity of certain sugars, syrups, and molasses (also referred to as refined sugar) at 232,000 MTRV.

**DATES:** This notice is applicable on July 5, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Souleymane Diaby, Multilateral Affairs Division, Trade Policy and Geographic Affairs, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1070, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–1070; by telephone (202) 720–2916; or by email [Souleymane.Diaby@usda.gov](mailto:Souleymane.Diaby@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The provisions of paragraph (a)(i) of Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) authorize the Secretary to establish the in-quota tariff-rate quota (TRQ) amounts (expressed in terms of raw value) for imports of raw cane sugar and certain sugars, syrups, and molasses that may be entered under the subheadings of the HTS subject to the lower tier of duties during each fiscal year. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is responsible for the allocation of these quantities among supplying countries and areas.

Section 359(k) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, requires that at the beginning of the quota year the Secretary of Agriculture establish the TRQs for raw cane sugar and refined sugars at the minimum levels necessary to comply with obligations under international trade agreements, with the exception of specialty sugar.

The Secretary's authority under paragraph (a)(i) of Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the HTS and Section 359(k) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, has been delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (7 CFR 2.26). The Under Secretary has further delegated this authority to the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (7 CFR 2.601).

Notice is hereby given that I have determined, in accordance with paragraph (a)(i) of Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the HTS and section 359(k) of the 1938 Act, that an aggregate quantity of up to 1,117,195 MTRV of raw cane sugar may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during FY 2024. This is the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreements. The conversion factor is 1 metric ton raw value equals 1.10231125 short tons raw value. I have further determined that an aggregate quantity of 232,000 MTRV of sugars, syrups, and molasses (refined sugar) may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during FY 2024. This quantity includes the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreements, 22,000 MTRV, of which 20,344 MTRV is established for any sugars, syrups and molasses, and 1,656 MTRV is reserved for specialty sugar. An additional amount of 210,000 MTRV is added to the specialty sugar TRQ for a total of 211,656 MTRV.

Because the specialty sugar TRQ is first-come, first-served, tranches are needed to allow for orderly marketing throughout the year. The FY 2024 specialty sugar TRQ will be opened in five tranches. The first tranche, totaling 1,656 MTRV, will open October 2, 2023. All specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. The second tranche of 60,000 MTRV will open on October 9, 2023. The third tranche of 60,000

MTRV will open on January 19, 2024. The fourth tranche of 45,000 MTRV will open on April 15, 2024. The fifth tranche of 45,000 MTRV will open on July 15, 2024. The second, third, fourth, and fifth tranches will be reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently produced commercially in the United States or reasonably available from domestic sources.

**Daniel Whitley,**

*Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023–14187 Filed 7–3–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–10–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Rural Housing Service

#### Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RUS–23-Agency-0008]

#### OneRD Annual Notice of Guarantee Fee Rates, Periodic Retention Fee Rates, Loan Guarantee Percentage and Fee for Issuance of the Loan Note Guarantee Prior to Construction Completion for Fiscal Year 2024

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS), Rural Housing Service (RHS), and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), agencies of the Rural Development mission area within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), hereinafter collectively referred to as the Agency, offer loan guarantees through four programs: Community Facilities (CF) administered by the RHS; Water and Waste Disposal (WWD) administered by the RUS; and Business and Industry (B&I) and Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) administered by the RBCS. This notice provides applicants with the Guarantee Fee rates, Guarantee percentage for Guaranteed Loans, the Periodic Retention Fee, and Fee for Issuance of the Loan Note Guarantee Prior to Construction Completion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, to be used when applying for guaranteed loans under the guaranteed loan types listed above. This notice is being published prior to the passage of a FY

2024 appropriation. Should the fees need to be adjusted after passage of the FY 2024 appropriations, the agency will publish a subsequent notice in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** The fees in this notice are effective October 1, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information specific to this notice contact Michele Brooks, Director, Regulations Management, Rural Development Innovation Center—

Regulations Management, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 690–1078. Email: [michele.brooks@usda.gov](mailto:michele.brooks@usda.gov). For information regarding implementation, contact your respective Rural Development State Office listed here: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/browse-state>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As set forth in 7 CFR part 5001, the Agency is

authorized to charge a guarantee fee, a periodic guarantee retention fee, a fee for the issuance of the loan note guarantee prior to construction completion and establish a loan guarantee percentage for guaranteed loans made under this rule. Pursuant to this and other applicable authority, and subject to the current appropriated authority, the Agency is establishing the following for FY 2024:

Loan type	Guarantee fee (%)	Periodic guarantee retention fee (%)	Loan guarantee percentage (%)	Fee for issuance of loan note guarantee prior to construction completion (%)
B&I .....	3.00	0.55	80	0.50
B&I Reduced Fee .....	1.0	0.50	80	0.50
B&I project in a high cost, isolated rural area of the State of Alaska that is not connected to a road system .....	1.0	0.50	90	0.50
CF .....	1.25	0.50	80	0.50
REAP .....	1.0	0.25	80	0.50
WWD .....	1.0	N/A	80	0.50

The initial guarantee fee is paid at the time the loan note guarantee is issued. The periodic guarantee retention fee is paid by the lender to the Agency once a year. Payment of the periodic guarantee retention fee is required in order to maintain the enforceability of the guarantee. The fee for issuance of the loan note guarantee prior to construction completion DOES NOT apply to all construction loans. This additional fee only applies to loans requesting to receive a loan note guarantee prior to project completion. For loans where the loan note guarantee is issued between October 1 and December 31, the first periodic retention fee payment is due January 31 of the second year following the date the loan note guarantee was issued.

Unless precluded by a subsequent FY 2024 appropriation, these rates will apply to all guaranteed loans obligated in FY 2024. The amount of the periodic retention fee on each guaranteed loan will be determined by multiplying the periodic retention fee rate by the outstanding principal loan balance as of December 31, multiplied by the percentage of guarantee.

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA Programs are

prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or contact USDA through the 711 Relay Service. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD–3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632–9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil

rights violation. The completed AD–3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) *Mail:* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410; or

(2) *Fax:* (833) 256–1665 or (202) 690–7442; or

(3) *Email:* [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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**Xochitl Torres Small,**

*Undersecretary, Rural Development.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410–15–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Utilities Service**

**Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; announcement of the opening of the online application window for the PACE Program.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service, a Rural Development agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), hereinafter referred to as “RUS” or “the Agency” announced its intent to solicit Letters of Interest (LOI) for loan applications under the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program in a Notice of Funding