

Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Chelsea Bare, Chief of Staff, Veterinary Services, APHIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Whitten Building Room 318-E, Washington, DC 20250; (515) 337-6128; chelsea.j.bare@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) (7 U.S.C. 8301-8322) the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to protect the health of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture populations in the United States by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture, and eradicating such diseases within the United States when feasible. This authority has been delegated to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS).

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus is one such disease of livestock. HPAI is extremely infectious and often fatal to poultry.¹ Avian influenza (AI) viruses may circulate freely in wild bird populations without the birds appearing sick. As these birds migrate, they carry HPAI and other AI viruses with them and may subsequently transmit AI to domestic birds. HPAI can rapidly spread within and between domestic poultry flocks and wild bird (especially waterfowl) populations. Because birds infected with HPAI become a source of disease to additional poultry and wild birds, it is APHIS' objective to stamp out HPAI as rapidly as possible at locations where it has been found. Preventing the entry of diseased birds and eggs into the United States, monitoring AI in migratory birds, identifying AI strains occurring primarily in migratory waterbird species, as well as backyard and commercial poultry flocks, and stamping out HPAI as it arises in domestic poultry is important for the long-term maintenance of disease-free United States poultry stocks.

On February 8, 2022, the HPAI H5N1 (AI strain) virus subtype was detected in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana. By February 24, 2022, H5N1 had been

¹ Domestic poultry that can be affected include chickens; turkeys; ring-necked pheasants; ducks; geese; common, Japanese, or bobwhite quail; Indian peafowl; chukar or grey partridge; pigeons; ostrich; and guinea fowl.

detected in commercial poultry facilities and backyard flocks in seven States (Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, New York, Maine, Delaware, and Michigan). Due to the emergency situation and in accordance with 7 CFR 372.10 of APHIS' National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, APHIS published a draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) in April 2022 to allow VS to carry out emergency response activities as a result of HPAI outbreaks in the aforementioned seven States at the start of 2022. A final EA titled "Emergency Response for HPAI Outbreaks in Seven States" and final FONSI were published in September 2022.²

Since the preparation and publication of the final EA and final FONSI for the initial seven States, HPAI outbreaks have continued to occur across the United States. Within 15 months, the virus was confirmed in 325 commercial and 507 backyard flocks, affecting approximately 59 million birds in 47 States.³ As HPAI outbreaks have been stamped out, new outbreaks emerge and are likely to continue with seasonal (*i.e.*, spring and fall) bird migrations. For this reason, APHIS prepared a supplemental EA to cover VS' HPAI emergency outbreak response activities in the four North American migratory bird flyways (*i.e.*, the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways). APHIS' review and analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with VS' HPAI emergency outbreak response activities for additional outbreaks in commercial and backyard poultry operations in the four North American migratory bird flyways are documented in detail in the draft supplemental EA titled "Emergency Response for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks in the United States Migratory Bird Flyways."

The draft supplemental EA presents the purpose and need for the action, a description of the affected environment, and an analysis of potential environmental impacts of the No Action and Proposed Action (Preferred) Alternatives. The two alternatives considered in the supplemental EA meet the purpose and need for VS to carry out its goal to stamp out HPAI as quickly as possible.

Potential direct and indirect effects on the environment are evaluated under

² To view the draft EA, final EA, comments, and the FONSI, go to www.regulations.gov and enter APHIS-2022-0031 in the Search field.

³ Current HPAI outbreak data can be accessed at APHIS' website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>.

each alternative. The potential environmental impacts on the following resources are considered in the draft supplemental EA: Soil, air, and water quality; humans (including effects on health and safety; cultural and historic resources; equity and environmental justice; children's health, and Tribes); and wildlife and plant populations, especially birds of conservation concern, eagles, and threatened and endangered species. The draft supplemental EA also considers cumulative impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future related actions.

Based on the draft supplemental EA, APHIS has concluded that the Proposed Action Alternative will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and a draft FONSI is appropriate with respect to the proposed action. After the public comment period ends, we will consider all comments received, revise the draft supplemental EA to address these comments, as appropriate, and publish a final NEPA document and decision.

The draft supplemental EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969⁴ (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) in effect as of the date of this notice, (3) USDA's NEPA implementing regulations (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of August 2023.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-18185 Filed 8-23-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of Secretary

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review and Approval; Comment Request; The Environmental Questionnaire and Checklist

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information

⁴ The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Pub. L. 118-5), which became effective on June 3, 2023, amended the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft final EA and FONSI described in this notice were prepared before the effective date of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and reflect the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act before June 3, 2023.

collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on May 31, 2023, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: Office of Facilities and Environmental Quality, Commerce.

Title: The Environmental Questionnaire and Checklist.

OMB Control Number: 0690–0028.

Form Number(s): CD–593.

Type of Request: Regular submission (an extension of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Average Hours per Response: 3 hours.

Burden Hours: 3,000.

Needs and Uses: This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347) and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) require that federal agencies complete an environmental analysis for all major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. Those actions may include a federal agency's decision to fund non-federal projects under grants and cooperative agreements, including infrastructure projects. In order to determine NEPA compliance requirements for a project receiving Department of Commerce (DOC) bureau level funding, DOC must assess information which can only be provided by the applicant for federal financial assistance (grant).

The Environmental Questionnaire and Checklist (EQC) provides federal financial assistance applicants and DOC staff with a tool to ensure that the necessary project and environmental information is obtained. The EQC was developed to collect data concerning potential environmental impacts that the applicant for federal financial assistance possesses and to transmit that information to the Federal reviewer. The EQC will allow for a more rapid review of projects and facilitate DOC's evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of a project and the level of NEPA documentation required. DOC staff will use the

information provided in answers to the questionnaire to determine compliance requirements for NEPA and conduct subsequent NEPA analysis as needed. Information provided in the questionnaire may also be used for other regulatory review requirements associated with the proposed project, such as the National Historic Preservation Act.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government; Federal Government, etc.

Frequency: One-Time; annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov.

Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0690–0028.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2023–18226 Filed 8–23–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

Transportation and Related Equipment, Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The Transportation and Related Equipment Technical Advisory Committee will meet on September 6, 2023, 9:30 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC (enter through Main Entrance on 14th Street between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues). The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration with respect to technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to transportation and related equipment or technology.

Agenda

Public Session

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Status reports by working group chairs.
3. Public comments and Proposals.

Closed Session

4. Discussion of matters determined to be exempt from the open meeting and public participation requirements found in sections 1009(a)(1) and 1009(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. 1001–1014). The exemption is authorized by section 1009(d) of the FACA, which permits the closure of advisory committee meetings, or portions thereof, if the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports determines such meetings may be closed to the public in accordance with subsection (c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)). In this case, the applicable provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) are subsection 552b(c)(4), which permits closure to protect trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential, and subsection 552b(c)(9)(B), which permits closure to protect information that would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action were it to be disclosed prematurely. The closed session of the meeting will involve committee discussions and guidance regarding U.S. Government strategies and policies.

The open session will be accessible via teleconference. To join the conference, submit inquiries to Yvette Springer at Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov, no later than August 30, 2023.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to Committee members, the Committee suggests that presenters forward the public presentation materials prior to the meeting to Ms. Springer.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on April 12, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1009(d) of the FACA, that the portion of the meeting dealing with pre-decisional changes to the Commerce Control List and the U.S. export control policies shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(1)