

February 2023 Listening Sessions

The Department solicited feedback from external partners on the planning, requesting, and operating of D–SNAP in February 2023. Over three listening sessions, FNS explored ways to improve meeting the immediate needs of families following a disaster, with the aim to improve existing D–SNAP guidance. FNS held separate sessions for community partners, electronic benefit transfer (EBT) vendors, and State agencies administering SNAP. During these sessions, participants provided valuable insight into what is working well with D–SNAP and what could be improved moving forward. Overall, the feedback from participants in these listening sessions highlighted the benefits of maintaining flexibility in disaster response requirements.

Withdrawal

After reviewing feedback received through listening sessions and comments on the proposed rule, and considering program flexibility during the public health emergency, the Department has determined that the proposed rule to revise the current disaster regulations should not be finalized. In withdrawing this proposed rule, the Department reaffirms its longstanding D–SNAP operation policies and practices, authorized by § 412 of the Stafford Act and § 5(h)(1) of the FNA. The Department acknowledges that the flexibility afforded by current practices and D–SNAP guidance are critical to reducing the burden on needy households and State agencies who are responding to the aftermath of a disaster.

The Department agrees with the issues raised by many commenters and will use this feedback to inform any necessary updates to D–SNAP guidance. The Department no longer believes that finalizing this now outdated rule would allow for maximum flexibility in disaster response or sufficiently address the comments on the proposed rule. Accordingly, the proposed rule to revise D–SNAP regulations published in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 2016, (81 FR 28738) is hereby withdrawn.

Tameka Owens,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–22096 Filed 9–26–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 945

[Doc. No. AMS–SC–24–0042]

Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would implement a recommendation from the Idaho–Eastern Oregon Potato Committee (Committee) to increase the assessment rate established for the 2024–2025 fiscal period and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.002 to \$0.003 per hundredweight of potatoes handled under the marketing order. The proposed assessment rate would remain in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this proposed rule. Comments can be sent to the Docket Clerk, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237. Comments can also be submitted to the Docket Clerk electronically by Email: MarketingOrderComment@usda.gov or via the internet at: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Comments should reference the document number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. Comments submitted in response to this proposed rule will be included in the record and made available to the public and can be viewed at: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Please be advised that the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be made public on the internet at the address provided above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gregory A. Breasher, Marketing Specialist, or Barry M. Broadbent, Chief, Northwest Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA; Telephone: (503) 326–2282, or Email: gregory.breasher@usda.gov or barry.broadbent@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Richard Lower, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237,

Washington, DC 20250–0237; Telephone: (202) 720–8085, or Email: Richard.Lower@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, proposes to amend regulations issued to carry out a marketing order as defined in 7 CFR 900.2(j). This proposed rule is issued under Marketing Agreement No. 98 and Marketing Order No. 945, both as amended (7 CFR part 945), regulating the handling of potatoes grown in certain counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon. Part 945 (referred to as the “Order”) is effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674), hereinafter referred to as the “Act.” The Committee locally administers the Order and comprises producers and handlers of potatoes operating within the area of production.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is issuing this proposed rule in conformance with Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14094. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). Executive Order 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. Executive Order 14094 reaffirms, supplements, and updates Executive Order 12866 and further directs agencies to solicit and consider input from a wide range of affected and interested parties through a variety of means. This proposed action falls within a category of regulatory actions that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) exempted from Executive Order 12866 review.

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 13175—Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, which requires Federal agencies to consider whether their rulemaking actions would have Tribal implications. AMS has determined that this proposed rule is unlikely to have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes.

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988—Civil Justice Reform. Under the Order now in effect, Idaho–Eastern Oregon potato

handlers are subject to assessments. Funds to administer the Order are derived from such assessments. It is intended that the assessment rate would be applicable to all assessable Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes for the 2024–2025 fiscal period, and continue until amended, suspended, or terminated.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 8c(15)(A) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 608(c)(15)(A)), any handler subject to an order may file with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) a petition stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law and requesting a modification of the order or to be exempted therefrom. Such handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing, USDA would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which the handler is an inhabitant, or has his or her principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review USDA's ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

This proposed rule would increase the assessment rate for Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes handled under the Order from \$0.002 per hundredweight, the rate that was established for the 2017–2018 fiscal period and subsequent fiscal periods (82 FR 28550), to \$0.003 per hundredweight for the 2024–2025 fiscal period and subsequent fiscal periods.

Sections 945.41 and 945.42 of the Order authorize the Committee, with the approval of AMS, to formulate an annual budget of expenses and collect assessments from handlers to administer the program. The members of the Committee are familiar with the Committee's needs and with the costs of goods and services in their local area and are able to formulate an appropriate budget and assessment rate. The assessment rate is formulated and discussed in a public meeting, and all directly affected persons have an opportunity to participate and provide input.

For the 2017–2018 fiscal period and subsequent fiscal periods, the Committee recommended, and AMS approved, an assessment rate of \$0.002 per hundredweight of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes within the production area (82 FR 28550). That rate continues in effect from fiscal period to fiscal period until modified, suspended, or terminated by AMS upon recommendation and information

submitted by the Committee or other information available to AMS.

The Committee met on June 5, 2024, and unanimously recommended 2024–2025 fiscal period expenditures of \$99,522 and an assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight of Idaho Eastern-Oregon potatoes handled for the 2024–2025 fiscal period and subsequent fiscal periods. In comparison, the budgeted expenditures for fiscal period 2023–2024 were \$99,703. The proposed assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight is \$0.001 higher than the rate currently in effect. The Committee recommended increasing the assessment rate to better align assessment revenue with budgeted expenses and to replenish reserves which were depleted between August 2017 and June 2024. The Committee estimates shipments for the 2024–2025 season to be approximately 34,000,000 hundredweight, an increase from the 28,167,500 hundredweight handled for the 2023–2024 fiscal period.

The major expenditures recommended by the Committee for the 2024–2025 fiscal period include \$75,489 in administrative expenses; \$10,013 for operational expenses; \$4,670 for insurance/banking expenses; \$4,000 for annual audit/compliance expenses; \$2,950 for committee travel expenses and \$2,400 for IT support. For comparison, budgeted expenses for these items during the 2023–2024 fiscal period were \$74,960, \$10,013, \$4,880, \$4,500, \$2,950, and \$2,400, respectively.

The expected 34,000,000 hundredweight of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes from the 2024–2025 crop would generate \$102,000 in assessment revenue at the proposed assessment rate (34,000,000 hundredweight of potatoes multiplied by \$0.003 assessment rate). The assessment rate increase should be appropriate to ensure the Committee has sufficient revenue to fully fund its recommended 2024–2025 fiscal period budgeted expenditures and begin replenishing the Committee's reserve funds to a level that the Committee believes is appropriate.

The Committee derived the recommended assessment rate by considering anticipated fiscal period expenses, expected shipments of potatoes, and the amount of funds available in the financial reserve. Income derived from handler assessments (\$102,000) would be adequate to cover budgeted expenses (\$99,522). Funds available in the financial reserve (currently about \$80,000) would be kept within the maximum permitted by the Order (approximately one fiscal period's expenses as authorized in § 945.44).

The proposed assessment rate would continue in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated by AMS upon recommendation and information submitted by the Committee or other available information. Although this assessment rate would be in effect for an indefinite period, the Committee would continue to meet prior to or during each fiscal period to recommend a budget of expenses and consider recommendations for modification of the assessment rate. The dates and times of Committee meetings are available from the Committee or AMS. Committee meetings are open to the public and interested persons may express their views at these meetings. AMS would evaluate Committee recommendations and other available information to determine whether modification of the assessment rate is needed. Further rulemaking would be undertaken as necessary. The Committee's 2024–2025 fiscal period budget, and those for subsequent fiscal periods, will be reviewed and, as appropriate, approved by AMS.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601–612), AMS has considered the economic impact of this proposed rule on small entities. Accordingly, AMS has prepared this initial regulatory flexibility analysis.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of businesses subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be unduly or disproportionately burdened. Marketing orders issued pursuant to the Act, and the rules issued thereunder, are unique in that they are brought about through group action of essentially small entities acting on their own behalf.

There are approximately 450 producers of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes in the production area and 32 handlers subject to regulation under the Order. At the time this analysis was prepared, the Small Business Administration (SBA) defined small agricultural service firms as those having annual receipts equal to or less than \$34,000,000 (North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 115114, Postharvest Crop Activities), and small agricultural producers of potatoes as those having annual receipts equal to or less than \$4,250,000 (NAICS code 111211, Potato Farming) (13 CFR 121.201).

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the average annual producer price

received for fresh market potatoes in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon, in 2022, the most recent full year for which there is NASS data, was \$12.50 per hundredweight. Total shipments of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes for the 2021–2022 season were reported by the Committee to be 28,167,500 hundredweight. Using the average producer price from 2022, the total 2021–2022 crop value of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes could therefore be estimated to be \$352,093,750 (28,167,500 hundredweight times \$12.50 per hundredweight). Dividing the crop value by the estimated number of producers (450) yields an estimated average receipt per producer of \$782,431. This figure is well below the SBA small agricultural producer threshold of \$4,250,000 in annual receipts. Assuming a normal distribution, this provides evidence that a large majority of potato producers would likely be considered small agricultural producers according to the SBA definition.

According to AMS Market News data, the reported average free on board (FOB) price for potatoes from Idaho-Eastern Oregon over the 2021–2022 fiscal period was \$15.68 per 50-pound carton, depending upon variety, size and grade, and shipping date. Multiplying this figure by 2 (to adjust to hundredweight) yields an average FOB price of \$31.36 per hundredweight for the 2021–2022 fiscal period. Multiplying the 2021–2022 Idaho-Eastern Oregon potato production of 28,167,500 hundredweight by the estimated average price per hundredweight of \$31.36 equals \$883,332,800. Dividing this figure by 32 regulated handlers yields estimated average annual handler receipts of \$27,604,150 (\$883,332,800 divided by 32 handlers), which is below the SBA threshold for small agricultural service firms. Therefore, according to the above data and assuming a normal distribution, most of the producers, and many of the handlers, of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes may be classified as small entities.

This proposal would increase the assessment rate collected from handlers for the 2024–2025 fiscal period and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.002 to \$0.003 per hundredweight of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes. The Committee unanimously recommended 2024–2025 fiscal period expenditures of \$99,522 and an assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes handled. The proposed assessment rate of \$0.003 is \$0.001 higher than the rate currently in effect. The Committee expects the industry to handle 34,000,000

hundredweight of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes during the 2024–2025 fiscal period. Thus, the \$0.003 per hundredweight rate should provide \$102,000 in assessment income (34,000,000 hundredweight multiplied by \$0.003). The Committee expects that income generated from handler assessments should be sufficient to meet budgeted expenditures for the 2024–2025 fiscal period.

The major expenditures recommended by the Committee for the 2024–2025 fiscal period include \$75,489 in administrative expenses; \$10,013 for operational expenses; \$4,670 for insurance/banking expenses; \$4,000 for annual audit/compliance expenses; \$2,950 for committee travel expenses and \$2,400 for IT support. For comparison, budgeted expenses for these items during the 2023–2024 fiscal period were \$74,960, \$10,013, \$4,880, \$4,500, \$2,950, and \$2,400, respectively.

In recent years, the Committee has utilized reserve funds to partially fund its budgeted expenditures. The Committee recommended increasing the assessment rate to fully fund 2024–2025 fiscal period budgeted expenditures and replenish funds held in its reserve. This action would add an estimated \$2,478 to the Committee's financial reserve fund. The reserve balance would be kept at a level that the Committee believes is appropriate and which is compliant with the provisions of the Order.

Prior to arriving at this budget and assessment rate recommendation, the Committee discussed various alternatives, including maintaining the current assessment rate of \$0.002 per hundredweight and increasing the assessment rate by different amounts. However, the Committee determined that the recommended assessment rate would fully fund budgeted expenses and replenish reserves to appropriate levels. The assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight of Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes was derived by considering anticipated expenses, the projected volume of assessable Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes, the projected monetary balance held in reserve, and additional pertinent factors.

A review of NASS information indicates that the average producer price for the 2021–2022 fiscal period was \$12.50 per hundredweight of potatoes in the production area. Therefore, utilizing the proposed assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight, assessment revenue for the 2021–2022 fiscal period, as a percentage of total producer revenue, would have been approximately 0.024 percent of total producer revenue

(\$0.003 divided by \$12.50 multiplied by 100).

This proposed action would increase the assessment obligation imposed on Idaho-Eastern Oregon potato handlers. Assessments are applied uniformly on all handlers, and some of the costs may be passed on to producers. However, these costs are expected to be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the Order.

The Committee's meetings are widely publicized throughout the production area. The Idaho-Eastern Oregon potato industry and all interested persons are invited to attend the meetings and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the June 5, 2024, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue. Finally, interested persons are invited to submit comments on this proposed rule, including the regulatory and information collection impacts of this action on small businesses.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the Order's information collection requirements have been previously approved by OMB and assigned OMB No. 0581–0178, Vegetable and Specialty Crops. No changes in those requirements would be necessary as a result of this proposed rule. Should any changes become necessary, they would be submitted to OMB for approval.

This proposed rule would not impose any additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large Idaho-Eastern Oregon potato handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

AMS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies and to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.

AMS has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this proposed rule.

A small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa/small-businesses>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Richard Lower at the previously mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

After consideration of all relevant material presented, including the information and recommendations submitted by the Committee and other available information, USDA has determined that this proposed rule is consistent with and will effectuate the purposes of the Act.

A 30-day comment period is provided to allow interested persons to respond to this proposed rule. All written comments timely received will be considered before a final determination is made on this rulemaking.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 945

Marketing agreements, Potatoes, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Agricultural Marketing Service proposes to amend 7 CFR part 945 as follows:

PART 945—IRISH POTATOES GROWN IN CERTAIN DESIGNATED COUNTIES IN IDAHO, AND MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 945 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

■ 2. Revise § 945.249 to read as follows:

§ 945.249 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 2024, an assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight is established for Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes.

Erin Morris,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–22213 Filed 9–26–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

18 CFR Part 40

[Docket No. RM24–7–000]

Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standard CIP–015–1—Cyber Security—Internal Network Security Monitoring

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) proposes to approve proposed Reliability Standard CIP–015–1 (Cyber Security—Internal Network Security

Monitoring), which the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), submitted in response to a Commission directive. In addition, the Commission proposes to direct that NERC develop certain modifications to proposed Reliability Standard CIP–015–1 to extend internal network security monitoring to include electronic access control or monitoring systems and physical access control systems outside of the electronic security perimeter.

DATES: Comments are due November 26, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments, identified by docket number, may be filed in the following ways. Electronic filing through <http://www.ferc.gov>, is preferred.

- **Electronic Filing:** Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.

- For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery.

- **Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only:** Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

- **Hand (Including Courier) Delivery:** Deliver to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

The Comment Procedures Section of this document contains more detailed filing procedures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margaret Steiner (Technical Information), Office of Electric Reliability, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502 6704, Margaret.Steiner@ferc.gov
Hampden T. Macbeth (Legal Information), Office of General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502 8957, Hampden.Macbeth@ferc.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to section 215(d)(2) of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ the Commission proposes to approve proposed Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standard CIP–015–1 (Cyber Security—Internal Network Security Monitoring). The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), submitted the proposed Reliability Standard for Commission approval in response to a

Commission directive in Order No. 887.² In addition, pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the FPA,³ the Commission proposes to direct that NERC develop further modifications to Reliability Standard CIP–015–1, within 12 months of the effective date of a final rule in this proceeding, to extend Internal Network Security Monitoring (INSM)⁴ to include electronic access control or monitoring systems (EACMS)⁵ and physical access control systems (PACS)⁶ outside of the electronic security perimeter.

2. In Order No. 887, the Commission directed that NERC develop new or modified CIP Reliability Standards that require INSM for CIP-networked environments for all high impact bulk electric system (BES) Cyber Systems⁷ with and without external routable connectivity⁸ and medium impact BES Cyber Systems with external routable connectivity.⁹ Proposed Reliability Standard CIP–015–1 is partly responsive to the Commission's directives in Order No. 887 and advances the reliability of the Bulk-Power System by (1)

² *Internal Network Sec. Monitoring for High & Medium Impact Bulk Elec. Sys. Cyber Sys.*, Order No. 887, 88 FR 8354 (Feb. 9, 2023), 182 FERC ¶ 61,021 (2023).

³ 16 U.S.C. 824o(d)(5).

⁴ INSM is “a subset of network security monitoring that is applied within a ‘trust zone,’ such as an electronic security perimeter.” Order No. 887, 182 FERC ¶ 61,021 at P 2.

⁵ EACMS are “Cyber Assets that perform electronic access control or electronic access monitoring of the Electronic Security Perimeter(s) or BES Cyber Systems. This includes Intermediate Systems.” NERC, *Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards*, (July 22, 2024), https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Glossary%20of%20Terms/Glossary_of_Terms.pdf (NERC Glossary).

⁶ PACS are “Cyber Assets that control, alert, or log access to the Physical Security Perimeter(s), exclusive of locally mounted hardware or devices at the Physical Security Perimeter such as motion sensors, electronic lock control mechanisms, and badge readers.” *Id.*

⁷ NERC defines BES Cyber Systems as “One or more BES Cyber Assets logically grouped by a responsible entity to perform one or more reliability tasks for a functional entity.” *See* NERC Glossary. BES Cyber Systems are categorized as high, medium, or low impact depending on the functions of the assets housed within each system and the risk they potentially pose to the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. Reliability Standard CIP–002–5.1a (BES Cyber System Categorization) sets forth criteria that registered entities apply to categorize BES Cyber Systems as high, medium, or low impact depending on the adverse impact that loss, compromise, or misuse of those BES Cyber Systems could have on the reliable operation of the BES. The impact level (*i.e.*, high, medium, or low) of BES Cyber Systems, in turn, determines the applicability of security controls for BES Cyber Systems that are contained in the remaining CIP Reliability Standards (*i.e.*, Reliability Standards CIP–003–8 to CIP–013–1).

⁸ External routable connectivity is “[t]he ability to access a BES Cyber System from a Cyber Asset that is outside of its associated Electronic Security Perimeter via a bi-directional routable protocol connection.” NERC Glossary.

⁹ Order No. 887, 182 FERC ¶ 61,021 at P 49.

¹ 16 U.S.C. 824o(d)(2).