

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 244

Tuesday, December 21, 1999

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

Farm Service Agency

National Drought Policy Commission

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Commission meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Drought Policy Commission (Commission) will continue discussion on its draft report of the Commission findings. They will also discuss the status of Commission activities and other committee business. This notice announces three meetings being held via teleconferencing on January 5, January 19, and February 2, 2000.

DATES: The Commission will conduct three meetings via teleconferencing: (1) January 5, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; (2) January 19, 2000, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; (3) February 2, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mezzanine Conference Room, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time. Members of the public in the Washington, DC area may attend the meetings in person at the above address. All meetings are open to the public; however, teleconference lines are limited. Please call Leona Dittus at 202-720-3168 if you are interested in participating in the call and to obtain the dial-in number. Seating is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Leona Dittus, on 202-720-3168, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, and leona.dittus@usda.gov, by COB December 30, 1999.

COMMENTS: The public is invited to respond and/or to submit additional comments, concerns, and issues for consideration by the Commission.

ADDRESSES: Comments and statements should be sent to Leona Dittus,

Executive Director, National Drought Policy Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 6701-S, STOP 0501, Washington, DC 20250-0501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leona Dittus (202) 720-3168; FAX (202) 720-9688; internet leona.dittus@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Commission is to provide advice and recommendations to the President and Congress on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy, designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. Tasks for the Commission include developing recommendations that will: (a) Better integrate Federal laws and programs with ongoing State, local, and tribal programs; (b) improve public awareness of the need for drought mitigation, prevention, and response; and (c) determine whether all Federal drought preparation and response programs should be consolidated under one existing Federal agency, and, if so, identify the agency.

Below is a draft vision statement and set of principles to guide the Commission.

Draft Vision Statement

Our vision is of a well-informed, involved U.S. citizenry and its governments prepared for and capable of lessening the impacts of drought—consistently and timely—in the new millennium.

This vision is based on the following principles:

Consideration of all affected entities and related issues, including legal, economic, geographic, climate, religious, and cultural differences; fairness and equity; and environmental concerns;

Comprehensive, long-term strategies that emphasize drought planning and measures to reduce the impacts of drought;

Federal role focused on appropriate coordination, technical assistance, education, and incentives while at all times respecting the rights and responsibilities of Federal, State, and local governments, and tribal sovereignty;

Self-reliance and self-determination; Lessons learned from past drought experiences;

Shared drought-related expertise and knowledge across international borders.

In addition to your own views and thoughts regarding a national drought policy, as you review the draft vision and guiding principles, the Commission would be interested in your thoughts regarding the following questions:

1. What is the best means for informing the public of Federal assistance for drought planning and mitigation?
2. What type of information do you need for responding to the drought?
3. What needs do you or your organization presently have with respect to addressing drought conditions?
4. What do you see as the Federal role with respect to drought preparedness? Drought response? Should Federal emergency assistance be contingent on advance preparedness?
5. Are there any ways you feel that the Federal government could better coordinate with State, regional, tribal, and local governments in mitigating or responding to droughts?
6. What lessons have you or your organization learned from past drought experiences that would be beneficial in the creation of a national drought policy?

Signed at Washington, D.C., on December 16, 1999.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 99-33097 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Request for Public Comment on Information Collections Related to Pilot and Private Crop Insurance Policies

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C., chapter 35), this notice announces Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's (FCIC) public comment period on the information collection requests (ICRs) associated with new crop insurance programs (pilot and private crop insurance policies) administered by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). FCIC is soliciting comments on pilot and private crop