

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Meadow Branch Watershed; Robeson County, NC**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Meadow Branch Watershed, Robeson County, North Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary T. Kollstedt, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 205, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609, telephone (919) 873-2101.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Mary Kollstedt, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

Structural measures include 41,600 linear feet of channel excavation; 10,300 linear feet of channel clearing and snagging; 2,400 linear feet of channel maintenance/restoration; and 15 water control structures. This will reduce flood damages on 1,500 acres of cropland, for 10 limited resource farmers, and 140 homes. Water management will be provided for 611 acres of cropland.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Jacob Crandall, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources at 4405 Bland Road, Suite 205, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be

taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 7, 2000.

Mary T. Kollstedt,

State Conservationist.

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BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Housing Service****Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's (RHS) intention to request an extension for the currently approved information collection in support of our program for Complaints and Compensation for Construction Defects.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 17, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Carter, Management Analyst, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0783, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0783, Telephone (202) 720-1478.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: RD Instruction 1924-F, "Complaints and Compensation for Construction Defects."

OMB Number: 0575-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Complaints and Compensation for Construction Defects program under Section 509C of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, provides eligible persons who have structural defects with their Agency financed homes to correct these problems. Structural defects are defects in the dwelling, installation of a manufactured home, or a related facility or a deficiency in the site or site development which directly and significantly reduces the useful life, habitability, or integrity of the dwelling or unit. The defect may be due to faulty material, poor workmanship, or latent causes that existed when the dwelling or unit was constructed. The period in

which to place a claim for a defect is within 18 months after the date that financial assistance was granted. If the defect is determined to be structural and is covered by the builders/dealers-contractor's warranty, the contractor is expected to correct the defect. If the contractor cannot or will not correct the defect, the borrower may be compensated for having the defect corrected, under the Complaints and Compensation for Construction Defects program. Provision of this subpart do not apply to dwellings financed with guaranteed Section 502 loans.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average .26 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.05.

Estimated Number of Responses: 5,250.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,350 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0042.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including a variety of methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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 may be sent to Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0743. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.