wishing to participate more directly with RUS as a “consulting party” in Section 106 review may submit a written request to the RUS contact provided in this Notice.

RUS will use input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the EA. The EA will be available for review and comment for 30 days. If RUS finds, based on the EA, that the proposal will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, RUS will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Notification of the EA and FONSI will be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers with circulation in the proposal’s area. If substantive comments are received on the EA, RUS may provide an additional period (15 days) for public review following the publication of its FONSI. When appropriate to carry out the purposes of NEPA, RUS may impose, on a case-by-case basis, additional requirements associated with the preparation of an EA. If at any point in the preparation of an EA and review of comments, RUS determines that the proposal will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will be required.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposal will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant executive orders and federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations in addition to the completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in RUS’s Environmental Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR part 1794, as amended.

Dated: September 6, 2012.
Jon Mellhus,
Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA, Rural Utilities Service.
[FR Doc. 2012–23018 Filed 9–18–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
Extension of Comment Period for Notice of Inquiry Regarding Adjustment of Fees for Trademark Applications


ACTION: Notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO” or “Office”) is extending until October 22, 2012, the period for public comment regarding possible adjustments to trademark application filing fees. The USPTO is considering such adjustments so as to promote efficiency for the USPTO and customers by incentivizing complete electronic communication.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 22, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The USPTO prefers that comments be submitted via electronic mail message to TMFRNotices@uspto.gov. Written comments may also be submitted by mail to Commissioner for Trademarks, P.O. Box 1451, Alexandria, VA 22313–1451, attention Cynthia C. Lynch; by hand delivery to the Trademark Assistance Center, Concourse Level, James Madison Building-East Wing, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, attention Cynthia C. Lynch; or by electronic mail message via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. See the Federal eRulemaking Portal Web site (http://www.regulations.gov) for additional instructions on providing comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. All comments submitted directly to the Office or provided on the Federal eRulemaking Portal should include the docket number (PTO–T–2012–0029). The comments will be available for public inspection on the USPTO’s Web site at http://www.uspto.gov, and will also be available at the Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks, Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 16, 2012, the USPTO published a notice of inquiry to provide the public, including user groups, with an opportunity to comment on possible adjustments to trademark application filing fees (77 FR 49426 (August 16, 2012)). The notice invited the public to submit written comments on the possible adjustments on or before October 15, 2012. The USPTO is now extending the period for submission of public comments until October 22, 2012.

Dated: September 13, 2012.

David J. Kappos,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
[FR Doc. 2012–23135 Filed 9–18–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
[Docket No. PTO–T–2012–0031]
Extension of Comment Period for Request for Comments Regarding Amending the First Filing Deadline for Affidavits or Declarations of Use or Excusable Nonuse

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is extending until November 5, 2012, the period for public comment regarding a potential legislative change to amend the first filing deadline for Affidavits or Declarations of Use or Excusable Nonuse under Sections 8 and 71 of the Trademark Act. The change would require Congress to amend the Trademark Act, and the USPTO is interested in receiving public input on whether and why such an amendment is or is not favored.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 5, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The USPTO prefers that comments be submitted via electronic mail message to TMFRNotices@uspto.gov. Written comments may also be submitted by