

Therefore, APHIS has concluded that the subject Russet Burbank potato lines and any progeny derived from crosses with other potato varieties will be as safe to grow as potatoes that are not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340.

The effect of this determination is that Monsanto's Russet Burbank potato lines RBMT21-129 and RBMT21-350 are no longer considered regulated articles under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of the subject potato lines or their progeny. However, importation of the subject potato lines or seeds capable of propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that Monsanto's Russet Burbank potato lines RBMT21-129 and RBMT21-350 and lines developed from them are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of December 1998.

Joan M. Arnoldi,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-33435 Filed 12-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mining Specifications for Prime Farmland

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed notice; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document extends the comment period of a proposed notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 28, 1998. This notice sets forth specifications for soil handling in relation to mining activities on Prime Farmland as provided for in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). This proposed notice is located on pages 57651-57656, (Volume 63, Number 208).

DATES: Comments must be received by January 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning this proposed notice should be addressed to: Gary Nordstrom, Director, Conservation Operations Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PO Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890; Submit electronic comments to gary.nordstrom@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Nordstrom, Director, Conservation Operations Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (202) 720-1845.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 10, 1998.

Danny D. Sells,

Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 98-33458 Filed 12-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Municipal Interest Rates for the First Quarter of 1999

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the first quarter of 1999.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the first calendar quarter of 1999.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning January 1, 1999, and ending March 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Room 0227-S, Stop 1524, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1500. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-690-2268. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the first calendar quarter of 1999 for municipal rate electric loans. RUS regulations at § 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to § 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the third Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in § 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 1999 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under § 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.000 percent.

In accordance with § 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the first calendar quarter of 1999.

| Interest rate term ends in (year) | RUS rate (0.000 percent) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2019 or later | 5.000 |
| 2018 | 5.000 |
| 2017 | 4.875 |
| 2016 | 4.875 |
| 2015 | 4.875 |
| 2014 | 4.750 |
| 2013 | 4.750 |
| 2012 | 4.625 |
| 2011 | 4.500 |
| 2010 | 4.500 |
| 2009 | 4.375 |
| 2008 | 4.250 |
| 2007 | 4.250 |
| 2006 | 4.125 |
| 2005 | 4.000 |
| 2004 | 4.000 |
| 2003 | 3.875 |
| 2002 | 3.750 |
| 2001 | 3.500 |

| Interest rate term ends in (year) | RUS rate (0.000 percent) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2000 | 3.250 |
| 1999 | 3.125 |

Dated: December 10, 1998.

Christopher A. McLean,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 98-33433 Filed 12-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has established an advisory committee to assist it in developing a proposed rule on accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. This document gives notice of the dates, times, and location of the next meeting of the Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee (Committee).

DATES: The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 5 and 6, 1999, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at 1331 F Street, NW., Washington, DC, in the third floor training room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doug Wakefield, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-5434 extension 39 (Voice); (202) 272-5449 (TTY). E-mail address: wakefield@access-board.gov. This document is available in alternate formats (cassette tape, Braille, large print, or computer disk) upon request. This document is also available on the Board's Internet Site at <http://www.access-board.gov/notices/eitaacmtg.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 29, 1998, the Access Board published a notice appointing 23 members to its Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee (Committee). 63 FR

51891 (September 29, 1998). The Committee will make recommendations to the Access Board on accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The Committee is composed of Federal agencies and Federal contractors; the electronic and information technology industry; organizations representing the access needs of individuals with disabilities; and other persons affected by accessibility standards for electronic and information technology. At its first meeting on October 15 and 16, 1998, the Committee took the following actions:

Added Compaq Computers, Pitney Bowes, Sun Microsystems, and the Information Technology Industry Council to the Committee;

Formed three subcommittees. One subcommittee will examine the definitions needed for the recommended standards. Another subcommittee will examine the various functions that are performed by electronic and information technology. These functions include creating, processing, transmitting, and interacting with information and the technology involved. A third subcommittee will begin the process of classifying the variety of products covered by the standards into product families;

Created a listserv to facilitate communications between meetings. To subscribe to the listserv send an e-mail message to: listproc@trace.wisc.edu; and

Established a schedule of meeting dates. The Committee will meet again on February 8-9, 1999; March 29-30, 1999; and, May 11-12, 1999.

At its second meeting on December 1 and 2, 1998, the Committee addressed the scope of the standards it will be recommending to the Access Board. This included defining the term "electronic and information technology." A three person group was appointed to develop a recommended definition and present it to the Committee at its January meeting.

Additionally, four subcommittees were formed. These include: installation and setup, information display, control and operation, and user information. The subcommittees will examine these specific areas and identify access barriers in each area, and recommend standards that could lower or eliminate these barriers. The subcommittees will continue their work on the listserv.

The meetings are open to the public. There will be a public comment period each day for persons interested in presenting their views to the Committee. The facility is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening systems

and real-time transcription will be available.

Lawrence W. Roffee,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 98-33445 Filed 12-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-423-806]

Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from Belgium; Extension of Time Limit for Countervailing Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Extension of Time Limit for Countervailing Duty Administrative Review.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) is extending the time limit for the final results of the first administrative review of the countervailing duty order on cut-to-length carbon steel plate from Belgium. The review covers one manufacturer/exporter and the period January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 17, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Cassel or Gayle Longest, Office of CVD/AD Enforcement VI, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2786.

APPLICABLE STATUTE: Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Tariff Act of 1920, as amended (the Act) are to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Act by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to 19 CFR part 351 (1998).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Because it is not practicable to complete this review within the initial time limits established by section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the Department is extending the time limits for completion of the final results until no later than March 8, 1999. This extension is necessary due, in part, to the existence of complex, novel issues. (See Memorandum from Holly A. Kuga, dated December 9, 1998, to Robert S. LaRussa "Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from Belgium: Extension of the Deadline for the Final