

Notices

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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

Rural Utilities Service

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of application filing deadline.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces the deadline for submitting applications for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant program for fiscal year (FY) 1998 funding.

DATES: Applications for loans to be considered for FY 1998 funding must be postmarked no later than August 14, 1998, and applications for grants and combination loans and grants to be considered for FY 1998 funding must be postmarked no later than June 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Applications are to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1590, Washington, DC 20250-1590. Applications should be marked "Attention: Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken B. Chandler, Acting Assistant Administrator-Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590, Room 4056, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590. Telephone (202) 720-9554, Facsimile (202) 720-0810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For FY 1998, \$12.5 million in grants and \$150 million in loans will be made available for distance learning and telemedicine projects. Notice is hereby given that under 7 CFR 1703.108, RUS has determined the maximum amount of an application for a grant that will be considered for funding in FY 1998 as \$350,000, and the maximum amount for

a loan that will be considered for funding in FY 1998 as \$6,000,000.

Further, in accordance with 7 CFR 1703.113, RUS has determined that for FY 1998 the minimum number of points required for a loan application to be immediately processed is 94 points. Only completed loan applications meeting the minimum points requirement and determined by RUS to be feasible will be immediately processed.

Applications for financial assistance must be submitted in accordance with 7 CFR 1703, Subpart D, which establishes the policies and procedures for submitting an application for financial assistance. This document is available on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm>.

In addition, a new Application Guide to assist applicants in the preparation of applications for financing will be available shortly, at the same Internet address as above. Application guides may also be requested from RUS by contacting one of the following Area Offices:

Northeast Area, USDA-RUS, Phone: (202) 720-0715

Southeast Area, USDA-RUS, Phone: (202) 690-4673

Northwest Area, USDA-RUS, Phone: (202) 720-1025

Southwest Area, USDA-RUS, Phone: (202) 720-0800

Applications for loans to be considered for FY 1998 funding must be postmarked no later than August 14, 1998, and applications for grants and combination loans and grants to be considered for FY 1998 funding must be postmarked no later than June 1, 1998. RUS will review each application for completeness in accordance with 7 CFR 1703.109, and notify the applicant, within 15 working days of the results of this review, citing any information which is incomplete. It is suggested that applications be submitted prior to the above deadline to ensure they can be reviewed and considered complete by the deadline.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. et seq. and 950aaa et seq.; Pub. L. 103-354, 108 Stat. 3178 (7 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.).

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 98-1659 Filed 1-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Oklahoma Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Oklahoma Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 6:00 p.m. and adjourn at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 1998, at the Clarion Hotel/Comfort Inn Conference Center, 4345 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. The purpose of the meeting is to plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, January 16, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-1667 Filed 1-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

National Employers Survey (NES)—Follow-up

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental

Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Michael Hartz, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Room 2538, FB 3, EPCD, Washington, DC 20233-6100; (301-457-2633).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau conducted three National Employers Surveys (1994, 1995, and 1997) for the National Center on the Educational Quality of the Workforce, a nonprofit research group. This group's focus is discovering relationships among employment, hiring, training, education, and business success. This information collection seeks to build upon the results of the previous surveys.

This information collection seeks to gather information specifically on employers' school-to-work programs. The collection will relate these findings to similar information collected from employers in the 1997 National Employers Survey (NES-3). The purpose is to measure change, or lack of it, in the scope and prevalence of these programs. We will use the follow-up data to assess changes from the 1997 NES on three major measures: the number of businesses participating in school-to-work that offer work-based learning slots; the number of school-to-work businesses that provide remedial education; and recruitment costs of school-to-work businesses.

This new survey will be a telephone survey of approximately 1,000 establishments that participated in the NES-3.

II. Method of Collection

The Bureau of the Census will conduct the NES Follow-up survey via telephone. The information will be recorded on paper and later coded into a computer database. The interview will include about 40 questions, most of which will not require the respondent to refer to any records, and will require about 10 minutes to complete.

The survey will be conducted of approximately 1,000 establishments with more than 20 employees, chosen through a stratified, random-sampling method. Confidentiality of the survey data is guaranteed by Title 13, United States Code. After the Census Bureau performs data keying and consistency editing, the data set will be provided to

sworn Census agents representing the survey sponsor.

A high participation rate for employers is usually crucial for statistically reliable data in this type of survey. The survey sponsor has discussed the survey issues with selected respondents from the NES-3. It is the sponsor's opinion that the business establishments they contacted were quite interested in the survey issues and that most will strongly consider participating in the survey. The businesses indicated that their decision to participate in a survey was primarily based on their perception of the usefulness of the requested information and the businesses are very interested in the issues of the survey. Several respondents (employers) told the sponsor that they wanted the results of the survey. Based on these factors (and especially the employers concerns about these workplace issues), we expect a high rate of the employers from the NES-3 to participate in the Follow-up.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0787.

Form Number: NES Follow-up telephone interview.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Business establishments with 20 or more employees.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 167.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: There is no cost to the respondent other than the time required to complete the interview.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: United States Code, Title 13, sections 8 and 9.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or

included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 20, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-1748 Filed 1-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 949]

Grant of Authority for Subzone Status Sargento Foods, Inc., (Cheese Processing), Plymouth, Wisconsin

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, by an Act of Congress approved June 18, 1934, an Act "To provide for the establishment . . . of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes," as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u) (the Act), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) is authorized to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs ports of entry;

Whereas, the Board's regulations (15 CFR part 400) provide for the establishment of special-purpose subzones when existing zone facilities cannot serve the specific use involved;

Whereas, an application from Brown County, Wisconsin, grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 167, for authority to establish special-purpose subzone status for export activity at the cheese processing plant of Sargento Foods, Inc., in Plymouth, Wisconsin, was filed by the Board on June 10, 1997, and notice inviting public comment was given in the **Federal Register** (FTZ Docket 48-97, 62 FR 33830, 6-23-97); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and Board's regulations are satisfied, and that approval of the application for export processing is in the public interest;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby grants authority for subzone status for export activity at the Sargento Foods, Inc., plant in Plymouth, Wisconsin (Subzone 167C), at the location