

applications receiving first consideration for funding.

(3) *Evaluation criteria.* Agency personnel will score each application based on the evaluation criteria specified in 7 CFR 4280.117(c), 7 CFR 4280.129(c), 7 CFR 4280.178, or 7 CFR 4280.192, as applicable.

For hybrid applications, each technical report will be evaluated and scored based on its own merit. The scores for the technologies will be consolidated using a weighted average approach based on the percentage of the cost for each system to the total eligible project cost.

Example: A hybrid project contains a wind and solar photovoltaic components. The wind system will cost \$30,000 (75 percent of total eligible project cost) and the solar will cost \$10,000 (25 percent of total eligible project cost). The wind technical report was evaluated and assigned a total score of 22 points, while the solar report was evaluated and assigned a total score of 31 points. In this scenario, the final technical score would be assigned as follows: $(22 \times 75 \text{ percent}) + (31 \times 25 \text{ percent}) = 24.25$.

(4) *Applications that receive the same score.* If applications score the same and if remaining funds are insufficient to fund each such application, the Agency may distribute the remaining funds to a lower scoring application. Before this occurs, the Agency will provide the applicant of the higher scoring application the opportunity to reduce the amount of the applicant's grant request to the amount of funds available. If the applicant agrees to lower its grant request, the applicant must certify that the purposes of the project will be met and provide the remaining total funds needed to complete the project. At its discretion, the Agency may also elect to allow the remaining funds to be carried over to the next fiscal year rather than selecting a lower scoring application or distributing funds on a pro-rata basis.

VI. Administration Information

A. Notifications

(1) *Applicants.* The notification provisions of 7 CFR 4280.111 apply to this Notice.

(2) *Lenders.* The notification provisions of 7 CFR 4280.129(a) apply to this Notice.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

(1) *Exception authority.* The provisions of 7 CFR 4280.104 apply to this Notice.

(2) *Appeals.* A person may seek a review of an Agency decision or appeal to the National Appeals Division in accordance with 7 CFR 4280.105.

(3) *Conflict of interest.* The provisions of 7 CFR 4280.106 apply to this Notice.

(4) *USDA Departmental Regulations and other laws that contains other compliance requirements.* The provisions of 7 CFR 4280.107 and 7 CFR 4280.108 apply to this Notice.

VII. Agency Contacts

For assistance on this program, please contact a USDA Rural Development Energy Coordinator, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

VIII. Nondiscrimination Statement

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: January 11, 2012.

Judith A. Canales,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Stakeholder Meetings on Rural Energy for America Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) will hold meetings for stakeholders focusing on Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program implemented under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) during the first quarter of calendar year 2012. These meetings will be hosted by Rural

Development State Directors. Stakeholders must contact the appropriate Rural Development State Office in order to participate.

DATES: The stakeholder meetings will be held during the first quarter of calendar year 2012. Please contact the Rural Development State Office for your State, as identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice, for the specific date and time.

ADDRESSES: RBS intends to hold the stakeholder meetings at Rural Development's State Offices. To confirm the location of the meeting for your State, please contact the applicable USDA Rural Development Energy Coordinator for your State. These Energy Coordinators are listed below.

Rural Development Energy Coordinators

Note: Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

Alabama

Marcia Johnson, USDA Rural Development, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3453, marcia.johnson@al.usda.gov.

Alaska

Chad Stovall, USDA Rural Development, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, (907) 761-7718, chad.stovall@ak.usda.gov.

American Samoa (See Hawaii)

Arizona

Gary Mack, USDA Rural Development, 230 North First Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706, (602) 280-8717, Gary.Mack@az.usda.gov.

Arkansas

Laura Tucker, USDA Rural Development, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3280, Laura.Tucker@ar.usda.gov.

California

Philip Brown, USDA Rural Development, 430 G Street, #4169, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 792-5811, Phil.brown@ca.usda.gov.

Colorado

Janice Pond, USDA Rural Development, Denver Federal Center, Building 56, Room 2300, P.O. Box 25426, Denver, CO 80225-0426, (720) 544-2907, Janice.pond@co.usda.gov.

*Commonwealth of the Northern
Marianas Islands-CNMI (See Hawaii)*

Connecticut (see Massachusetts)

Delaware/Maryland

Bruce Weaver, USDA Rural
Development, 1221 College Park Drive,
Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904, (302) 857-
3629, Bruce.Weaver@de.usda.gov.

*Federated States of Micronesia (See
Hawaii)*

Florida/Virgin Islands

Angela Prioleau, USDA Rural
Development, 4440 NW. 25th Place,
Gainesville, FL 32606, (352) 338-3412,
angela.prioleua@fl.usda.gov.

Georgia

J. Craig Scroggs, USDA Rural
Development, 111 E. Spring St., Suite B,
Monroe, GA 30655, Phone (770) 267-
1413 ext. 113,
craig.scroggs@ga.usda.gov.

Guam (See Hawaii)

*Hawaii/Guam/Republic of Palau/
Federated States of Micronesia/Republic
of the Marshall Islands/American
Samoa/Commonwealth of the Northern
Marianas Islands-CNMI*

Tim O'Connell, USDA Rural
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311, 154 Waianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI
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Idaho

Brian Buch, USDA Rural
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Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-
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Illinois

Mary Warren, USDA Rural
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Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821, (217)
403-6218, mary.warren@il.usda.gov.

Indiana

Jerry Hay, USDA Rural Development,
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IN 46278, (812) 346-3411, Ext. 126,
Jerry.Hay@in.usda.gov.

Iowa

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909 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite C, Indianola,
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kate.sand@ia.usda.gov.

Kansas

David Kramer, USDA Rural
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Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-
4040, (785) 271-2730,
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Kentucky

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Louisiana

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Maine

Beverly Stone, USDA Rural
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Maryland (see Delaware)

*Massachusetts/Rhode Island/
Connecticut*

Charles W. Dubuc, USDA Rural
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Michigan

Rick Vanderbeek, USDA Rural
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Minnesota

Ron Oman, USDA Rural
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7796, Ron.Omann@mn.usda.gov.

Mississippi

G. Gary Jones, USDA Rural
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Missouri

Matt Moore, USDA Rural
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West, Parkade Center, Suite 235,
Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-9321,
matt.moore@mo.usda.gov.

Montana

John Guthmiller, USDA Rural
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Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771, (406)
585-2540,
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Nebraska

Debra Yocum, USDA Rural
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Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 437-5554,
Debra.Yocum@ne.usda.gov.

Nevada

Mark Williams, USDA Rural
Development, 1390 South Curry Street,
Carson City, NV 89703, (775) 887-1222,
mark.williams@nv.usda.gov.

New Hampshire (See Vermont)

New Jersey

Victoria Fekete, USDA Rural
Development, 8000 Midlantic Drive,
Suite 500N, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856)
787-7752, Victoria.Fekete@nj.usda.gov.

New Mexico

Jesse Bopp, USDA Rural
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Room 255, Albuquerque, NM 87109,
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New York

Scott Collins, USDA Rural
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NY 13403, (315) 736-3316 Ext. 127,
scott.collins@ny.usda.gov.

North Carolina

David Thigpen, USDA Rural
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260, Raleigh, NC 27609, (919) 873-2065,
David.Thigpen@nc.usda.gov.

North Dakota

Dennis Rodin, USDA Rural
Development, Federal Building, Room
208, 220 East Rosser Avenue, P.O. Box
1737, Bismarck, ND 58502-1737, (701)
530-2068, Dennis.Rodin@nd.usda.gov.

Ohio

Randy Monhemius, USDA Rural
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OH 43215-2418, (614) 255-2424,
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Oklahoma

Jody Harris, USDA Rural
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Stillwater, OK 74074-2654, (405) 742-
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Oregon

Don Hollis, USDA Rural
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105, Pendleton, OR 97801, (541) 278-
8049, Ext. 129, Don.Hollis@or.usda.gov.

Pennsylvania

Amanda Krugh, USDA Rural
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Phone: (717) 237-2289,
Amanda.Krugh@pa.usda.gov.

Puerto Rico

Luis Garcia, USDA Rural
Development, IBM Building, 654 Munoz
Rivera Avenue, Suite 601, Hato Rey, PR

00918–6106, (787) 766–5091, Ext. 251,
Luis.Garcia@pr.usda.gov.

Republic of Palau (See Hawaii)

Republic of the Marshall Islands (See Hawaii)

Rhode Island (see Massachusetts)

South Carolina

Shannon Legree, USDA Rural Development, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 253–3150, Shannon.Legree@sc.usda.gov.

South Dakota

Kenneth Lynch, USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 210, 200 4th Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352–1120, ken.lynch@sd.usda.gov.

Tennessee

Will Dodson, USDA Rural Development, 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203–1084, (615) 783–1350, will.dodson@tn.usda.gov.

Texas

Billy Curb, USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main Street, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742–9775, billy.curb@tx.usda.gov.

Utah

Roger Koon, USDA Rural Development, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake City, UT 84138, (801) 524–4301, Roger.Koon@ut.usda.gov.

Vermont/New Hampshire

Cheryl Ducharme, USDA Rural Development, 89 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828–6083, cheryl.ducharme@vt.usda.gov.

Virginia

Laurette Tucker, USDA Rural Development, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 238, Richmond, VA 23229, (434) 392–4906 Ext. 125, (804) 287–1606, Laurette.Tucker@va.usda.gov.

Virgin Islands (see Florida)

Washington

Mary Traxler, USDA Rural Development, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW., Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512, (360) 704–7762, Mary.Traxler@wa.usda.gov.

West Virginia

Lisa Sharp, USDA Rural Development, 1550 Earl Core Road, Suite 101, Morgantown, WV 26505–7500, (304) 284–4871, lisa.sharp@wv.usda.gov.

Wisconsin

Brenda Heinen, USDA Rural Development, 4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 345–7615, Ext. 139, Brenda.Heinen@wi.usda.gov.

Wyoming

Jon Crabtree, USDA Rural Development, Dick Cheney Federal Building, 100 East B Street, Room 1005, P.O. Box 11005, Casper, WY 82602, (307) 233–6719, Jon.Crabtree@wy.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Justin Hatmaker, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 3201, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–3201, Telephone: (202) 720–1599. Email: Justin.Hatmaker@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The energy programs implemented under the 2008 Farm Bill continue to be a priority of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Undersecretary of Rural Development, and the Administrator of Rural Business-Cooperative Service. Over the past three plus years, we have developed reliable, successful energy programs and are looking to continue our success as we move forward. Our energy programs are making significant beneficial impacts on both rural communities and the business owners and agricultural producers that receive assistance under these programs. Benefits of our energy programs include decreasing the energy footprint of rural communities, businesses, and farms; converting renewable resources into clean energy; and creating and saving jobs.

In recognition of current budget conditions and as we approach the time for developing the next Farm Bill, we are calling together stakeholders in order for Rural Development to provide updates on the Rural Energy for America Program; to discuss ways we can leverage Agency resources, including working with private and public partners and emphasizing guaranteed loans; and to re-iterate our commitment to helping meet the President's energy independence goals. We encourage state energy partners; businesses that have used or may be looking to use our energy programs; lenders; local, state, and federal elected officials and government offices; and grant writers to participate.

Please note that, due to space limitations, participation in each stakeholder meeting will be limited and will be based on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Therefore, we encourage

you to contact, as soon as possible, the Rural Development Energy Coordinator for your state, as identified in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice, to obtain information on participating in the meeting for your state.

Lastly, please be advised that, if you participate in one of these meetings, you are responsible for your own transportation and any other costs (e.g., food) incurred in participating in the meeting.

Dated: January 12, 2012.

Judith A. Canales,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–1020 Filed 1–19–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Northwest Region Gear Identification Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0352.

Form Number(s): NA.

Type of Request: Regular submission (revision and extension of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 946.

Average Hours per Response: 15 minutes.

Burden Hours: 3,798.

Needs and Uses: This request is for revision and extension of a current information collection.

The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on regulatory compliance. The requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to the enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil proceedings. Regulations at 50 CFR 660.219 and 660.319 specify fishing gear must be marked with the vessel's official number, federal permit or tag number, or some other specified form of identification. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked