decisionmaking process. According to our review process (see footnote 1), the second opportunity for public involvement follows one of two approaches, as described below.

If APHIS decides, based on its review of the petition and its evaluation and analysis of comments received during the 60-day public comment period on the petition, that the petition involves a GE organism that raises substantive new issues, APHIS will follow Approach 1 for public involvement. Under Approach 1, APHIS announces in the Federal Register the availability of APHIS’ preliminary regulatory determination along with its EA, preliminary finding of no significant impact (FONSI), and its plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) for a 30-day public review period. APHIS will evaluate any information received related to the petition and its supporting documents during the 30-day public review period.

If APHIS decides, based on its review of the petition and its evaluation and analysis of comments received during the 60-day public comment period on the petition, that the petition involves a GE organism that raises substantive new issues, APHIS will follow Approach 2. Under Approach 2, APHIS first solicits written comments from the public on a draft EA and PPRA for a 30-day comment period through the publication of a Federal Register notice. Then, after reviewing and evaluating the comments on the draft EA and PPRA and other information, APHIS will revise the PPRA as necessary and prepare a final EA and, based on the final EA, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision document (either a FONSI or a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement). For this petition, we are using Approach 2.

As part of our decisionmaking process regarding a GE organism’s regulatory status, APHIS prepares a PPRA to assess the plant pest risk of the article. APHIS also prepares the appropriate environmental documentation—either an EA or an environmental impact statement—in accordance with NEPA, to provide the Agency and the public with a review and analysis of any potential environmental impacts that may result if the petition request is approved.

APHIS has prepared a PPRA and has concluded that Innate™ Potato designated as Russet Burbank event W8, which has been genetically engineered for late blight resistance, low acrylamide potential, reduced black spot bruising, and lowered reducing sugars, is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk. In section 403 of the Plant Protection Act, “plant pest” is defined as any living stage of any of the following that can directly or indirectly injure, cause damage to, or cause disease in any plant or plant product: A protozoan, a nonhuman animal, a parasitic plant, a bacterium, a fungus, a virus or viroid, an infectious agent or other pathogen, or any article similar to or allied with any of the foregoing.

APHIS has also prepared a draft EA in which we present two alternatives based on our analysis of data submitted by Simplot, a review of other scientific data, field tests conducted under APHIS oversight, and comments received on the petition. APHIS is considering the following alternatives: (1) Take no action, i.e., APHIS would not change the regulatory status of Innate™ Potato designated as Russet Burbank event W8, or (2) make a determination of nonregulated status of Innate™ Potato designated as Russet Burbank event W8.

The EA was prepared in accordance with (1) NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4332 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).

In accordance with our process for soliciting public input when considering petitions for determinations of nonregulated status for GE organisms, we are publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments on our draft EA and our PPRA regarding the petition for a determination of nonregulated status from interested or affected persons for a period of 30 days from the date of this notice. Copies of the draft EA and the PPRA, as well as the previously published petition, are available as indicated under ADDRESSES and for FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT above.

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review all written comments received during the comment period and any other relevant information. After reviewing and evaluating the comments on the draft EA and the PPRA and other information, APHIS will revise the PPRA as necessary and prepare a final EA. Based on the final EA, APHIS will prepare a NEPA decision document (either a FONSI or a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement). If a FONSI is reached, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving or denying the petition. APHIS will also publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the regulatory status of the GE organism and the availability of APHIS’ final EA, PPRA, FONSI, and our regulatory determination.


Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of April 2015.

Kevin Shea,
Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
[FR Doc. 2015–10450 Filed 5–4–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census Bureau) is giving notice of a meeting of the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC). The Committee will advise the Directors of the Economics and Statistics Administration’s (ESA) two statistical agencies, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Census Bureau, and the Commissioner of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on statistical methodology and other technical matters related to the collection, tabulation, and analysis of federal economic statistics. Last minute changes to the agenda are possible, which could prevent giving advance public notice of schedule adjustments.

DATES: June 12, 2015. The meeting will begin at approximately 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at approximately 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Census Bureau Conference Center, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
James R. Spletzer, Designated Federal Official, Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Research and Methodology Directorate, Room 5K175, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233, telephone 301–763–4069, email: james.r.spletzer@census.gov. For TTY callers, please call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 and give them the above listed number you would like to call. This service is free and confidential.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the FESAC are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Committee
advises the Directors of the BEA, the Census Bureau, and the Commissioner of the Department of Labor’s BLS, on statistical methodology and other technical matters related to the collection, tabulation, and analysis of federal economic statistics. The Committee is established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Title 5, United States Code, Appendix 2).

The meeting is open to the public, and a brief period is set aside for public comments and questions. Persons with extensive questions or statements must submit them in writing at least three days before the meeting to the Designated Federal Official named above. If you plan to attend the meeting, please register by Monday, June 1, 2015. You may access the online registration form with the following link: https://www.regonline.com/fesac.june2015.meeting. Seating is available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should also be directed to the Designated Federal Official as soon as known, and preferably two weeks prior to the meeting.

Due to increased security and for access to the meeting, please call 301–763–9906 upon arrival at the Census Bureau on the day of the meeting. A photo ID must be presented in order to receive your visitor’s badge. Visitors are not allowed beyond the first floor.


John H. Thompson,
Director, Bureau of the Census.

[FR Doc. 2015–10456 Filed 5–4–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Precanvass Operation for the 2017 Commodity Flow Survey

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

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.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before July 6, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 or via the Internet at jjessup@doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to James Hinckley, Census Bureau, Room 6K057–South Building, Washington, DC 20233 or via the Internet at james.hinckley@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to conduct a Precanvass Operation in preparation for the 2017 Commodity Flow Survey to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the sample frame. The Commodity Flow Survey itself will be the subject of a later notice planned for publication in early 2016.

The Commodity Flow Survey, a component of the Economic Census, is the only comprehensive source of multimodal, system-wide data on the volume and pattern of goods movement in the United States. The Commodity Flow Survey is conducted in partnership with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Commodity Flow Survey data are used by policy makers and transportation planners in various federal, state, and local agencies for accessing the demand for transportation facilities and services, energy use, and safety risk and environmental concerns. Additionally, business owners, private researchers, and analysts use the Commodity Flow Survey data for analyzing trends in the movement of goods, mapping, spatial patterns of commodity and vehicle flows, forecasting demands for the movement of goods, and determining needs for associated infrastructure and equipment.

In conducting the Precanvass, the Census Bureau will select a sample from the sample frame. The Census Bureau will mail letters to the affected establishments, electronic data capture methodology, with occasional data capture from facsimile receipts, secured messaging attachments, and telephone call-in responses. Letter mailings and telephone follow-up will be conducted for the nonresponse cases. General information on shipping activity and value of shipments will be collected via check box style questions. Contact information will also be collected and used to improve the mailing and follow-up activities for the 2017 Commodity Flow Survey.

II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau will mail letters to (a) enterprise support establishments in the Census Bureau’s Business Register, and (b) the largest establishments in the industries listed in section I that are likely to be included in the 2017 Commodity Flow Survey. The estimated size of the Precanvass is 150,000 establishments.

The Census Bureau will primarily use electronic data capture methodology, with occasional data capture from facsimile receipts, secured messaging attachments, and telephone call-in responses. Letter mailings and telephone follow-up will be conducted for the nonresponse cases. General information on shipping activity and value of shipments will be collected via check box style questions. Contact information will also be collected and used to improve the mailing and follow-up activities for the 2017 Commodity Flow Survey.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0921. Form Number(s): CFS–0001.

Type of Review: Regular submission. Affected Public: Businesses and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 150,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 12,500.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0.


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