Total Burden Hours: 5,894.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–16702 Filed 8–7–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

August 3, 2017.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by September 7, 2017 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725—17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: Telecommunications System Construction Policies and Procedures.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0059.

Summary Of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act), 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.,* was amended in 2002 by Title IV, Rural Broadband Access, by Farm Security and rural Investment Act, which authorizes Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to provide loans and loan guarantees to fund the cost of construction, improvement, or acquisition for facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities in the States and territories of the United States. Title VI of the RE Act requires that loans are granted only to borrowers who demonstrated that they will be able to repay in full within the time agreed. RUS has established certain standards and specification for materials, equipment and construction to assure that standards are maintained; loans are not adversely affected, and loans are used for intended purposes.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS has developed specific forms for borrowers to use when entering into contracts for goods or services. The information collected is used to implement certain provisions of loan documents about the borrower's purchase of materials and equipment and the construction of its broadband system and is provided on and as needed basis or when the individual borrower undertakes certain projects. The standardization of the forms has resulted in substantial savings to borrowers by reducing preparation of the documentation and the costly review by the government.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 110.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 8,807.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–16641 Filed 8–7–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2016–0092]

Concurrence With OIE Risk Designations for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to concur with the World Organization for Animal Health's (OIE) bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk designations for seven regions. The OIE recognizes these regions as being of negligible risk for BSE. We are taking this action based on our review of information supporting the OIE's risk designations for these regions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Roberta Morales, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Regionalization Evaluation Services, National Import Export Services, VS, APHIS, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 855–7735.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 92 subpart B, ''Importation of Animals and Animal Products; Procedures for Requesting BSE Risk Status Classification With Regard to Bovines'' (referred to below as the regulations), set forth the process by which the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) classifies regions for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk. Section 92.5 of the regulations provides that all countries of the world are considered by APHIS to be in one of three BSE risk categories: Negligible risk, controlled risk, or undetermined risk. These risk categories are defined in § 92.1. Any region that is not classified by APHIS as presenting either negligible risk or controlled risk for BSE is considered to present an undetermined risk. The list of those regions classified by APHIS as having either negligible risk or controlled risk can be accessed on the APHIS Web site at *https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/ct_animal_disease_status.* The list can also be obtained by writing to APHIS at National Import Export Services, 4700 River Road, Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Under the regulations, APHIS may classify a region for BSE in one of two ways. One way is for countries that have

not received a risk classification from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to request classification by APHIS. The other way is for APHIS to concur with the classification given to a country by the OIE.

If the OIE has recognized a country as either BSE negligible risk or BSE controlled risk, APHIS will seek information to support our concurrence with the OIE classification. This information may be publicly available information, or APHIS may request that countries supply the same information given to the OIE. APHIS will announce in the **Federal Register**, subject to public comment, its intent to concur with an OIE classification.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice [1] in the **Federal Register** on January 23, 2017 (82 FR 7786, Docket No. APHIS–2016–0092), in which we announced our intent to concur with the OIE risk designations for seven regions. The OIE recognizes these regions as being of negligible risk for BSE. We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on March 24, 2017. We received one comment by that date, from a private citizen.

The commenter expressed concern that there is no process for verifying whether ruminant-to-ruminant feed bans are effectively enforced.

As part of its risk assessment process, the OIE considers the likelihood that the BSE agent either could be introduced into or spread within a country through contaminated commodities, including animal feed and feed ingredients. They consider both the production of processed animal proteins from domestic livestock, and the use of imported processed animal proteins, animal feed, and feed ingredients when assessing that risk. APHIS reviews similar information before concurring with the OIE designation.

Once recognized as either negligible or controlled risk for BSE by the OIE, a country must submit data on surveillance results and feed controls for the previous 12 months annually to maintain that status. If a country fails to provide that data in a timely manner, or the data shows changes that increase the risk of BSE introduction or spread, the country's risk designation may be changed. In the event that a country's risk status is demoted by the OIE, APHIS would also change its risk designation for the country.

Within the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the Federal agency responsible for regulating animal feed. The FDA has established regulations in 21 CFR part 589 that prohibit mammalian protein in ruminant feed (which includes a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban) and the use of tissues that have the highest risk for carrying the BSE agent in all animal feed. These high risk cattle materials, known as specified risk materials (SRM), include the brains and spinal cords from cattle 30 months of age and older.

To assess and monitor for compliance with the feed ban, the FDA established the ruminant feed ban inspection program and guidance to assist both the FDA and State investigators. Feed mill and rendering plant inspections conducted since 1998 indicate a very high level of compliance with the feed ban. Summaries of inspections can be viewed on the FDA Web site at *https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/ComplianceEnforcement/BovineSpongiformEncephalopathy/ucm114507.htm.* The FDA also established a feed testing program in 2001. The FDA's highest priority for sample selection is given to finished products intended for ruminants, and feed ingredients that may reasonably be expected to be later used in ruminant feed.

The commenter also expressed concern that products from cattle slaughtered at 36 months of age pose a health risk to consumers.

The commenter is correct that certain bovine products and live cattle from specific countries with a higher risk of BSE release may carry BSE infectivity and therefore present a health risk to consumers if no measures are taken to mitigate that risk. For this reason, the OIE also describes specific requirements for certain commodities originating from regions of controlled and undetermined risk.

APHIS regulations require implementation of and compliance with very similar requirements for both live bovines and bovine commodities in a region before we concur with the OIE's BSE risk designation. These requirements mitigate the risk of exposure to a negligible level. Therefore, countries with either controlled or undetermined risk statuses must demonstrate that they have the authority to conduct oversight of the compliance with such requirements.

Therefore, in accordance with the regulations in § 92.5, we are announcing our decision to concur with the OIE risk classifications of the following countries:

- Regions of negligible risk for BSE: Costa Rica, Germany, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Romania, and Spain.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622 and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of August 2017.

Michael C. Gregoire,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–16674 Filed 8–7–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

[1] To view the notice and the comment we received, go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0092.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2016–0035]

Notice of Availability of Treatment Evaluation Document for Aircraft Treatments for Certain Hitchhiking Pests

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have determined that it is necessary to immediately add to the Plant Protection and Quarantine Treatment Manual two new chemical treatments for targeting regulated pests in the cargo holds of aircraft. We have prepared a treatment evaluation document that describes the new treatment schedules and explains why we have determined that they are effective at neutralizing certain target pests. We are making the treatment evaluation document available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before October 10, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0035.*
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2016–0035, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0035* or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence