

iii. Death or permanent disability of a Member who is an individual or the dissolution of a Member other than an individual; and

iv. The bankruptcy of a Member as provided in CAEA's Operating Agreement.

4. CAEA and its Members may meet to engage in the activities described in paragraphs 1 through 3 above.

Definitions

1. "Export Intermediary" means a person (including a Member) who acts as a distributor, sales representative, sales or marketing agent, or broker, or who performs similar functions, including providing, or arranging for the provision of, Export Trade Facilitation Services.

2. "Handler" means a person who handles almonds grown in California as defined in 7 CFR Section 981.13, under the Order Regulating Handling of Almonds Grown in California.

3. "Member," within the meaning of section 325.2(1) of the Regulations, means the members of CAEA as set out in Attachment A and incorporated by reference.

Terms and Conditions of Certificate

1. Except as provided in paragraph 2(b) and (e) of the Export Trade Activities and Methods of Operation above, CAEA and its Members shall not intentionally disclose, directly or indirectly, to any Handler (including Members) any information about its or any other Handler's costs, production, capacity, inventories, domestic prices, domestic sales, domestic orders, terms of domestic marketing or sale, or U.S. business plans, strategies or methods, unless: (1) Such information is already generally available to the trade or public; (2) such disclosure is a necessary term or condition of an actual or potential bona fide sale or purchase of Products and the disclosure is limited to that prospective purchaser or seller; or (3) such disclosure is made in connection with the administration of the United States Department of Agriculture marketing order for almonds grown in California.

2. Each Member shall determine independently of other Members the quantity of Products the Member will make available for export or sell through CAEA. CAEA may not solicit from any Member specific quantities for export or require any Member to export any minimum quantity of Products.

3. Meetings at which CAEA allocates export sales among Members and establishes export prices shall not be open to the public.

4. Participation by a Member in any Export Trade Activity or Method of Operation under this Certificate shall be entirely voluntary as to that Member, subject to the honoring of contractual commitments for sales of Products in specific export transactions. A Member may withdraw from coverage under this Certificate at any time by giving a written notice to CAEA, a copy of which CAEA shall promptly transmit to the Secretary of Commerce and the Attorney General.

5. Any agreements, discussions, or exchanges of information under this Certificate relating to quantities of Products available for Export Markets, Product specifications or standards, export prices, Product quality or other terms and conditions of export sales (other than export financing) shall be in connection only with actual or potential bona fide export transactions or opportunities and shall include only those Members participating or having a genuine interest in participating in such transactions or opportunities, provided that CAEA and/or the Members may discuss standardization of Products for purposes of making bona fide recommendations to foreign governmental or private standard-setting organizations.

6. CAEA and its Members will comply with requests made by the Secretary of Commerce, on behalf of the Secretary or the Attorney General, for information or documents relevant to conduct under the Certificate. The Secretary of Commerce will request such information or documents when either the Attorney General or the Secretary believes that the information or documents are required to determine that the Export Trade, Export Trade Activities and Methods of Operation of a person protected by this Certificate of Review continue to comply with the standards of section 303(a) of the Act.

Protection Provided by Certificate

The Certificate protects CAEA, its Members, and their directors, officers, and employees acting on their behalf, from private treble damage actions and government criminal and civil suits under U.S. federal and state antitrust laws for the export conduct specified in this Certificate and carried out during its effective period in compliance with its terms and conditions.

A copy of this Certificate will be kept in the International Trade Administration's Freedom of Information Records Inspection Facility Room 4102, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Dated: December 27, 1999.

Morton Schnabel,

Director, Office of Export Trading, Company Affairs.

Attachment A

Members (Within the meaning of Section 325.2(1) of the Regulations)

A & P Growers Cooperative, Inc., Tulare, CA
Almonds California Pride, Inc., Caruthers, CA

Baldwin-Minkler Farms, Orland, CA
Blue Diamond Growers, Sacramento, CA
Calcot, Ltd., Bakersfield, CA
California Independent Almond Growers, Ballico, CA

Campos Brothers, Caruthers, CA
Chico Nut Company, Chico, CA
Del Rio Nut Company, Livingston, CA
Dole Nut Company, Bakersfield, CA
Fair Trade Corner, Inc., Chico, CA
Gold Hills Nut Co., Inc., Ballico, CA
Golden West Nuts, Inc., Ripon, CA
Harris Woolf California Almonds, Huron, CA
Hilltop Ranch, Ballico, CA
Hughson Nut Company, Hughson, CA
Kindle Nut Company, Denair, CA
Paramount Farms, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
P-R Farms, Inc., Clovis, CA
Santa Fe Nut Company, Ballico, CA
South Valley Farms, Wasco, CA
Western Nut Company, Chico, CA

[FR Doc. 00-262 Filed 1-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[I.D. 101599J]

Reopening of Public Comment Period for Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Simpson Timber Company, Northwest Operations, Habitat Conservation Plan, Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington

AGENCIES: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce; Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of reopened public comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS and FWS (the Services) are reopening the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and application for an Incidental Take Permit (Permit) for the Simpson Timber Company, Northwest Operations, Habitat Conservation Plan, Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor Counties,

Washington (Simpson). The Permit application includes: (1) the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan; and (2) the proposed Implementing Agreement. Direct mailings have been sent to affected State and local agencies, Federal agencies, Tribes, Federal and State legislators, public interest groups, and other interest parties, informing them of the reopening.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, DEIS, Plan, and Implementing Agreement must be received from interested parties no later than January 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Requests for documents on CD ROM should be made by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (360)534-9330. Hardbound copies are also available for viewing, or partial or complete duplication, at the following libraries:

Olympia Timberland Library, Reference Desk, 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA, (360)352-0595;

William G. Reed Library, Reference Desk, 710 West Alder Street, Shelton, WA, (360)426-1362;

Hoodport Timberland Library, 40 North Schoolhouse Hill Road, Hoodport, WA, (360)877-9339;

Elma Timberland Library, Information Desk, 118 North 1st Street, Elma, WA, (360)482-3737;

W.H. Abel Public Library, Information Desk, 125 Main Street South, Montesano, WA, (360)249-4211; and,

Aberdeen Timberland Library, Reference Desk, 121 East Market Street, Aberdeen, WA, (360)533-2360.

The documents are also available electronically on the World Wide Web at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/>.

Comments and requests for information should be directed to Linda Saunders, Project Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington, 98503-1273, (telephone: 360/753-5826; facsimile: 360/534-9331), and Mike Parton, Project Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE., Suite 103, Lacey, Washington, 98503-1273 (telephone: 360/753-4650; facsimile: 360/753-9517). Comments and materials received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (360) 534-9330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 29, 1999 (64 FR 57630), the Services published a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the receipt of an application from Simpson for a Permit, and opening a comment period for the project. That document stated that comments would be accepted

through December 27, 1999. The Services are reopening the comment period in order to provide additional review and comment time, recognizing that the traditional holiday season during the latter part of December may have affected interested parties' ability to perform a thorough and comprehensive review of the documents.

Dated: December 28, 1999.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

Dated: December 30, 1999.

Craig Johnson,

Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-263 Filed 1-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F, 4310-55-F

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice Inviting Financial Assistance Applications

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Lab (NETL).

ACTION: Notice Inviting Financial Assistance Applications.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for the program entitled "Development and Demonstration of Black Liquor/Biomass Gasification in the Forest Products Industry." Through this solicitation, NETL seeks to support applications to improve the processing of Black Liquor and Biomass from the forest industry using Gasification Systems. Applications will be subjected to a review by a DOE technical panel, and awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on a scientific and engineering evaluation of the responses received to determine the relative merit of the approach taken in response to this offering by the DOE, and funding availability.

FOR FURTHER SOLICITATION INFORMATION CONTACT: William Mundorf, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Acquisition and Assistance Division, PO Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 386-4483, FAX: (412) 386-6137, E-mail:

mundorf@NETL.doe.gov. The solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) will be released on DOE's NETL World Wide Web Server Internet

System (<http://www.NETL.doe.gov/business/solicit>) on or about January 3, 2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Solicitation: "Development and Demonstration of Black Liquor/Biomass Gasification in the Forest Products Industry."

Objectives: Through Program Solicitation No. DE-PS26-00FT40772, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) seeks applications for cost-shared demonstration of technologies which will enhance economic competitiveness, improve energy efficiency, and reduce environmental impacts while providing quality products within the forest products industry. The focus of the research will address research priorities identified by the forest products industry in the Agenda 2020 The Path Forward: An Implementation Plan.

Approximately \$14,000,000 fiscal year 2000 (FY 2000) federal funds are expected to be available to support the first year of a multi-year effort. DOE is looking for a path forward to demonstrate cost-effective, energy efficient, gasification technologies for integrated gasification combined cycle or gasification/cogeneration applications. Competitive development of combined cycle, gasification technologies (for both black liquor and biomass feedstocks) are well underway. However, large-scale pilot plant or demonstrations are needed to promote widespread adoption of advanced gasification technologies in the Forest Products industry. DOE anticipates awarding multiple cooperative agreements. Projects will be limited to eight years or less, but it is expected that successful demonstrations will be achieved in as early as three years. Proposals for projects which will both develop and demonstrate existing technologies will require a minimum 50% cost share of the total estimated project cost.

Eligibility: Eligibility for participation in this Program Solicitation is considered to be full and open. All interested parties may apply. The solicitation will contain a complete description of the technical evaluation factors and relative importance of each factor.

Program Technology Definition: The Department is interested in obtaining applications to improve the processing of Black Liquor and Biomass from forest products using gasification systems:

(A) Black Liquor Gasification Systems: Kraft black liquor and semi-chem caustic-carbonate liquor are mixtures of dissolved organic components resulting from the