

Total Burden Hours: 104.

Charlene Parker,

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Marketing Service

[AMS-TM-08-0086; TM-08-10]

Notice of 2008 National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Services, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funds availability.

SUMMARY: This Notice invites all States of the United States of America, its territories, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, (collectively hereinafter called States) to submit an Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424), and to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for the allocation of National Organic Certification Cost-Share Funds. The AMS has allocated \$22.0 million for this organic certification cost-share program commencing in Fiscal Year 2008. Funds are available under this program to interested States to assist organic producers and handlers certified under the National Organic Program (NOP), as appropriate. States interested in obtaining cost-share funds must submit an Application for Federal Assistance and enter into a cooperative agreement with AMS for allocation of funds.

DATES: Completed applications for federal assistance along with signed cooperative agreements must be received by September 29, 2008, in order to participate in the program.

ADDRESSES: Applications for federal assistance and cooperative agreements shall be requested from and submitted to: Robert Pooler, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TMP/NOP, Room 4008-South, Ag Stop 0268, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0268; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202) 205-7808. Additional information may be found through the National Organic Program's homepage at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Pooler, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TM/NOP, Room 4008-South, Ag Stop 0268, 1400

Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0268; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202) 205-7808.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 6523, as amended by section 10301 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Act). The Act authorizes the Department to provide certification cost share assistance to producers and handlers of organic agricultural products in all States. The AMS has allocated \$22 million for this program. The Program provides financial assistance to organic producers and handlers certified to the NOP. The NOP is authorized under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*).

To participate in the program, interested States must complete an Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424) and enter into a written cooperative agreement with AMS. The program will provide cost-share assistance, through participating States, to organic producers and handlers receiving certification or continuation of certification by a USDA-accredited certifying agent commencing October 1, 2008. Under the Act payments are limited to 75 percent of an individual producer's or handler's certification costs up to a maximum of \$750.00 per year.

However, for producers in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming cost share funding is available to these states under the Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program authorized under Section 1524 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1501-1524). As provided in a notice of Funds Availability published in the **Federal Register** on August 28, 2008, at 73 FR 50756, completed applications for this federal assistance program, along with signed cooperative agreements must be received by close of business, September 15, 2008. Information on this program can be found on the NOP's homepage at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6523.

Dated: September 16, 2008.

Lloyd C. Day,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. E8-22047 Filed 9-19-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC (Midcontinent); Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Docket Nos. CP08-6-000, PF07-4-000 FERC EIS 0220F; May 2008

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR Part 650), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture has decided to subordinate its rights, acquired under the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), to allow the Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC (Midcontinent), to cross NRCS held conservations easements associated with the Midcontinent Project in Madison Parish, LA and Fannin County, Texas.

On October 9, 2007, Midcontinent Express Pipeline LLC (Midcontinent) filed an application under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to construct and operate a pipeline and facilities to be known as the Midcontinent Express Pipeline.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has prepared a final environmental impact statement (EIS) to fulfill requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this document was to make public the analysis of the environmental impacts that would likely result from the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The NRCS participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS.

The project will affect approximately 5 NRCS held Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements by creating a 50 ft. permanent right of way (within a 100 ft. construction right of way) that extends for approximately 506 miles of which 1.41 miles is over lands encumbered under WRP easements located in Madison Parish, Louisiana and Fannin, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin D. Norton, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302; telephone (318) 473-7751.

A limited number of copies of the Record of Decisions (ROD) are available