

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 354

[Docket No. APHIS-2009-0048]

RIN 0579-AC99

User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are informing the public of an upcoming meeting to address affected stakeholders' questions and concerns regarding the agricultural quarantine and inspection user fee increases scheduled to go into effect on November 1, 2009. The meeting is being organized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held on October 27, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William E. Thomas, Director, Quarantine Policy, Analysis, and Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 131, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-5214.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In an interim rule¹ published in the **Federal Register** on September 28, 2009 (74 FR 49311-49315, Docket No. APHIS-2009-0048), we amended the user fee regulations in 7 CFR part 354 by adjusting the fees charged for certain agricultural quarantine and inspection (AQI) services that are provided in connection with certain commercial vessels, commercial trucks, commercial

railroad cars, commercial aircraft, and international airline passengers arriving at ports in the customs territory of the United States. In the interim rule, we explained that the recent downturn in the U.S. economy has negatively impacted travel volumes, and, as a result, our user fee collections, which fund these services, have diminished. Although the volume of international travel and trade has decreased, inspection and related support services continue to be provided at their existing levels, so expenses have not decreased. As a result, our user fee collections have not been sufficient to enable us to provide those services and maintain a reasonable reserve balance. We therefore found it necessary to increase our AQI user fees in order to provide adequate funds for these purposes.

The interim rule was scheduled to become effective on October 1, 2009. However, we subsequently published a document in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 2009 (74 FR 50915, Docket No. APHIS-2009-0048), in which we delayed the effective date of the user fee increases until November 1, 2009. This delay was intended to provide entities affected by the changes in AQI user fees additional time to make the necessary preparations to comply with the new fees. In conjunction with the delay, we held a public meeting on October 15, 2009, in Riverdale, MD. Transcripts of that meeting are available for viewing on the Regulations.gov Web site.²

APHIS will continue to accept public comments on the interim rule until November 27, 2009. In order to gather additional feedback and to address questions and concerns that stakeholders potentially affected by the AQI user fee increases may have, we plan to hold a second public meeting. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, in the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The public meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 1 p.m. Additional information regarding the meeting may be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Security Procedures

Upon entering the building, visitors should inform security personnel that they are attending the AQI user fee

public meeting. State-issued photo identification is required and all bags will be screened. Security personnel will direct visitors to the registration tables located outside of the conference center on the first floor. Registration upon arrival is required for all participants.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of October 2009.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E9-25548 Filed 10-22-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

12 CFR Part 918

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

12 CFR Part 1261

RIN 2590-AA31

Federal Home Loan Bank Directors' Compensation and Expenses

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Agency.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would implement section 1202 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA), which amended section 7(i) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) by repealing the statutory caps on the annual compensation that can be paid to Federal Home Loan Bank (Bank) directors. The proposed rule would allow each Bank to pay its directors reasonable compensation and expenses, subject to the authority of the Director (Director) of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to object to, and to prohibit prospectively, compensation and/or expenses that the Director determines are not reasonable.

DATES: FHFA will accept written comments on this proposed rule on or before December 7, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit your comments on the proposed rule identified by regulatory information number (RIN) 2590-AA31 by any one of the following methods:

- U.S. Mail, *United Parcel Post, Federal Express, or Other Mail Service:* The mailing address for comments is:

¹ To view and comment upon the interim rule and its supporting documents, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0048>.

² See footnote 1.