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determined that the impact on the human environment is not significantly different from the impact discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement filed for the initial announcement of the 1977 program, and therefore, no additional statement is necessary.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on December 31, 1979.

Dale E. Hathaway,
Secretary.

(FR Doc. 80-346 Filed 1-7-80; 8:45 am)
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Farmers Home Administration

Business and Industrial Loans; Insured Loan Interest Rates

AGENCY: Farmers Home Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given by the Farmers Home Administration that the current rate of interest for insured business and industrial loans, established pursuant to 7 CFR § 1980.423(b) is as follows:

a. Insured loans to private entrepreneurs will be at the rate of twelve and one-half percent (12½%). This rate will remain in effect until a change is published in the Federal Register.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 8, 1980.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. LaVerne A. Isenberg, Room 6338, Farmers Home Administration, USDA, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-447-2852.

Dated: December 28, 1979.

James E. Thornton,
Associate Administrator, Farmers Home Administration.

(FR Doc. 80-418 Filed 1-7-80; 8:45 am)
BILLING CODE 3410-07-M

Forest Service

Forest Service Policy on Pesticide Use and Criteria for Use of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D.

AGENCY: Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice invites written comments on Forest Service policy on pesticide use and on criteria for use of 2,4,5-T or other pesticides containing TCDD,¹ and 2,4-D. Comments received

¹ On March 1, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suspended certain uses of 2,4,5-T and silvex. 2,4,5-T products registered for forestry, rights-of-way, and pastures were suspended. Silvex

will be considered for future amendments to the Forest Service Manual (FSM).

DATE: Persons who wish to file written comments should submit their comments on or before March 10, 1980.

ADDRESS: Written comments should be addressed to: Chief, Forest Service, Room 1205-B RPE, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James L. Stewart, Director, Forest Insect and Disease Management, Room 1205-B RPE, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013 (703-235-1580).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service recently revised a major section of the Forest Service Manual on pesticide use management. This revision includes the policy on pesticide use and specific criteria for the use of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D. The policy and criteria are set forth below:

1. Recommend and use pesticides only after the consideration of alternatives based on competent analyses of effectiveness, specificity, environmental impacts, and benefit-cost—clearly demonstrates that their use is essential to meet management goals. The full range of alternatives—including cultural, mechanical, manual, prescribed fire, biological, chemical, and regulatory methods—must be considered. High priority should be given to the utilization of employment opportunity programs and other opportunities to create jobs.

2. Use only pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in full accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, except as otherwise provided in regulations, orders, or permits issued by EPA. All such exceptions will be closely reviewed.

3. Follow the requirements of Title I of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190) as required in FSM 1950.

4. Coordinate fully with Federal and State wildlife management agencies (FSM 1950) in order to determine that proposed pesticide uses will not adversely affect endangered or threatened animal or plant species, or their critical habitats.

5. Refrain from pesticide use in designated Wilderness area (FSM 2320) except when necessary to prevent the loss of significant aspects of the designated Wilderness Area or to prevent significant losses to resource values on public or private lands

products registered for forestry, rights-of-way, pastures, home and recreation areas, and aquatic uses were suspended (44 FR 15874, March 15, 1979). Forest Service will conform to these suspensions.

bordering the Wilderness Area. The use of pesticides for insect and disease control on National Forest System lands within designated Wilderness Areas must be approved by the Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (FSM 2320).

6. Ensure safety in pesticide use (FSM 2156). Spills, accidents, misapplications, and any other forms of contamination are to be avoided.

7. Ensure quality control through monitoring of the adequacy of application procedures and accomplishments of objectives (FSM 2155.3 and 2155.4).

8. Post areas treated with pesticides with appropriate signs indicating the name of the material used and date of application to insure that potential forest users are informed of possible exposure to pesticides (FSM 2155.21). Project officers will also notify persons within treatment areas whenever aerial applications of pesticides are to be made.

9. Transport, store, and dispose of pesticides and pesticide containers in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations in a manner which will safeguard public health, wildlife and fish, prevent damage to plants, and prevent soil and water contamination (FSM 2157).

10. Provide supervisory personnel with authority to suspend pesticide operations, whenever necessary, for all projects on National Forest System lands.

11. Review and approve all permittees, licensee, and grantee pesticide-use proposals and plans to insure that all uses of pesticides on National Forest System lands conform to this policy.

12. Evaluate sensitive areas during pesticide operations in order to detect unanticipated nontarget effects (FSM 2155.4).

13. Make comparisons of ground and aerial applications—including costs, safety, effectiveness, and possible consequences of drift to adjacent lands or water—whenever pesticides are to be used. Aerial application methods shall be used only when advantages over ground methods are significant. Aerial applications should be made with materials and methods which will minimize drift and ensure accurate placement.

14. Give special attention to all restricted-use pesticide handling and use precautions. Restricted-use pesticides shall be used only by personnel who are certified or who are under the direct supervision of a certified applicator (FSM 2154).

15. Support research to develop and evaluate the effectiveness and

environmental safety of new and improved pesticide formulations and application methods—and to effectively transfer this technology to minimize costs and adverse environmental and health impacts.

Criteria for Use of 2,4,5-T, or Other Pesticides Containing TCDD, and 2,4-D Must be Supported by:

1. An indication that the proposal has been approved by the approving officer.

2. A site specific final environmental impact statement (FEIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

a. An explanation of the consequences in terms of resource impact that would result if no action was taken.

b. An explanation of why these herbicides are the only alternatives which will accomplish the management objectives. If cost is reason for selecting the herbicide the analysis must include a comparative basis or localized cost of:

(1) Manual. This should include information on the local labor supply and efforts to use manual labor.

(2) Mechanical.

(3) Fire.

(4) Other chemical.

3. Assurance that the proposed use is in accordance with all label instructions and restrictions, including any dairy or meat animal grazing restrictions.

4. An application and safety plan, if not in FEIS or EA.

a. A map (minimum scale 1") which shows area to be treated, loading and mixing area, and flight routes if an aerial application. The map should plainly show private lands, places of permanent human habitation, and domestic water sources. A vicinity map must also be included.

b. An indication of airline distance from each treatment unit to nearest permanent human habitation within 1 mile of any part of any areas to be treated.

c. Assurance that flight routes will not be over places of permanent human habitation.

d. Assurance that notification and posting plans are in compliance with FSM 2150.

e. An indication of level of recreational use.

f. Assurance that application contractor is certified under appropriate laws as required.

5. Assurance that the following untreated buffer requirements will be adhered to:

a. Applications will not be made directly into water except when using formulations specifically registered for ditchbank or aquatic weed control. Roadsides will not be sprayed when water is running in adjacent ditches.

b. All untreated buffer requirements are minimums. The application project manager has full authority to require larger widths if topography, vegetation, or other relevant factors indicate it is necessary to do so.

c. Aerial applications.

(1) Water: A minimum 200-foot (horizontal distance) untreated buffer strip will be left around all domestic water supplies; all lakes, ponds, and other similar bodies of water that support a fishery; that have significant recreation use, or are important water supply sources; and along both sides of all streams that support a fishery in the area of application, have a channel width of more than 5 feet, and are live (flowing water) at time of treatment when 2,4,5-T or other herbicides containing TCDD are used. A minimum of 50 foot untreated buffer strip will be left around these areas when 2,4-D is used.

(2) Human habitation: No applications of 2,4,5-T or other herbicides containing TCDD will be made within 1 mile of permanent human habitations occupied at the time of applications, unless written permission to do so is obtained from the inhabitant(s). No application of 2,4-D will be made within ¼ mile of permanent human habitations.

(3) Non-National Forest land: No applications will be made within 100 feet of land in other ownerships unless written permission to do so is obtained from the landowner or manager.

(4) Public roads: Roads and adjacent camping sites will be closed during the application phase when practical; when closure is impractical a minimum buffer of 100 feet will be left untreated on each side of all roads and campsites used by the public.

d. Ground broadcast (vehicle or mistblower) applications.

(1) Water: A minimum 50 foot (horizontal distance) untreated buffer strip will be left around all domestic water supplies; all lakes, ponds, and other similar bodies of water that support a fishery; that have significant recreation use, or are important water supply sources; and along both sides of all streams that support a fishery in the area of application, have a channel width of more than 5 feet, and are live (flowing water) at time of treatment.

(2) Human habitation: No applications of 2,4,5-T or other herbicides containing TCDD will be made within 1 mile of permanent human habitations occupied at the time of application unless written permission to do so is obtained from the inhabitant(s).

(3) Non-National Forest Land: No applications will be made within 100 feet of land in other ownerships unless

written permission to do so is obtained from the landowner or manager.

(4) Public roads: No untreated buffer strip required.

e. Individual tree or cut stump applications: No untreated buffer strips required.

The following definitions may be useful in clarifying these criteria:

(1) "Adjacent"—Contiguous.

(2) "Approving Officer"—The Forest official responsible for the proposed treatment.

(3) "Buffer Strip"—A protective area adjacent to an area requiring special attention or protection.

(4) "2,4-D"—2,4, dichlorophenoxy acetic acid.

(5) "Domestic Water Supply"—A protective area adjacent to an area requiring special attention or protection.

(6) "Domestic water supply"—A source from which water is routinely used for human consumption and/or other household purposes.

(7) "Fishery"—Waters important as fish habitat, including spawning, and rearing areas and migration routes. Also includes waters that provide angling opportunities.

(8) "Flight Routes"—Airways to be followed by pesticide-carrying application craft.

(9) "Live Streams"—Water channels with currently flowing water.

(10) "Permanent Human Habitation"—Residences that are permanently established with foundations, water, and sanitary systems for the purpose of long-term seasonal or year-round occupancy by humans. This does not include vehicles, camper units, trailers, tents, or other such temporary forms of living accommodations.

(11) "Public Roads"—County, State, or Federal roadways or highways.

(12) "Recreational Use"—Hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, berry picking, and related public use activities.

(13) "Road Closure"—Posting of a large sign in a road indicating that treatment is in progress.

(14) "TCDD"—2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin.

(15) "2,4,5-T"—2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid.

R. Max Peterson,
Chief, Forest Service.

December 27, 1979.

[FR Doc. 80-509 Filed 1-7-80; 8:45 am]

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