

Department of Agriculture, gives notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact according to the Environmental Assessment of the Big Delta State Historical Park Streambank Protection Project.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Shirley Gammon, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 100, Palmer, Alaska 99645-6539; telephone: 907-761-7760.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Environmental Assessment of this Federally assisted action indicates that there will be no significant environmental impacts. As a result of these findings, Shirley Gammon, State Conservationist, has determined that the project should be completed as outlined in the assessment document.

The objective of the Big Delta State Historical Park Streambank Protection Project is to install streambank protection measures to control erosion and protect the historic district while minimizing disturbance to the fall chum spawning habitat. The selected alternative is four rock bars extending approximately 65 feet into the river, angling about 45 degrees upstream rising 1.4 feet above the riverbed. In conjunction with the barb installation, a vegetation re-establishment plan will be implemented to address the eroding sections of the bank between the bars and enhance the existing landscape and riparian buffer. Alternatives evaluated were No Action, relocation of threatened facilities, modification of existing vegetation maintenance practices, groins, riprap revetment, riprap revetment with soil wraps and brush layers, and rock bars. The selected alternative is rock bars. This alternative was selected because it protects the riverbank adjacent to the Big Delta State Historical Park, minimizes the constructed footprint in the fall chum spawning habitat, and maintains the aesthetic qualities of the site. The bars result in no significant rise in the flood waters in Tanana River.

A limited number of copies of the EA are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Shirley Gammon, State Conservationist, at the above address. Further information on the proposed action may be obtained from Shirley Gammon, State Conservationist.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

**Shirley Gammon,**

*State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 04-6937 Filed 3-26-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Rehabilitation Plan/Environmental Assessment for the White Tanks No. 3 Project, Maricopa County, AZ**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of finding of no significant impact.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regulations (7 CFR Part 650); the NRCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Rehabilitation Plan/Environmental Assessment for the White Tanks No. 3 Project, Maricopa County, Arizona.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Somerville, State Conservationist, USDA/NRCS, 3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012; telephone: (602) 280-8801.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The environmental assessment of this Federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. Based on evidence presented, Michael Somerville, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project proposes to rehabilitate the White Tanks No. 3 FRS to meet NRCS standards and State of Arizona dam safety criteria.

The Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. Copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Don Paulus, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, at the above address.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

**Michael Somerville,**

*State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 04-6936 Filed 3-26-04; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Utilities Service**

**Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program**

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of funds availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces funding available for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee program. For FY 2004, no less than \$2.211 billion in loans is available, \$2.051 billion for direct cost-of-money loans, \$80 million for direct 4 percent loans, and \$80 million for loan guarantees.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590, Telephone (202) 720-9554, Facsimile (202) 720-0810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**General Information**

During FY 2004, no less than \$2.211 billion will be made available for loans and loan guarantees for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in eligible rural communities. Of the total loan funds available, \$2.051 billion will be available for direct cost-of-money loans, \$80 million for 4 percent direct loans, and \$80 million for loan guarantees. The funding levels for the 4 percent direct loans and the loan guarantees is derived from the budget authority carried over from prior years' mandatory funding. The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 601) (the Act), as added by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill), Public Law 101-171.

Applications must be submitted in accordance with 7 CFR part 1738. This part and an application guide to assist in the preparation of applications are available in the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/broadband.htm>. Application guides may also be requested from RUS by contacting the agency contact.

#### Agency Contacts

For application information, contact the following individual: Kenneth Kuchno, Program Manager "Broadband Program, Telecommunications Program, RUS/USDA, Room 2846, Stop 1599, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1599, (202) 690-4673.

#### Eligible Rural Community

The definition of eligible rural community in Section 601(b)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 950bb)(b)(2), qualifying for financial assistance under the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guaranty Program, has been amended by provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, to mean any area of the United States that is not contained in an incorporated city or town with a population in excess of 20,000 inhabitants. Therefore, an applicant no longer must demonstrate that it is not located in an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area. This change supersedes and nullifies contrary provisions in regulations implementing the broadband program found at 7 CFR part 1738.

#### Minimum and Maximum Loan Amounts

Loans and loan guarantees under this authority will not be made for less than \$100,000. Maximum loan amounts apply only to the direct 4 percent loan program. The maximum amount available for any one applicant for a direct 4 percent loan is \$7,500,000.

#### Minimum Rate of Data Transmission Criteria

The Secretary of Agriculture determines what qualifies as broadband service for the purpose of determining eligibility for financial assistance under the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program. During fiscal year 2004, to qualify as broadband service, the minimum rate-of-data transmission shall be 200 kilobits/second in the customer's connection to the network, both from the provider to

the customer (downstream) and from the customer to the provider (upstream).

#### State Allocations

The annual state allocation will not be made for Fiscal Year 2004. To ensure the obligation of funds by April 1, as required by the Farm Bill, an annual application submission deadline of January 31 for funding from the state allocation reserves was adopted and published in the enacting regulations. With the enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act on January 23, 2004, insufficient time remained for the submission of applications by the regulatory deadline.

#### 4 Percent Direct Loans:

An applicant will be eligible for a direct 4 percent loan if: (1) the community being served has a population of less than 2,500, and is not currently receiving broadband service as defined at § 1738.11(b)(1); (2) the per capita income in the county being served as a percent of national per capita income, is not more than 65 percent of the national per capita income, as determined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, at [www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis](http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis), and using the data for the most recent year published as of the date of application; and (3) the population density, calculated as the total number of persons in the service area divided by the square miles of the service area is not more than 20 persons per square mile.

Dated: March 24, 2004.

**Hilda Gay Legg,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### United States Travel and Tourism Promotion Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**DATES:** April 16, 2004.

**TIME:** 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**PLACE:** Capital Hilton—Senate Room, 1001 16th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Travel and Tourism Promotion Advisory Board

("Board") will hold a Board meeting on April 16, 2004 at the Capital Hilton Hotel.

The Board will discuss the design, development and subsequent implementation of an international advertising and promotional campaign, which will seek to encourage individuals from the United Kingdom to travel to the United States for the express purpose of engaging in tourism. The meeting will be open to the public. Time will be permitted for public comment. To sign up for public comment, please contact Julie Heizer by 5 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 14, 2004. She may be contacted at U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 7025, Washington, DC 20230; via fax at (202) 482-2887; or, via e-mail at [promotion@tinnet.ita.doc.gov](mailto:promotion@tinnet.ita.doc.gov).

Written comments concerning Board affairs are welcome any time before or after the meeting. Written comments should be directed to Julie Heizer. Minutes will be available within 90 days of this meeting.

The Board is mandated by Pub. L. 108-7, Section 210. As directed by Pub. L. 108-7, Section 210, the Secretary of Commerce shall design, develop and implement an international advertising and promotional campaign, which seeks to encourage individuals to travel to the United States. The Board shall recommend to the Secretary of Commerce the appropriate coordinated activities for funding. This campaign shall be a multi-media effort that seeks to leverage the Federal dollars with contributions of cash and in-kind products unique to the travel and tourism industry. The Board was chartered in August of 2003 and will expire on August 8, 2005.

For further information, phone Julie Heizer, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries (OTTI), International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce at (202) 482-0140. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to OTTI.

Dated: March 23, 2004.

**Julie Heizer,**

*Deputy Director for Industry Relations, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.*

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