Cost-Benefit Analysis and Regulatory Flexibility Analysis to the General Crop Insurance Regulations; Hybrid Seed Crop Insurance Regulations; and Common Crop Insurance Regulations for implementation of the prevented planting provisions, contact Diana Moslak, Regulatory and Procedural Development Staff, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 254-8314.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed under United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") procedures established by Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512–1. This action does not constitute a review as to the need, currency, clarity, and effectiveness of these regulations under those procedures. The sunset review date established for Small Grains is July 1, 1998; Coarse Grains, Cotton, Extra Long Staple Cotton and Sunflower Seed is March 1, 1999; Hybrid Seed is October 1, 1997; Hybrid Sorghum Seed is May 1, 2000; and Rice is August 29, 1998.

This rule has been determined to be "economically significant" for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB").

A Cost-Benefit Analysis is completed and is available to interested persons at the address listed above. In summary, the analysis finds that the expected Treasury costs of these changes are expected to range between \$2.1 and \$20.8 million. Added costs are due to higher reimbursements to reinsured companies and for premium subsidies for producers. The estimates assume the majority of producers will decline the coverage for the substitute crop, opting instead for a reduced premium on the intended crop. Nationwide, premium rates will increase 6 to 7 percent for the added coverage. As examples of monetary impacts, this means an average increase in the producer paid premium of 20-25 cents per acre for wheat in the Northern Plains; 30 cents for corn in Iowa; and 60-90 cents per acre for upland cotton. However, the premium rate increases will not be uniform. Instead, the highest risk areas (such as lowlands along rivers and similar conditions) can expect greater increases in premium to cover the added risk. Producers who farm such lands are expected to be the primary group that will retain this added coverage and elect to pay the additional premium. The changes to the prevented planting rules will provide producers

with added assistance in extreme weather conditions in a manner that maintains the actuarial integrity of the Federal crop insurance program.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

The information collection requirements contained in these regulations were submitted to OMB for their approval under section 3507(j) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, and received emergency approval through February 28, 1996. The agency is also seeking a valid approval for 3 years under section 3507(d). Public comments are due by January 8, 1996.

The title of this information collection is "Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan and Related Requirements including General Crop Insurance Regulations, Hybrid Seed Crop Insurance Regulations and Common Crop Insurance Regulations." The information to be collected includes: a crop insurance acreage report, an insurance application and continuous contract. Information collected from the acreage report and application is electronically submitted to FCIC by the reinsured companies. Some respondents may provide additional information for the purpose of selecting insurance options that apply to specific crops or specific areas in which a crop is produced. Potential respondents to this information collection are growers of crops that are eligible for Federal Crop Insurance.

The information requested is necessary for the insurance company and FCIC to provide insurance, provide reinsurance, determine eligibility, determine the correct parties to the agreement, determine and collect premiums or other monetary amounts

(or fees), and pay benefits.

All information is reported annually. The reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 16.9 minutes per response for each of the 3.6 responses from approximately 1,750,015 respondents. The total annual burden on the public for this information collection is 2,668,750 hours. The total annual burden has increased from the 1995 requirements to reflect the paperwork burden on the reinsured companies.

Comments were invited on the information collection requirements during the proposed rule stage. The comment period for information collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 continues through January 8, 1996, on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have

practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information

Comments should be submitted to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Bonnie Hart, Information Management Branch, Consolidated Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Bonnie Hart at the above address. Telephone (202) 690-2857.

It has been determined under section 6(a) of Executive Order 12612, Federalism, that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implication to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment. The provisions contained in this rule will not have a substantial direct effect on states or their political subdivisions, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

The amount of work required of the insurance companies and FSA offices delivering the policies and the procedures therein may increase significantly from the amount of work currently required to deliver previous policies to which this regulation applies. Therefore, this action has been reviewed under the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605) and a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is available to interested persons at the address listed above.

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.450.

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 which require intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. See the Notice related to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, published at 48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983.

The Office of the General Counsel has determined that these regulations meet the applicable standards provided in subsections 2(a) and 2(b)(2) of Executive Order 12778. The provisions of this rule will not have retroactive effect prior to the effective date. The provisions of this rule will preempt state and local laws to the extent such state and local laws are inconsistent herewith. The administrative appeal requirements of the National Appeals Division under