



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 19 2010

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Matthew T. Ponish
National Environmental Compliance Manager
Farm Service Agency
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Mail Stop 0513
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Ponish:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA) Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

The FSA proposes to implement certain changes to the CRP reauthorized with new Title II provisions enacted by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The SEIS examined the potential environmental impacts of alternatives to nine Provisions enacted by the 2008 Farm Bill governing the CRP. Two action alternatives were developed for each Provision: Alternative 1 – full implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill Provisions for the CRP utilizing current procedures; and Alternative 2 – implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill Provisions for the CRP with varying discretion. A No Action Alternative (continue the CRP as currently administered), was also analyzed. FSA identified Alternative 1 as the preferred alternative for all nine Provisions.

Based on our review of the Final SEIS, EPA has no objections to the proposed action.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Final SEIS. The staff contact for this review is Arthur Totten at (202) 564-7164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. Bromm".

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities