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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

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TO: Director, Application Development Center
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FROM: Steven L. Sanders
Chief Information Officer

Steven L. Sanders

SUBJECT: Farm Service Agency (FSA)'s National Information Technology Center
(NITC) Mainframe System Development Life Cycle (SDLC)
Formal Release

As part of the Chief Financial Officer's Act audit of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Fiscal Year 2005 Comparative Financial Statements, a review of CCC's Information Technology (IT) controls environment was conducted. The auditors found a need for FSA/CCC's Information Security Controls to be improved. The audit report cited a need to update FSA Handbook 14-ADM or an equivalent policy guide.

In response, FSA committed to update FSA Handbook 14-ADM or an equivalent policy guide to reflect the current IT processing environment and FSA/CCC's software change management processes and controls. Further, FSA committed to provide training to applicable staff regarding the FSA/CCC software change management process.

FSA's National Information Technology Center (NITC) Mainframe System Development Life Cycle document will be available by June 30, 2006, on FSA's SDLC web site at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/sdlc/>. Within the SDLC web site, a link has been provided for user feedback. Comments may also be directed to Stephen Risker, FSA Enterprise Architect, at stephen.risker@usda.gov, or Loretta Burns, Chief, Architecture Office, at loretta.burns@usda.gov. This document updates the standards and procedures for developing mainframe computer systems and makes FSA Handbook 14-ADM, ADP Standards and Procedures for Development of Computer Systems, obsolete.

Training to applicable staff is scheduled for June 28 and 29, 2006. Additional information regarding training locations and times will follow.

Attachment

cc: Loretta Burns, Chief, ITSD/AMC/AO
Steve Risker, ITSD/AMC/AO
JoAnn Verhaeghe, Chief, ITSD/AMC/PMO
Lois Thomson, Chief, ITSD/AMC/PMO/PMG
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