

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 179

Thursday, September 16, 1999

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on the following information collections for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Program Development & Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-0736. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies information collections that RUS plans to submit to OMB for reinstatement.

Comments are invited on (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumption used; (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 those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques on other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Stop 1522, Room 4034 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-1522.

- **Title:** Prospective Large Power Service.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0001.

Type of Request: Reinstatement without change of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to electric systems to provide and improve electric service in rural areas pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). RUS electric borrowers often enter into special contracts with commercial and industrial consumers for the retail sale of electricity. These contracts typically require extensions to the borrower's electric system which may be financed with RUS loan funds, debt financing from another source, the borrower's own funds, sometimes called general funds, and/or funds provided by the consumer.

RUS review of these contracts is intended to protect the interests of the government as a secured lender and to foster the purposes of the RE Act. RUS Form 170, Prospective Large Power Service, provides RUS with information needed for this review. RUS published a final rule December 29, 1995, at 60 FR 67395, that significantly reduces the number of retail contracts that require RUS approval.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 hours per response.

Respondents: Small cooperatives or similar organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5.

- **Title:** Lien Accommodations and Subordinations.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0100.

Type of Request: Reinstatement without change of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C., *et seq.*) (RE Act) authorized and empowers the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service to make loans in the several States and Territories of the United States for rural electrification and the furnishing of electric energy to persons in rural areas who are not receiving central station service. The RE Act also authorizes and empowers the Administrator of RUS to provide financial assistance to borrowers for purposes provided in the RE Act by accommodating or subordinating loans made by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, the Federal Financing Bank, and other lending agencies.

Title 7 Part 1717, subparts R and S, sets forth policy and procedure to facilitate and support borrowers' efforts to obtain private sector financing of their capital needs, to allow borrowers greater flexibility in the management of their business affairs without compromising RUS loan security, and to reduce the cost to borrowers, in terms of time, expense and paperwork, of obtaining lien accommodations and subordinations.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.60 hours per response.

Respondents: Small cooperatives or similar organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.90.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 93 hours.

- **Title:** Request for Approval to Sell Capital Assets.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0020.

Type of Request: Reinstatement without change of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: A borrower's assets provide the security for a Government loan. The selling of assets reduces the security and increases the risk to the Government. RUS Form 369 allows the borrower to seek agency permission to sell some of its assets. The form collects detailed information regarding the proposed sale of a portion of the borrower's systems.

RUS electric utility borrowers complete this form to request RUS approval in order to sell capital assets when the fair market value exceeds 10 percent of the borrower's net utility plant.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response.

Respondents: Small cooperatives or similar organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 15.

Copies of these information collections, and related forms and instructions, can be obtained from Bob Turner, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-0696.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 10, 1999.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 99-24186 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Municipal Interest Rates for the Fourth Quarter of 1999

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the fourth quarter of 1999.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the fourth calendar quarter of 1999.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning October 1, 1999, and ending December 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Room 0227-S, Stop 1524, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1500. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-690-2268. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the fourth calendar quarter of 1999 for municipal

rate electric loans. RUS regulations at § 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to § 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the fourth Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in § 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 1999 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under § 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.500 percent.

In accordance with § 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the fourth calendar quarter of 1999.

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2020 or later	5.500
2019	5.500
2018	5.500
2017	5.500
2016	5.500
2015	5.500
2014	5.375
2013	5.375
2012	5.250
2011	5.250
2010	5.125
2009	5.000
2008	4.875
2007	4.875
2006	4.750
2005	4.625
2004	4.500
2003	4.250
2002	4.125
2001	3.875
2000	3.625

Dated: September 31, 1999.

Christopher A. McLean,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 99-24187 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463 as amended by Pub. L. 94-409), we are giving notice of a meeting of the Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations.

The Committee is composed of 36 members appointed by the Presidents of the American Economic Association, the American Statistical Association, the Population Association of America, and the Chairperson of the Board of the American Marketing Association. The Committee advises the Director, Bureau of the Census, on the full range of Census Bureau programs and activities in relation to their areas of expertise.

DATES: The meeting will convene on October 21-22, 1999. On October 21, the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 4:15 p.m. On October 22, the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Census Bureau Committee Liaison Officer, Ms. Maxine Anderson-Brown, Room 1647, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20233. Her phone number is 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the meeting on October 21, which will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 4:15 p.m., is the following:

- Introductory Remarks by the Director, Bureau of the Census.
- Census Bureau Responses to Committee Recommendations.
- Census 2000 Developments and Evaluation Plans.
- Redesigning the Service Sector Statistics Program.
- Research Priorities Regarding Estimation in the American Community Survey.
- Medical Expenditures Panel Survey.