

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,494.

#### Rural Utilities Service

*Title:* Financial and Statistical Report for Telephone Borrowers.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0031.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) is a credit agency of the Department of Agriculture. The department makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to finance electric, telecommunications and water and waste facilities in rural areas. In addition to providing loans and loan guarantees, one of RUS' main objectives is to safeguard loan security until the loan is repaid. The RE Act (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq*) authorizes the Administrator to make loans for the purpose of providing telephone service to the widest practicable number of rural subscribers. The RE Act also authorizes the Administrator to make studies, investigations, and reports concerning the progress of borrowers' furnishing of adequate telephone service and publish and disseminate this information.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RUS will use Form 479, "Financial and Statistical Report for Telephone Borrowers". This form provides RUS with (1) vital financial information needed to ensure the maintenance and security of the Government's loans, and (2) statistical data that enables RUS to ensure the provision of quality telephone service as mandated by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (RE Act). In addition, RUS will collect information on toll revenues of telephone systems, loan feasibility to assure the loan can be repaid and use this data to compile the agency's Annual Statistical Report. These functions are essential to protect loan security and to achieve the objectives of the RE Act.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Number of Respondents:* 725.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 2,900.

#### Rural Utilities Service

*Title:* RUS Specification for quality control and inspection of Timber Products.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0036.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to finance electric, telecommunications, and water and

waste facilities in rural areas. Loan programs are managed in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RUS will use the information in verifying acceptability of poles and crossarms purchased by RUS borrowers. Each year, RUS borrowers are required to submit an Annual Summary of Purchases that provides a list of plants from which it obtained poles or crossarms during the preceding calendar year and Treaters must provide notification that they will treat poles for the upcoming year. Test reports are needed so that the purchaser, the inspectors, and RUS will be able to spot-check the general accuracy of the tests.

*Description of the Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Number of Respondents:* 700.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 40,763.

#### Rural Utilities Service

*Title:* 7 CFR 1744-E, Borrower Investments—Telecommunications Loan Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0098.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Economic Development Act of 1990, Title XXIII of the Farm Bill, Pub. L. 101-624, authorized qualified Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrowers to make investments in rural development projects without the prior approval of the RUS Administrator, provided, however that such investments do not cause the borrower to exceed its allowable qualified investment level as determined in accordance with the procedures set forth in 7 CFR part 1744, Subpart E. RUS requests that the borrower submit (1) a description of the rural development project and type of investment; (2) a reasonable estimate of the amount the borrower is committed to provide to the project including future expenditures; and (3) a pro forma balance sheet and cash flow statement for the period covering the borrower's future commitments to determine that the "excess" or proposed "excess" investments will not impair the borrower's ability to repay the loan or cause financial hardship.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RUS will collect information to consider whether or not to approve a borrower's request to make an investment in a rural development project when such an investment would cause the borrower to exceed its allowable investment level. If this information was not collected, RUS

could not thoroughly assess the economic impact of such an investment.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Number of Respondents:* 25.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 238.

#### Rural Housing Service

*Title:* 7 CFR 1944-I, "Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants".

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-0043.

*Summary of Collection:* This regulation prescribes policies and responsibilities, including the collection and use of information, necessary to administer the Section 523 Mutual and Self-Help housing (MSH) program. The MSH program affords low-income families the opportunity for home ownership by providing funds to non-profit organizations for supervisory and technical assistance to the homebuilding families. Rural Housing Service (RHS) will collect information from non-profit organizations that want to develop a Self-Help program in their area to increase the availability of affordable housing. The information is collected at the local, district and state levels. The information requested by RHS includes financial and organizational information about the non-profit organization.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RHS needs this information to determine if the organization is capable of successfully carrying out the requirements of the Self-Help program. The information is collected on an as requested or needed basis. RHS has reviewed the program's need for the collection of information versus the burden placed on the public.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local or Tribal Government; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Number of Respondents:* 160.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: Monthly, Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 4,372.

#### Rural Housing Service

*Title:* 7 CFR 1951-E, "Servicing of Community and Direct Business Programs Loans and Grants".

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-0066.

*Summary of Collection:* Rural Development (including Farm Credit Programs of the Farm Service Agency), hereinafter referred to as Agency, is the credit agency for agricultural and rural development for the Department of Agriculture. The Agency offers supervised credit to build and operate family farms, modest housing, water