

Notices

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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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 16, 2003.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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 assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0012.

Summary of Collection: Section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940(c)) established a loan and grant program. The program provides zero interest loans and grants to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrowers for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects. The loans and grants under this program may be provided to approximately 1,700 electric and telephone utilities across the country that borrowed funds from RUS. Under this program, the RUS borrowers may receive the loan funds and pass them on to businesses or other organizations.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is used to evaluate applications for funding consideration, conduct an environmental review, prepare legal documents, receive loan payments, oversee the operation of a revolving loan fund, monitor the use of funds, enforce other government requirements such as compliance with civil rights regulations. If the information were not collected, the agency would be unable to select the projects that will receive loan or grant funds.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 120.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; reporting: on occasion; annually.

Total Burden Hours: 4,273.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1778, Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0110.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is authorized under section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) to provide grants to rural areas and small communities to secure adequate quantities of safe water. Grants made under this program shall be made for 100 percent of the project cost and may be made to public bodies and private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas. Grants can serve rural areas with population not in excess of 5000,

and household income should not exceed 100 percent of a State's non-metropolitan median household income.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect the information from applicants applying for grants under 7 CFR part 1778. Applicants must demonstrate that there is an imminent emergency or that a decline occurred within 2 years of the date the application was filed with Rural Development. The information is unique to each borrower and emergency situation.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: on occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 400.

Rural Utility Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1755, Telecommunications Field Trials.

OMB Control Number: 0572-NEW.

Summary of Collection: Title 7 CFR 1755.3 prescribes the conditions and provision of a field trial. Field trials are contractual obligations that a manufacturer and Rural Utility Service (RUS) telecommunications borrower enter into. They consist of limited field installation of a qualifying product in closely monitored situations designed to determine to RUS' satisfaction the products effectiveness under actual field conditions. RUS will use field trials as a means for determining the operational effectiveness of a new or revised product where such experience does not already exist. Field trial process allows manufacturers a means of immediate access to the RUS borrower market; provides borrowers an opportunity to immediately utilize advance products and a means to safely obtain the necessary information on technically advanced products which will address the products suitability for use in the harsh environment of rural America.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will use various forms to enter into contractual obligations, to establish agreements by the manufacturer and a borrower, or identify the product(s) that are under field trial.

Telecommunication borrowers participate in field trials do so on a voluntary basis. The information is closely reviewed to determine that the products comply with the established