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This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 05/21/2014 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2014-11708>, and on [FDsys.gov](http://FDsys.gov)

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 15, 2014.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (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, New Executive Office Building, 725 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to:

[OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 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

\*Billing Code 3410-15

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.

\*Billing Code 3410-15

## **Rural Utilities Service**

*TITLE:* Telecommunications System Construction Policies and Procedures

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0572-0059

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act), 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, was amended in 2002 by Title IV, Rural Broadband Access, by Farm Security and rural Investment Act, which authorizes Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to provide loans and loan guarantees to fund the cost of construction, improvement, or acquisition for facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities in the States and territories of the United States. Title VI of the RE Act requires that loans are granted only to borrowers who demonstrated that they will be able to repay in full within the time agreed. RUS has established certain standards and specification for materials, equipment and construction to assure that standards are maintained; loans are not adversely affected, and loans are used for intended purposes.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* RUS has developed specific forms for borrowers to use when entering into contracts for goods or services. The information collected is used to implement certain provisions of loan documents about the borrower's purchase of materials and equipment and the construction of its broadband system and is provided on and as needed basis or when the individual borrower undertakes certain projects. The standardization of the forms has resulted in substantial savings to borrowers by reducing preparation of the documentation and the costly review by the government.

*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 513

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*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: On occasion

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 10,720

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[FR Doc. 2014-11708 Filed 05/20/2014 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 05/21/2014]