



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, the Rural Utilities Service, invites comments on this information collection for which the Agency intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by [INSERT 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Deputy Director, Program Development & Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5164 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. (202) FAX: (202) 720-8435. Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR 1753, Telecommunications System Construction Policies and Procedures.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0059.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection package.

Abstract: In order to facilitate the programmatic interest of the RE Act, and, in order to assure that loans made or guaranteed by the Agency are adequately secured, the Agency, as a secured lender, has established certain forms for materials, equipment and construction of electric and

telecommunications systems. The use of standard forms, construction contracts, and procurement procedures helps assure the Agency that appropriate standards and specifications are maintained, the Agency's loan security is not adversely affected; and the loan response. In an effort to improve customer service provided to RUS rural borrowers, the Agency continues to revise, consolidate, and/or streamline its current contracts and contracting procedures.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit and non-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 513.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 9.

Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 8,434 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be requested from MaryPat Daskal, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service by telephone at (202) 720-7853 or email: MaryPat.Daskdal@wdc.usda.gov.

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.

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: March 22, 2017

Christopher A. McLean,
Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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