DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 7, 2019

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 are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (4) 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 – 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: 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. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.
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.
SUMMARY OF COLLECTION: Section 201 of the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936 authorizes the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to make loans for the purpose of providing telephone service to the widest practicable number of rural subscribers. A borrower requesting loan advances must submit RUS Form 481, "Financial Requirement Statement". Along with the Form 481 the borrower must also submit a description of the advances and upon request copies of backup documentation relating to the transactions. Within a reasonable amount of time, funds are advanced to the borrower for the purposes specified in the statement of purposes. The borrower must immediately deposit all advanced money into a Special Construction account until disbursed.

NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION: The information collected is used by RUS to record and control transactions and verify that the funds advanced in the construction fund are related directly to loan purposes. If the information were not collected, RUS would not have any control over how loan funds are spent or a record of the balance to be advanced.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 84

FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES: Reporting: On occasion

TOTAL BURDEN HOURS: 481
request with certifications as to the origin of manufacture of the products and include certified
data demonstrating their products’ compliance with RUS specifications.

**NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:** Manufacturers submit certified data demonstrating
product compliance with RUS specifications, usually in the form of laboratory test results,
catalog pages, or drawings. RUS will evaluate the data to determine that the quality of the
products are acceptable and that their use will not jeopardize loan security. The information is
closely reviewed to be certain that test data; product dimensions and product material
compositions fully comply with RUS technical standards and specifications that have been
established for the particular product. Without this information, RUS has no means of
determining the acceptability of products for use in the rural environment.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** Business or other for-profit

**NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:** 38

**FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:** Reporting: on occasion

**TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:** 1,800

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*Billing Code 3410-15*

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