

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Business-Cooperative Service****Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 21, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori Washington, Specialty Lenders Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3225, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3225, Telephone (202) 720–9815, E-mail lori.washington@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Intermediary Relending Program.

OMB Number: 0570–0021.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 2006.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection information.

Abstract: The objective of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is to improve community facilities and employment opportunities and increase economic activity in rural areas by financing business facilities and community development. This purpose is achieved through loans made by the RBS to intermediaries that establish programs for the purpose of providing loans to ultimate recipients for business facilities and community development. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the intermediaries, and some requirements may cause the intermediary to seek information from ultimate recipients. The information requested is necessary for RBS to be able to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent credit and program decisions, and effectively monitor the intermediaries' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. It includes information to identify the

intermediary; describe the intermediary's experience and expertise; describe how the intermediary will operate its revolving loan fund; provide for debt instruments, loan agreements, and security; and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7.5 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit corporations, public agencies, and cooperatives.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 202.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 11.9.

Estimated Number of Responses: 2,403.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 17,989 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692–0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions 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 or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250. 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: June 5, 2006.

Jackie J. Gleason,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E6–9673 Filed 6–19–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P

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 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service, an agency delivering the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities Programs, invites comments on this information collection for which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 21, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michele Brooks, Deputy Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5159 South Building, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 690–1078. FAX: (202) 720–4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that will be submitted to OMB for approval.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions 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 or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Michele Brooks, Deputy Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Development, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave.,

SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

Title: 7 CFR Part 1738, Rural Broadband Loans and Loan Guarantee Program.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0130.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: USDA Rural Development, through the Rural Utilities Service, is authorized by Title VI, Rural Broadband Access, of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (RE Act), to provide loans and loan guarantees to fund the cost of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities in States and Territories of the United States. The term of the loans is based on the expected composite economic life based on the depreciation of the facilities financed. The term of the loan can be as high as 25 years or even longer. In the interest of protecting loan security and accomplishing the statutory objective of a sound program of rural broadband service access, Title VI of the RE Act requires that Rural Development make or guarantee a loan only if there is reasonable assurance that the loan, together with all outstanding loans and obligations of the borrower will be repaid in full within the time agreed. The items covered by this collection include forms and related documentation to support a loan application, including Form 532 and supporting documentation.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 225 hours per response.

Respondents: Businesses and Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 40.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 13,480 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Michele Brooks, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 690-1078. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

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: June 13, 2006.

James M. Andrew,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. E6-9613 Filed 6-19-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

East Kentucky Power Cooperative: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment for public review.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service, an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs (USDA Rural Development) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to possible financial assistance to East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) for the proposed construction of approximately 15.21 miles of 161 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line in Warren County, Kentucky. EKPC is requesting the USDA Rural Development to provide financial assistance for the proposed project.

DATES: Written comments on this Notice must be received on or before July 20, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The EA will be available for public review at the USDA Rural Development, Utilities Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571; at the USDA Rural Development's Web site—<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>; at EKPC's headquarters office located at 4775 Lexington Road, Winchester, Kentucky 40391; at Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, 951 Fairview Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101; and two Bowling Green Public Library locations:

The Main Library, 1225 State Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

The Depot Branch, 401 Kentucky Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

Written comments should be sent to: Ms. Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, or e-mail: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, Telephone: (202) 720-0468. Ms. Strength's e-mail address is stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project area is located in central Warren County, Kentucky. The proposed route for the new electric transmission line extends westerly following an existing electric utility line rights-of-way (ROW) from an existing substation at an automotive assembly plant located east of Bowling Green, Kentucky, to an existing electric generating station located on the southern side of the Barren River in northern Bowling Green. The proposed route then extends in a general southwesterly direction paralleling an existing electric transmission line from the generating station and following an existing electric transmission line ROW to a point where the route extends due south to connect to an existing electric substation southwest of Memphis Junction, Kentucky.

Alternatives considered by the USDA Rural Development and EKPC included: (a) No action, (b) alternate transmission line routes, and (c) other electrical alternatives. An Environmental Report (ER) that describes the proposed project in detail and discusses its anticipated environmental impacts has been prepared by EKPC. The USDA Rural Development has accepted the ER as its EA of the proposed project. The EA is available for public review at addresses provided above in this Notice.

Questions and comments should be sent to Ms. Stephanie Strength, USDA Rural Development at the mailing or e-mail addresses provided above in this Notice. The USDA Rural Development should receive comments on the EA in writing by July 20, 2006 to ensure that they are considered in its environmental impact determination.

Should the USDA Rural Development determine, based on the EA of the proposed project, that the impacts of the construction and operation of the project would not have a significant environmental impact, it will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact. Public notification of a Finding of No Significant Impact would be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers with circulation in the project area.

Any final action by the USDA Rural Development related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations, and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in the USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794).