

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

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

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 for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR 4287, subpart B, Servicing Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 31, 2009 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Lewis, Business and Industry Loan Servicing Branch, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224, telephone (202) 690-0797, or by e-mail to david.lewis@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Servicing Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Servicing.

OMB Number: 0570-0016.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2009.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. The information requested is necessary and vital in order

for the Agency to make prudent credit and financial decisions.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .85 hours per response.

Respondents: Guaranteed lenders.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 21,340.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 18,223.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, 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, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 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: January 23, 2009.

William F. Hagy III,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E9-1994 Filed 1-29-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

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 for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR part 4279, subpart A, Business and Industry Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 31, 2009 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Griffin, Business and Industry Loan Servicing Branch, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224, telephone (202) 690-3802, or by e-mail to brenda.griffin@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Business and Industry Loans.

OMB Number: 0570-0018.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2009.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the program is to improve, develop, or finance businesses, industries, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. The collection information is necessary to assist Agency loan officers and approval officials in determining program eligibility and program monitoring.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes to 12 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal; Lenders, accountants, attorneys.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 750.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 1,037.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,494.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0035.

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 Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 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: January 23, 2009.

William F. Hagy III,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E9-1995 Filed 1-29-09; 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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development administers rural utilities programs through the Rural Utilities Service. The USDA Rural Development invites comments on the following information collections 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 March 31, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5162, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078. Fax: (202) 720-8435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 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 information collections that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this 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 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 respondents, 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, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Fax: (202) 720-8435.

Title: Telecommunications Standards and Specifications, 7 CFR Part 1755.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0132.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: To protect the security of loans it makes and to ensure that the telecommunications services provided to rural Americans are comparable to those offered in urban and suburban areas, USDA Rural Development establishes the minimum acceptable performance criteria for materials and equipment to be employed on telecommunications systems financed

by USDA Rural Development. These specifications cover a variety of materials and equipment, ranging from multipair cables for direct burial to highly sophisticated computerized central office switches. Manufacturers, wishing to sell their products to USDA Rural Development borrowers, request RUS consideration for acceptance of their products and submit data demonstrating their products' compliance with USDA Rural Development specification.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.68.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1400 hours.

Title: Telecommunications Field Trials.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0133.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: To protect the equity of loans it makes, the USDA Rural Development Telecommunications Program establishes the minimum acceptable performance criteria for materials and equipment to be employed on telecommunication systems financed by USDA Rural Development. These specifications cover a variety of materials and equipment, ranging from multipair cables for direct burial in the earth, to highly sophisticated, computerized central office digital switches. Manufacturers wishing to sell their products to USDA Rural Development borrowers, request USDA Rural Development consideration for acceptance of their products and submit data demonstrating their products' compliance with USDA Rural Development specifications and that the products are otherwise acceptable for use on rural telecommunications systems. The review and determination of product acceptability is made to help assure that the products will perform properly and provide service lives that assure reliable revenue incomes and repayment of USDA Rural Development loans funds in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of the USDA Rural Development loan. Unacceptable products may fail prematurely and interrupt service, require costly replacements, and reduce revenues. Without this collection, USDA Rural Development has no means of determining the acceptability of