



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

TO: Nathan Frey
Desk Officer
Office of Management Budget

THROUGH: Charlene Parker
Clearance Officer

FROM: JAMES R. NEWBY
Acting Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Newby", written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Review and Clearance
for a New Information Collection Request - Associated with
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Abstract of Program and Implementation

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Title I of Division A, Public Law 111-5 (Feb. 17, 2009) provides for the availability of \$5 million in assistance to the Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) competitive grant program as authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT).

7 U.S.C. 1926, authorizes Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to administer the TAT program to make loans and grants to public agencies, American Indian tribes, and nonprofit corporations. The grants fund the development of drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste disposal facilities in rural areas with populations of up to 10,000 residents. Under the CONACT, 7 U.S.C. 1926(a), as amended, Section 306(a)(14)(A) authorizes TAT to be made for 100 percent of the cost of assistance. This grant program is administered through 7 CFR 1775.

Reason for Emergency Clearance

The Agency is requesting emergency review and approval of this new information collection. The Recovery Act TAT funds will provide financial and technical assistance

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to help communities bring safe drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound waste disposal facilities to rural Americans in greatest need. The additional funding provided by the Recovery Act for Technical Assistance and Training grants will allow rural communities to better identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems, assist applicants in preparing applications for water and waste grants made in accordance with 7 CFR 1775, or improve operation and maintenance of existing water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas. Qualified private non-profit organizations may apply.

In using funds made available by the Recovery Act for infrastructure investment, recipients shall give preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously. The availability of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding is providing an opportunity to greatly impact these small rural communities. The ARRA funding authorization expires on September 30, 2010, but we expect the demand to utilize the funds prior to that date. The emergency review and approval will allow the Agency to provide needed resources, allowing for opportunities for economic improvements and a better quality of life.

In conjunction with this paperwork package, the Agency is planning to publish a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA). In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), RUS will include a 60 day notice for public comment on this information collection burden within the NOFA.

Before grant funds can become available, paperwork clearance is required on the associated burden. In compliance with OMB regulations (5 CFR part 13320), which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-13), the information collection requirements imposed by this action are submitted to OMB for emergency review and approval. The Agency requests review and approval of this emergency paperwork collection package by September 17, 2009 so that RUS can begin accepting applications and approving TAT grants.

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