

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 (RUS) 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 **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Regulatory Division Team 2, Rural Development Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 1522, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: 202-690-4492. Thomas.Dickson@usda.gov.

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 an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

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: Thomas P. Dickson, Regulatory Division Team 2, Rural Development Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 1522, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: 202-690-4492. Thomas.Dickson@usda.gov.

Title: Preloan Procedures and Requirements for Telecommunications Program.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0079.

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

Abstract: The burden required by this collection consists of information that will allow the Agency to determine an applicant's eligibility to borrow from the Agency under the terms of the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936 as amended (U.S.C. 912). This information is also used by the Agency to determine that the Government's security for loans made by the Agency is reasonably adequate and that the loans will be repaid within the time agreed.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 259.95 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 37.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,618 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from MaryPat Daskal, Regulatory Team 2, Rural Development Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 1522, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-7853. Email: MaryPat Daskal@usda.gov. 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: _____

Bette B. Brand

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service

Rural Utilities Service