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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

[DOCKET #: RUS-25-ELECTRIC-0068]

Notice of Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 the Rural Utilities Service (RUS or Agency), an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development (RD), announces its intention to request a extension to a currently approved information collection package. The Agency invites comments on this information collection for which it intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]** to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the “Search Field” box, labeled “Search for dockets and documents on agency actions,” enter the following docket number: (RUS-25-ELECTRIC-0068), and click “Search.” To submit public comments, select the “Comment” button. Before inputting your comments, you may also review the “Commenter's Checklist” (optional). Insert your comments under the “Comment” title, click “Browse” to attach files (if applicable). Input your email address and select an identity category then click “Submit Comment.” Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's “FAQ” link.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimble Brown, RD Innovation Center—
Regulations Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence
Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250, Email: Kimble.Brown@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 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 the Agency 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.

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to
respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a
collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act
unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.
Data furnished by the applicants will be used to determine eligibility for program
benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, failure to provide data could result in
program benefits being withheld or denied.

Title: 7 CFR Part 1717, Subpart Y, "Settlement of Debt Owed by Electric Borrowers

OMB Control Number: 0572-0116

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

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to electric systems to provide and improve electric service in rural areas pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) (RE Act). This information collection requirement stems from passage of Public Law 104-127, on April 4, 1996, which amended section 331(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) to extend to RUS the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to settle debts with respect to loans made or guaranteed by RUS. Only those electric borrowers that are unable to fully repay their debts to the Government and who apply to RUS for relief will be affected by this information collection. The collection will require only that information which is essential for determining: The need for debt settlement; the amount of relief that is needed; the amount of debt that can be repaid; the scheduling of debt repayment; and the range of opportunities for enhancing the amount of debt that can be recovered. The information to be collected will be similar to that which any prudent lender would require to determine whether debt settlement is required and the amount of relief that is needed. Since the need for relief is expected to vary substantially from case to case, so will the required information collection. et seq.) to extend to RUS the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to settle debts with respect to loans made or guaranteed by RUS. Only those electric borrowers that are unable to fully repay their debts to the Government and who apply to RUS for relief will be affected by this information collection. The collection will require only that information which is essential for determining: The need for debt

settlement; the amount of relief that is needed; the amount of debt that can be repaid; the scheduling of debt repayment; and the range of opportunities for enhancing the amount of debt that can be recovered. The information to be collected will be similar to that which any prudent lender would require to determine whether debt settlement is required and the amount of relief that is needed. Since the need for relief is expected to vary substantially from case to case, so will the required information collection.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1,000 hours per response.

Respondents: Nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimble Brown, RD Innovation Center—Regulations Management Division, Email: Kimble.Brown@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.

Karl Elmshaeuser,

Administrator,

Rural Utilities Service.

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