

# 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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Office of Procurement and Property Management; Proposed Information Collection, Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of Procurement and Property Management, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Office of Procurement and Property Management's intention to request the Office of Management and Budget approval of an information collection in support of Section 923 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR Act).

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before September 21, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Denise Hayes, USDA, OPPM, PMD, Room 1520-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Kathy Fay, (202) 720-3141, USDA, Room 1522-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Uniform Procedures for the Acquisition and Transfer of Excess Personal Property under 7 U.S.C. 2206a.

*OMB Number:* Not yet assigned.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Three years from approval date.

*Type of Request:* New Collection.

*Frequency of Use:* Annually.

*Type of Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 100.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 100.

*Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response:* 1/2 hour preparation x 200 requests.

*Need for and Use of Information:* This information collection will be used to

submit USDA's annual Non-Federal Recipient Report to the General Services Administration. The additional information requested requires eligible institutions to justify need and usability for excess personal property.

**W. R. Ashworth,**

*Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management.*

[FR Doc. 98-19463 Filed 7-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XE-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Notice of Actions and Considerations to Assure Year 2000 Compliance

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice serves to clarify Rural Utilities Service (RUS) policies related to the processing of electric and telecommunications loans in light of the year 2000 problem.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Orren E. Cameron III, Acting Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1590, Room 4056, South Building, Washington, DC. Telephone: (202) 720-9554. Facsimile: (202) 720-0810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is given that RUS is undertaking to address with its electric and telecommunications borrowers year 2000 compliance issues that may affect the operations of RUS-financed rural electric and telecommunications systems. Year 2000 compliance means that performance and functionality of the electric and telecommunications systems, including computer software, software systems, and firmware, will not be affected by dates before, during, and after the year 2000. Because electric and telecommunications services are critical to public health and safety, electric and telecommunications providers must protect against any possible consequences of the year 2000 problem. RUS therefore has taken or will be taking the following actions:

(1) RUS has surveyed all electric and telecommunications borrowers to learn how many cooperatives and companies were prepared or preparing for the year 2000 and RUS is in the process of contacting all electric and

telecommunications borrowers in a general review to help ensure that no RUS-financed electric or telecommunications systems will be affected by the date change.

(2) RUS has, by letter dated May 15, 1998, provided borrowers with a suggested provision addressing the year 2000 compliance for inclusion in specifications when purchasing new or upgraded central office switches and transmission equipment.

(3) In reviewing applications for electric and telecommunications loans, RUS is seeking assurance that the applicant has a satisfactory plan for year 2000 compliance.

(4) RUS will work closely with applicants for electric and telecommunications loans to ensure that loans necessary to ensure year 2000 compliance will be acted upon in a timely fashion.

Dated: July 16, 1998.

**Wally Beyer,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-19522 Filed 7-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### South River Electric Membership Corporation; Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of finding of no significant impact.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request by South River Electric Membership Corporation for financing assistance to construct a headquarters and warehouse facility in Harnett County, North Carolina. The FONSI is based on a borrower's environmental report (BER) submitted to RUS by South River Electric Membership Corporation. RUS conducted an independent evaluation of the report and concurs with its scope and content. In accordance with § 1794.61, RUS has adopted the BER as its environmental assessment for the project.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and