

(c) *Eligibility.* (1) The applicant must be a rural or Native Alaskan village.

(2) The median household income of the village cannot exceed 110 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan household income.

(3) A dire sanitation condition must exist in the village.

(4) The applicant must obtain 25 percent of project development costs from State or local contributions. The local contribution can be from loan funds authorized under this part.

(d) *Grant amount.* Grants will be made for up to 75 percent of the project development costs.

(e) *Use of funds.* Grant funds can be used to pay reasonable costs associated with providing potable water or waste disposal services to residents of rural or Native Alaskan villages.

(f) *Construction.* (1) If the State of Alaska is contributing to the project costs, the project does not have to meet the construction requirements of this subpart.

(2) If a loan is made in accordance with this part for part of the local contribution, all of the requirements of this part apply.

[62 FR 33478, June 19, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 29946, June 4, 1999]

§§ 1780.50–1780.52 [Reserved]

**Subpart C—Planning, Designing, Bidding, Contracting, Constructing and Inspections**

**§ 1780.53 General.**

This subpart is specifically designed for use by owners including the professional or technical consultants or agents who provide assistance and services such as engineering, environmental, inspection, financial, legal or other services related to planning, designing, bidding, contracting, and constructing water and waste disposal facilities. These procedures do not relieve the owner of the contractual obligations that arise from the procurement of these services. For this subpart, an owner is defined as an applicant, borrower, or grantee.

**§ 1780.54 Technical services.**

Owners are responsible for providing the engineering, architect and environmental services necessary for planning, designing, bidding, contracting, inspecting, and constructing their facilities. Services may be provided by the owner’s “in house” engineer or architect or through contract, subject to Agency concurrence. Engineers and architects must be licensed in the State where the facility is to be constructed.

**§ 1780.55 Preliminary engineering reports and Environmental Reports.**

Preliminary engineering reports (PERs) must conform to customary professional standards. PER guidelines for water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm sewer are available from the Agency. Environmental Reports must meet the policies and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act and RUS procedures. Guidelines for preparing Environmental Reports are available in RUS Bulletin 1794A–602.

[64 FR 29946, June 4, 1999]

**§ 1780.56 [Reserved]**

**§ 1780.57 Design policies.**

Facilities financed by the Agency will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices, and must meet the requirements of Federal, State and local agencies.

(a) *Environmental review.* Facilities financed by the Agency must undergo an environmental impact analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and RUS procedures. Facility planning and design must not only be responsive to the owner’s needs but must consider the environmental consequences of the proposed project. Facility design shall incorporate and integrate, where practicable, mitigation measures that avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. Environmental reviews serve as a means of assessing environmental impacts of project proposals, rather than justifying decisions already made. Applicants may not take any action on a project proposal that will have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable project alternatives being reviewed