

Approval official. An official who has been delegated loan or grant approval authorities within applicable programs, subject to certain dollar limitations.

Construction. The act of building or putting together a facility that is a part of, or physically attached to, real estate. This does not include procurement of major equipment even though the equipment may be custom built to meet the owner's requirements.

Owner. An applicant or borrower.

Processing office. The office designated by the State program official to accept and process applications for Community Facilities projects.

Regional Attorney or OGC. The head of a Regional Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

Small Community Facilities projects. Community Facilities loans costing \$300,000 and under.

[68 FR 65830, Nov. 24, 2003]

§ 1942.104 Application processing.

(a) *General.* Prospective applicants should request assistance by filing SF 424.2, "Application for Federal Assistance (For Construction)," with the Local or Area Rural Development Office. When practical, approval officials should meet with prospective applicants before an application is filed to discuss eligibility and Rural Development requirements and processing procedures. Throughout loan processing, Rural Development should confer with applicant officials as needed to ensure that applicant officials understand the current status of the processing of their application, what steps and determinations are necessary, and what is required from them. Rural Development should assist the applicant as needed and generally try to develop and maintain a cooperative working relationship with the applicant.

(b) *Unfavorable decision.* If, at any time prior to loan approval, it is decided that favorable action will not be taken on an application, the approval official will notify the applicant, in writing, of the reasons why the request was not favorably considered. The notification to the applicant will state that a review of this decision by Rural Development may be requested by the applicant in accordance with subpart B of

part 1900 of this chapter. The following statement will also be made on all notifications of adverse action:

The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract); because all or part of the applicant's income is derived from any public assistance program; or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The Federal agency that administers compliance with this law is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, DC 20580.

[52 FR 43726, Nov. 16, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 47197, Nov. 13, 1989; 55 FR 13504, Apr. 11, 1990; 68 FR 65830, Nov. 24, 2003; 68 FR 69001, Dec. 11, 2003]

§ 1942.105 Environmental review.

FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 must conduct and document an environmental review for each proposed project in accordance with subpart G of part 1940 of this chapter. The review should be completed as soon as possible after receipt of an application. The loan approving official must determine an adequate environmental review has been completed before requesting an obligation of funds.

§ 1942.106 Intergovernmental review.

(a) Loans under this subpart are subject to intergovernmental review in accordance with subpart J of part 1940 of this chapter.

(b) State intergovernmental review agencies that have selected community facility loans as a program they want to review may not be interested in reviewing proposed loans for fire and rescue facilities. In such cases, the State Director should obtain a letter from the State single point of contact exempting fire and rescue loans from intergovernmental consultation review. A copy of the letter should be placed in the case file for each fire and rescue facility application in lieu of completing the intergovernmental review process.

(c) When an application is filed and adverse comments are not expected, the District Director should proceed