§ 1730.25 Corrective action.

(a) For any items on the RUS Form 300 rated unsatisfactory (i.e., 0 or 1) by the borrower or by RUS, the borrower shall prepare a corrective action plan (CAP) outlining the steps (both short term and long term) the borrower will take to improve existing conditions and to maintain an acceptable rating. The CAP must include a time schedule and cost estimate for corrective actions, and must be approved by the borrower’s Board of Directors. The borrower’s management will discuss this review and evaluation with its Board of Directors.

(b) The borrower must periodically report to RUS in writing progress under the CAP. This report must be submitted to RUS every six months until all unsatisfactory items are corrected unless RUS prescribes a different reporting schedule.

§ 1730.26 Certification.

(a) Engineer’s certification. Where provided for in the borrower’s loan documents, RUS may require the borrower to provide an “Engineer’s Certification” as to the condition of the borrower’s system (including, but not limited to, all mortgaged property.) Such certification shall be in form and substance satisfactory to RUS and shall be prepared by a professional engineer satisfactory to RUS. If RUS determines that the Engineer’s Certification discloses a need for improvements to the condition of its system or any other operations of the borrower, the borrower shall, upon notification by RUS, promptly undertake to accomplish such improvements.

(b) Emergency Restoration Plan certification. The borrower’s Manager or Chief Executive Officer shall provide written certification to RUS stating that a VRA has been satisfactorily completed that meets the criteria of §1730.27(a), (b), (c), or (d), as applicable and §1730.27(e)(1) through (e)(8), and that the borrower has an ERP that meets the criteria of §1730.28(a), (b), (c), or (d), as applicable, and §1730.28(e), (f), and (g). The written certification shall be in letter form. Applicants for new RUS electric loans, loan guarantees or grants shall include the written certification in the application package submitted to RUS. If the self-certification of an ERP and VRA are not received as set forth in this section, approval of the loan, loan guarantees or grants will not be considered until the certifications are received by RUS.

§ 1730.27 Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA).

(a) Each borrower with an approved RUS electric program loan as of October 12, 2004 shall perform an initial VRA of its electric system no later than July 12, 2005. Additional or periodic VRA’s may be necessary if significant changes occur in the borrower’s system, and records of such additional assessments shall be maintained by the borrower.

(b) Each applicant that has submitted an application for an RUS electric program loan or grant prior to October 12, 2004, but whose application has not been approved by RUS by such date, shall perform an initial VRA of its electric system no later than July 12, 2005. Additional or periodic VRA’s may be necessary if significant changes occur in the borrower’s system, and records of such additional assessments shall be maintained by the borrower.
(d) Each applicant that submits an application for an RUS electric program loan or grant on or after July 12, 2005 shall include with its application package a letter certification that such applicant has performed an initial VRA of its electric system. Additional or periodic VRA’s may be necessary if significant changes occur in the borrower’s system, and records of such additional assessments shall be maintained by the borrower.

(e) The VRA shall include identifying:

1. Critical assets or facilities considered necessary for the reliability and security of the electric power grid as described in §1730.21(c);
2. Facilities that if damaged or destroyed would cause significant risk to the safety and health of the public;
3. Critical assets or infrastructure owned or served by the borrower’s electric system that are determined, identified and communicated as elements of national security by the consumer, State or Federal government;
4. External system impacts (interdependency) with loss of identified system components;
5. Threats to facilities and assets identified in paragraphs (e)(1), (e)(2), (e)(3), and (e)(4) of this section;
6. Criticality and risk level of the borrower’s system;
7. Critical asset components and elements unique to the RUS borrower’s system; and
8. Other threats, if any, identified by an individual borrower.

(f) The ERP shall include:

1. A list of key contact emergency telephone numbers (emergency agencies, borrower management and other key personnel, contractors and equipment suppliers, other utilities, and others that might need to be reached in an emergency);
2. A list of key utility management and other personnel and identification of a chain of command and delegation of authority and responsibility during an emergency;
3. Procedures for recovery from loss of power to the headquarters, key offices, and/or operation center facilities;
4. A Business Continuity Section describing a plan to maintain or re-establish business operations following an event which disrupts business systems (computer, financial, and other business systems); and
5. Other Items, if any, identified by the borrower as essential for inclusion in the ERP.

(g) The ERP must be approved and signed by the borrower’s Manager or Chief Executive Officer, and approved by the borrower’s Board of Directors.

(h) Copies of the most recent approved ERP must be made readily available to key personnel at all times.

(i) The ERP shall be Exercised at least annually to ensure operability and employee familiarity. Completion of the first exercise of the ERP must occur on or before January 12, 2007.