§ 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 in accordance with §1730.27(a).

(c) Each applicant that submits an application for an RUS electric program loan or grant between October 12, 2004 and July 12, 2005 shall perform an initial VRA of its electric system in accordance with §1730.27(a).

(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 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.

§ 1730.28 Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP).

(a) Each borrower with an approved RUS electric program loan as of October 12, 2004 shall have a written ERP no later than January 12, 2006. The ERP should be developed by the borrower individually or in conjunction with other electric utilities (not all having to be RUS borrowers) through the borrower’s unique knowledge of its system, prudent utility practices (which includes development of an ERP) and the borrower’s completed VRA. If a joint electric utility ERP is developed, each RUS borrower shall prepare an addendum to meet the requirements of paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) of this section as it relates to its system.

(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