Rural Utilities Service, USDA

§ 1780.49

(a) General. (1) This section contains regulations for providing grants to remedy the dire sanitation conditions in rural Alaskan villages using funds specifically made available for this purpose.

(b) Definitions—(1) Dire sanitation condition. For the purpose of this section a dire sanitation condition exists where:

(i) Recurring instances of a waterborne communicable disease have been documented; or

(ii) No community-wide water and sewer system exists and individual residents must haul water to or human waste from their homes and/or use pit privies.

(2) Rural or Native Alaskan village. A rural or Native Alaskan community which meets the definition of a village under State statutes and does not have a population in excess of 10,000 inhabitants, according to the latest decennial Census of the United States.

(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.

§ 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.

§ 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 prior to the completion of the Agency’s environmental review.

(b) Architectural barriers. All facilities intended for or accessible to the public or in which physically handicapped persons may be employed must be developed in compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) as implemented by 41 CFR 101–19.6, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C 1474 et seq.) as implemented by 7 CFR parts 15 and 15b, and Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(c) Energy/environment. Facility design should consider cost effective energy-efficient and environmentally-sound products and services.