

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 72

Wednesday, April 15, 1998

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Proposed Posting of Stockyards

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, has information that the livestock markets named below are stockyards as defined in Section 302 of the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 202), and should be made subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended (7 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

MO-281 St. James Horse Sales Company,  
St. James, Missouri

NJ-108 Camelot Auction Company,  
Cranbury, New Jersey

NC-173 Burgin Auction & Real Estate,  
Marion, North Carolina

SC-156 Greer Horse & Pony Auction, Greer,  
South Carolina

Pursuant to the authority under Section 302 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, notice is hereby given that it is proposed to designate the stockyards named above as posted stockyards subject to the provisions of said Act.

Any person who wishes to submit written data, views or arguments concerning the proposed designation may do so by filing them with the Director, Livestock Marketing Division, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Room 3408-South Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, by April 30, 1998.

All written submissions made pursuant to this notice will be made available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the Livestock Marketing Division during normal business hours.

Done at Washington, DC, this 7th day of April 1998.

**Daniel L. Van Ackeren,**

*Director, Livestock Marketing Division,  
Packers and Stockyards Programs.*

[FR Doc. 98-9975 Filed 4-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Dissemination of Information

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) seeks comments on agency policies for releasing and publishing information about electric and telecommunications borrowers. RUS makes and guarantees loans to electric and telecommunications systems serving rural areas. These loans are generally repaid over a period of 35 years and are secured by the borrower's assets. RUS has a responsibility to protect the security of multimillion dollar loans, to monitor compliance with debt covenants, and to ensure that loan funds are used for purposes authorized by law. As part of this oversight, RUS requires that borrowers submit certain information to RUS periodically. Currently a great deal of this information is easily available to the public.

Both the electric and the telecommunications industries are moving from a regulated utility model to a more competitive model. In a regulated utility model, information about market participants is available to the public. In contrast, under a competitive model, a great deal of information is competitively sensitive. Release of this information could cause competitive harm to individual respondents and to the overall working of the market.

RUS is seeking comments on whether the current policy of providing information to the public should be changed to reflect this new industry environment, and whether certain information should, in the future, be released only in an aggregated form that does not associate data with specific borrowers.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by RUS or bear a postmark or equivalent not later than May 15, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Sue Arnold, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1560, Room 4024-S, Washington, DC. 20250-1560. RUS requires, in hard copy, a signed original and 3 copies of all comments. Comments will be available for public inspection during normal business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Arnold, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1560, Room 4024-S, Washington, DC. 20250-1560. Phone: 202-690-1078. Fax: 202-690-0717. E-mail: sarnold@rus.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) makes and guarantees loans to electric and telecommunications systems serving rural areas pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). Most loans are repaid over a period of 35 years and are secured by the borrower's assets. As a creditor, RUS has a fiduciary responsibility to protect the security of multimillion dollar loans, to monitor compliance with debt covenants, and to ensure that loan funds are used for purposes authorized by law. As part of this oversight, RUS requires that borrowers submit certain information to RUS. This information includes Financial and Statistical Reports. Electric distribution borrowers submit this information in RUS Form 7. Power supply borrowers, also known as "generation and transmission borrowers" or "G&T's," submit RUS Form 12. Telecommunications borrowers report this information on RUS Form 479.

The environment of both the electric and telecommunications industries is in a state of flux. Until very recently, most Americans received virtually all electricity and most telecommunications services from utilities that are regulated monopolies. Both industries are rapidly moving away from the regulated monopoly