

(i) Criteria to prioritize applications from applicants with significant statewide resource concerns outside a priority area;

(ii) Eligible conservation practices for an EQIP priority area or for significant statewide resource concerns outside a priority area;

(iii) Criteria to be used in defining a large confined livestock operation under EQIP;

(iv) Suggestions on how often producers' EQIP applications are ranked and selected;

(v) Criteria to prioritize applications from applicants with significant statewide resource concerns outside a priority area; and

(vi) Determination of cost share and incentive payment limits for participants subject to environmental requirements or with significant statewide resource concerns outside a priority area.

(10) The implementation of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) (16 U.S.C 3836a);

(11) The technical merits of proposals submitted for the Farmland Protection Program (16 U.S.C. 3830);

(12) The development of a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) (16 U.S.C. 3837) wetland restoration plan;

(13) Statewide program guidelines applicable to WRP easement compensation, restoration planning, priority ranking, and related policy matters, 7 CFR part 1467;

(14) Identification of any categories of wetland conversion activities and conditions which are routinely determined by NRCS to have minimal effect on wetland functions and values as described in 7 CFR part 12.

(15) Conservation techniques and measures related to achieving environmental justice needs; and

(16) Types or classes of wetland that are not eligible for mitigation exemption under the Wetland Conservation provisions of 7 CFR part 12.

(d) The implementing agency reserves the authority to accept or reject the Committee's recommendations; however, the implementing USDA agency shall give strong consideration to the Committee's suggestions.

#### § 610.25 Specialized subcommittees.

In some situations, specialized subcommittees, made up of State Technical Committee members, may be needed to analyze and refine specific issues. The State Conservationist may assemble certain members to discuss, examine, and focus on a particular technical or programmatic topic. The subcommittee may seek public participation; however, it is not required

to do so. Nevertheless, decisions resulting from these subcommittee sessions shall be made only in a general session of the State Technical Committee, where the public is notified and invited to attend.

Signed in Washington, DC on July 28, 1999.

**Pearlie S. Reed,**

*Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### 7 CFR Part 1728

#### Electric Overhead Distribution Lines; Specifications and Drawings for 24.9/14.4 kV Line Construction

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Extension of compliance with Bulletin 50-5 or 1728F-803.

**SUMMARY:** In 1998 the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) updated and revised its bulletin of specifications and drawings for 24.9/14.4kV overhead distribution line construction. The bulletin, formerly named Bulletin 50-5, was renamed "RUS Bulletin 1728F-803; Specifications and Drawings for 24.9/14.4 kV Line Construction." This bulletin is incorporated by reference (IBR) in 7 CFR part 1728. As published in the **Federal Register** on December 31, 1998, at 63 FR 72102, this bulletin was approved for IBR by the Director of the Federal Register and was effective February 1, 1999.

To allow borrowers to conduct an orderly transition from the old Bulletin 50-5 to the new construction assemblies and assembly numbers of the new Bulletin 1728F-803, RUS allowed compliance to either bulletin through December 31, 1999, in a compliance notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 29, 1999, at 64 FR 14813. To prevent additional errors which may result from the year 2000 compliance transitions, RUS has extended the compliance date for borrowers to utilize construction drawings in either Bulletin 50-5 or the new Bulletin 1728F-803 until July 1, 2001. After July 1, 2001, only Bulletin 1728F-803 standard drawings shall be used.

It is anticipated that this action will also allow borrowers sufficient time to make necessary changes in engineering and accounting procedures and associated computer software.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 3, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James L. Bohlk, Electrical Engineer, Distribution Branch, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 1569, Washington, DC 20250-1569. telephone: (202) 720-1967. Fax: (202) 720-7491.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) amended 7 CFR Chapter XVII, Part 1728, Electric Standards and Specification for Materials and Construction, by revising RUS Bulletin 50-5 (D-803), Specification and Drawings for 14.4/24.9 kV Line Construction, and renumbered it as RUS Bulletin 1728F-803. RUS maintains a system of bulletins that contains construction standards and specifications for materials and equipment. These standards and specifications apply to system facilities constructed by RUS electric and telecommunications borrowers in accordance with the RUS loan contract, and contains standard construction units, material, and equipment units commonly used in RUS electric and telecommunication borrowers' systems.

RUS Bulletin 1728F-803 provides dimensioned drawings of standard assembly units and specifications for the construction of 24.9/14.4 kV overhead electric distribution lines. RUS changed the bulletin number from RUS Bulletin 50-5 to RUS Bulletin 1728F-803. The change in the bulletin number and reformatting was necessary to conform to RUS' new publications and directives system. This bulletin is incorporated by reference in § 1728.97. It may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-7954.

Dated: July 28, 1999.

**Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

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